

A Comparison of FCPS At-Large Candidates **Class Size Responses to the Media & Class Size Counts**

CANDIDATE	Allen	Grisafe	Keys-Gamara	Owen
<p>CSC Questionnaire #5 - Would you vote for a new School Board policy to cap elementary, middle school and/or high school academic class sizes? If so, what caps (e.g.,28 students) would you support for academic classes in elementary, middle and high school and why?</p>	<p>As mentioned it is essential to have small classes at early stages (Pre-schools to middle Schools).</p> <p>HS is different students are getting ready for college. As you know colleges are much bigger and classes are enormous, so caps can help. Also students can definitely benefit from experience of bigger classroom environment.</p> <p>Transition from one learning institution to a much bigger and higher capacity can help them cope with changes.</p> <p>If education system sets strong foundations at early stages of student’s education, class size might not be a big issue in HS.</p> <p>Teachers input on this matter is very important. Parent are not present to see how changes affect students. Most of our observations are done via statistics or student grades.</p>	<p>Yes, in general, I would vote to support this idea. However, in the spirit of due diligence, and particularly for the high-school level, I would seek to understand whether or not there are any instances where it is important for an administrator to have flexibility in class size.</p> <p>For upper grades, 30 students sounds like a reasonable cap. In the spirit of due diligence, and particularly for the high school level, I would seek to understand whether or not there are any instances where it is important for an administrator to have flexibility in class size.</p>	<p>I would absolutely consider voting for a new school board policy that would cap class sizes. We have to make sure that we are giving the proper resources to our schools to meet those new caps, and that the Board of Supervisors understands the urgency behind funding those requests.</p>	<p>I would support a 24 student classroom cap in academic classes at the elementary and middle school level and a 28 student cap at the high school level.</p>

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<p>CSC Question #11 - On May 25, 2017, a majority of School Board members voted against motions that would make other budget cuts to minimize across the board class size increases. If elect and those same amendments were on the agenda next May, which would you vote for, which would you vote against, and why?</p>	<p>I would support a 24 student classroom cap in academic classes at the elementary and middle school level and a 28 student cap at the high school level.</p>	<p>In general, I would vote for budget cuts to support smaller class size. But small class size alone does not ensure a good education. The retention of highly qualified teachers, the school leadership and the amount of community involvement dictates the success of our students. All of these factors need to work together, not in isolation, to move forward.</p> <p>With respect to meeting on the May 25 meeting, I would have generally support all of the Jeannette Hough’s motions, because they reprioritize resources from administration to the classroom to specifically address class size.</p>	<p>It is critical that we remember how important a holistic education is for our children. I will always support finding ways to lower class sizes, but we have to make sure that the budget is also supporting our classrooms and our students.</p>	<p>I understand that hard choices must be made to meet our instructional goals. In order to fund instructional positions to lower class sizes, I would vote in favor of reducing administrative and other non-instructional positions.</p>
<p>InsideNOVA.com August 22, 2017 - What three things most need to be improved within the school system?</p>	<p>No mention of class size.</p>	<p>There are many K-6-grade classrooms that have in excess of 30 students, in violation of FCPS policy, which is not consistently enforced. Class size is also an issue for higher grades where FCPS does not have a regulated cap.</p>	<p>No mention of class size.</p>	<p>We have to decrease our class sizes – it’s so important that our students feel that they have access to a quality education and we need to ensure that they do.</p>

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<p>Connection News – July 31, 2017</p>	<p>On the issue of class size, Allen said the average elementary school class size in Fairfax of 22.4 students is not a problem, although she adds that she’s willing to hear from teachers if they feel that number should be lower.</p> <p>“I think that number is probably about right,” she said. “I support the teachers’ perspective on this, and if they feel students are not getting attention we may need to change that number.”</p>	<p>On the issue of class size, Grisafe was dismissive of the idea that the average class size was a metric that means all that much. On the campaign trail, he recently met the parent of a 4th-grade student at Chesterbrook Elementary School whose student was in a class with 33 students.</p> <p>“The county has a policy for elementary schools not to exceed 29 students,” he said. “And there are a number of schools that are exceeding that and basically violating the policy which isn’t being enforced.”</p>	<p>On the issue of class size, Keys-Gamarra said the average class size for Fairfax County elementary school — 22.4 students — is not necessarily a problem. On the campaign trail she’s not hearing parents complain about a class size of 22 students. But she is hearing parents complain about class size of 28 or 29 students in a classroom. She said she would like to see the county do something about it, although she doesn’t have a specific proposal.</p>	<p>On the issue of class size, she said all parents would like to see a smaller student-to-teacher ratio. When asked about it, she circled back around to the question about trailers to make a point about her priorities if elected.</p> <p>“I’d rather see us have more trailers and smaller classes than fewer trailers but more kids in each class,” said Owens.</p>