From "Robbyn Fernandez <robbyn.fernandez@bvsd.org>" <robbyn.fernandez@bvsd.org>
Subject **Fireside Class Sizes for 2025/2026 School Year**
To Hannah Sutor <hannah.hershey@gmail.com>
Cc "rob.anderson@bvsd.org" <rob.anderson@bvsd.org>, "bill.sutter@bvsd.org" <bill.sutter@bvsd.org>, "lora.delacruz@bvsd.org" <lora.delacruz@bvsd.org>, "randy.barber@bvsd.org" <randy.barber@bvsd.org>, BVSD Operational Services <rob.price@bvsd.org>, "frankie.elmore@bvsd.org" <frankie.elmore@bvsd.org>, "neil.anderson@bvsd.org" <neil.anderson@bvsd.org>, "nicole.rajpal@bvsd.org" <nicole.rajpal@bvsd.org>, "beth.niznik@bvsd.org" <beth.niznik@bvsd.org>, "alex.medler@bvsd.org" <alex.medler@bvsd.org>, "jason.unger@bvsd.org" <jason.unger@bvsd.org>, "lalenia.quinlanaweida@bvsd.org" <lalenia.quinlanaweida@bvsd.org>, "kitty.sargent@bvsd.org" <kitty.sargent@bvsd.org>, "jorge.chavez@bvsd.org" <jorge.chavez@bvsd.org>, "kristen.smetzer@bvsd.org" <kristen.smetzer@bvsd.org>
Date May 14, 2025 3:57:19 PM MDT

Hello Hannah,

Thank you for your email, your advocacy for the students at Fireside and sharing your concerns about class size and composition.

You are correct that a number of factors have contributed to funding concerns and spending decreases both at the district office and in schools. Declining enrollment and state funding are having significant impacts on districts across Colorado, including here in the Boulder Valley School District, where it is limiting resources to address a variety of issues, including class sizes.

In the past, we often had funding available to soften changes in enrollment and to bring in additional resources. Unfortunately, we don't have that luxury now. As a result, we follow the protocols set in our negotiated agreement with the Boulder Valley Educational Association, including the suggested class size limits.

As we look at Fireside, all grades are well under the suggested class size limit, with the exception of 4th grade. As of today, the 4th grade classes have 32 students enrolled in each class. This is one student above the suggested limit of 31 students.

Knowing that enrollment fluctuates throughout the spring and summer (with students enrolling and disenrolling) and then stabilizes as the new school year approaches – the protocol that we have used for many years across the district is to wait until closer to the new term to determine where any available resources might be allocated. Over the summer we closely monitor class sizes that are right at or slightly above the suggested limit and in the weeks leading up to the new school year we make adjustments to provide additional support, where necessary.

I hope that this clarifies our process and confirms that we are aware of and monitoring class sizes.

In order to provide all families who have reached out with a clear and consistent message, I will send this email to others who have also sent emails concerned about this issue.

Thank you,

Robbyn

On Wed, May 14, 2025 at 9:55 AM Hannah Sutor <hannah.hershey@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear BVSD School Board,
>
> I am writing to you concerned with the class consolidation at Fireside next year. I am a parent of one of the students that will be affected, in grade 4 next year. Beyond the loss of differentiated learning with 33 kids in a class, I think you all should be concerned with the reputational harm at stake with so many students in a class, that BVSD will no longer be the "place to be" with so many kids in a class. Fireside's enrollment has grown, not shrunk - so it feels like we are being unfairly punished. Unfortunately this is a self-feeding cycle that now that class sizes are so big, enrollment will begin to drop as people seek out other schools where class sizes are more reasonable.
>
> My student loves Fireside so, so much - disappointed with this change for next year.
>
> Hannah Sutor
> Louisville CO

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