TeachME Professional Development

How Important is Class Size?

1. What do researchers say is the optimal class size?

A. 13
B. 21
C. 18
D. 38

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2. For which grades does a reduction in class size tend to have the biggest impact?

A. Kindergarten-3rd grade
B. 4th-6th
C. 7th-9th
D. 10th-12th

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3. Which of these is one of the benefits associated with small class sizes?

A. Students score higher on national scientific assessments
B. The cost per student is lower
C. Teachers can be paid higher salaries
D. Teachers tend to stay in their jobs longer

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4. According to the course, which student would most likely benefit from a smaller class size?

A. A student whose performance is steady and similar to that of classmates
B. A student who is experiencing undue emotional and/or social challenges at school
C. A student who deals with the pressures of school in a healthy, well-adjusted way
D. A student whose teacher is well-versed in ways to engage a full classroom

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5. What is a more cost-effective way for a school to get the benefits of hiring teachers with terminal degrees, extensive experience, or extracurricular accomplishments?

A. Allowing current staff the resources and bandwidth to invest in their own careers
B. Recruiting outside professionals instead of relying on veteran teachers
C. Reducing class sizes to attract more experienced teachers
D. Increasing the number of instructional hours required of current teachers

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6. Which of the following is an accurate statement about the Project Star research study?

A. Project STAR sought to delve into the impact of smaller class sizes for students third through six grade
B. The project design was a cohort study where groups of students were observed and their reactions and responses were recorded
C. The initial analyses of the data showed that students in the smaller class sizes outperformed the students who studied in the larger ‘regular’ class sizes
D. Study results revealed that when the teacher had extra support or a designated aide, there was a substantial effect on the performances of the students.

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7. What is the Hawthorne effect?

A. The way in which researcher bias impacts results
B. Knowing that you're being watched influences how you perform in a study
C. Study responses are impacted by the participant's need to be accepted or liked
D. Moderators and respondents have a tendency to see something or someone in a certain light because of a single, positive attribute.

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8. Looking back at Project STAR forty years later, what key question does the course say researchers would now ask?

A. Did the teacher aides cause the higher performance?
B. Were Tennessee students from less varied backgrounds than students in other states?
C. Did larger schools outperform smaller schools?
D. Did the smaller class sizes actually cause the higher performance, or did some unknown factor drive the increase?

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9. Which of the following was a negative effect of California's attempt to replicate Project STAR?

A. The state had to hire over 25,000 new teachers, many of whom were uncertified or had no teaching experience
B. The mandate cost the state about $300 million in its first year
C. California stopped combining students from different grades into one class
D. Experienced teachers left affluent areas to teach in poorer schools

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10. According to researchers, what does the "general equilibrium effect" suggest?

A. Smaller class sizes matter more than student demographics
B. Affluent students raised average test scores but did not affect other students' scores
C. Researchers have determined exactly why affluent students improve overall performance
D. Having affluent students in the classroom can be an even more important marker of success than having smaller class sizes

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11. Which of these might constitute a reason that Project STAR might not apply to a modern classroom?

A. The demographics of students have changed wildly
B. Teacher shortages prevent a mandate for class-size reduction
C. We cannot study academics on that scale anymore due to privacy concerns
D. The advent of 1:1 computing, project-based learning, and other innovative teaching techniques

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12. An OECD study found that lowering class size by just one student increases the cost per student, on average, by about how much per year?

A. $300
B. $600
C. $20
D. $1000

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13. According to the OECD, many teachers' salaries are the result of an equation involving instruction time, experience, and:

A. Letters of recommendation
B. Class size
C. Student test scores
D. Parent satisfaction surveys

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14. Hiring teachers with which of the following will attract students to your school?

A. Terminal degrees, extensive experience, or extracurricular accomplishments
B. Recent graduation from a teacher preparation program
C. Willingness to teach larger classes
D. Willingness to accept lower salaries

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15. The OECD recommends designing the efficiency of your school's community (with incentives, if needed) that prioritizes:

A. Student safety, diversity, voices, and values
B. The needs of specific students in their specific environments
C. Inclusive strategies that help create multiple pathways for students to experience and celebrate successes
D. A climate and culture that supports innovation

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16. According to OECD assessments, students in larger classrooms are more likely to:

A. Skip school less often

B. Show up on time for classes more often
C. Score higher on national scientific assessments and go on to a science-related career
D. Enjoy a more disciplined classroom experience

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17. Why are complex, challenging classroom activities important for student-student interaction?

A. They create opportunities for students to rely on each other, creating bonds
B. They enable students to develop rules and guidelines
C. They encourage autonomy
D. Students have to practice learner-content interaction in order to be effective classmates

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18. What is a good way to reduce common complaints relating to group projects?

A. Keep your students in moderately-sized groups, of 6-8, so they can learn how to most effectively work together
B. Allow the students to create the group rules and hold them accountable
C. Assign a single group grade for the finished project
D. Keep students in small groups of no more than four, or possibly five

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19. In larger classes, which strategy does the course recommend to boost student-teacher interactions and relationships?

A. Walk around your classroom to offer personalized support
B. Limit personal conversations to save time for instruction
C. Avoid sharing personal stories to maintain boundaries
D. Use introductory worksheets only in the lower grades

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20. When implementing an open-door policy with students, take time to listen to their presenting problems and brainstorm solutions with them that are:

A. Relaxed and informal
B. Non-judgmental and flexible
C. Creative and practical
D. Positive and meaningful

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