

**Corvallis School District 509J**  
**2009-2010 Elementary and K-8 Level Class Size**

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**Purpose**

Parents and educators alike consistently list class size as an important factor in evaluating the overall educational experience of students. In order to better understand the impact of class size on educational results at a local level, the Corvallis School District has produced this report on class sizes to the School Board since 2002. The intent of this report is to provide objective data to the School Board to assist in their review of programming at the elementary and K-8 levels.

**Special Considerations**

The data for this report is based on District enrollment as of September 19, 2009. It is important to note that this is a “snapshot” look at the overall District enrollment, which may vary slightly from day to day. Additionally, there are several factors that may also impact enrollment in specific classes at specific times. Therefore, special considerations were taken in the development of this report when illustrating data regarding blended-grade classes, as well as when reporting the enrollment of students who may also participate in specialized programs.

*Blended-grade Classes*

When students are in blended-grade classes, the data for these classes are included at each grade level for the report sections that look at data by grade level. The total class size for the blended class is included at each grade level in the calculation of average class size.

*Life Skills & K-2 Transition Classes*

The Life Skills Program and the K-2 Transition Program are District-wide special education programs. The elementary-age Life Skills students are enrolled at Jefferson School, and the K-2 Transitions Program is in its third year at Wilson School. Time spent by program participants in the general education classroom varies based the specific needs of the individual student. For the purposes of this document, students in these programs are represented in the individual classroom data as spending half of their time in the general education classroom. The inclusion of these students half-time results in some class sizes being listed in 0.5 increments. No adjustment for the overall student body count for grade levels or school enrollment was made.

*Dual-immersion Classes*

The District offers dual-immersion programs at both Garfield and Lincoln K-8. Instruction in these programs is conducted both in English and in Spanish. Parents must elect entry into this program track at either the kindergarten or first grade level. Students with native or heritage Spanish-speaking ability may join the track at a later level based on enrollment availability and after case-by-case evaluation. Throughout this report, dual-immersion classes will be uniquely identified with unique shading on the charts.

*K-8 Schools*

Franklin and Lincoln schools offer K-8 curriculum. Class sizes for sixth through eighth grades are included in this report, as this provides a complete picture of the overall enrollment at these two schools. However, due to the nature of the small overall numbers of middle school students enrolled in

these two programs as well as the frequency of blended classes, valid average enrollment figures by class are difficult to calculate and are therefore not included in this report.

*Home-schooled & Charter School Students*

While the District supports the educational experience of both home-school and charter-school programs in a variety of ways, the figures in this report do not include these students.

**List of Charts**

Raw enrollment data is represented and summarized here in graphic format to illustrate overall District enrollment in each grade, as well as enrollment in individual classes.

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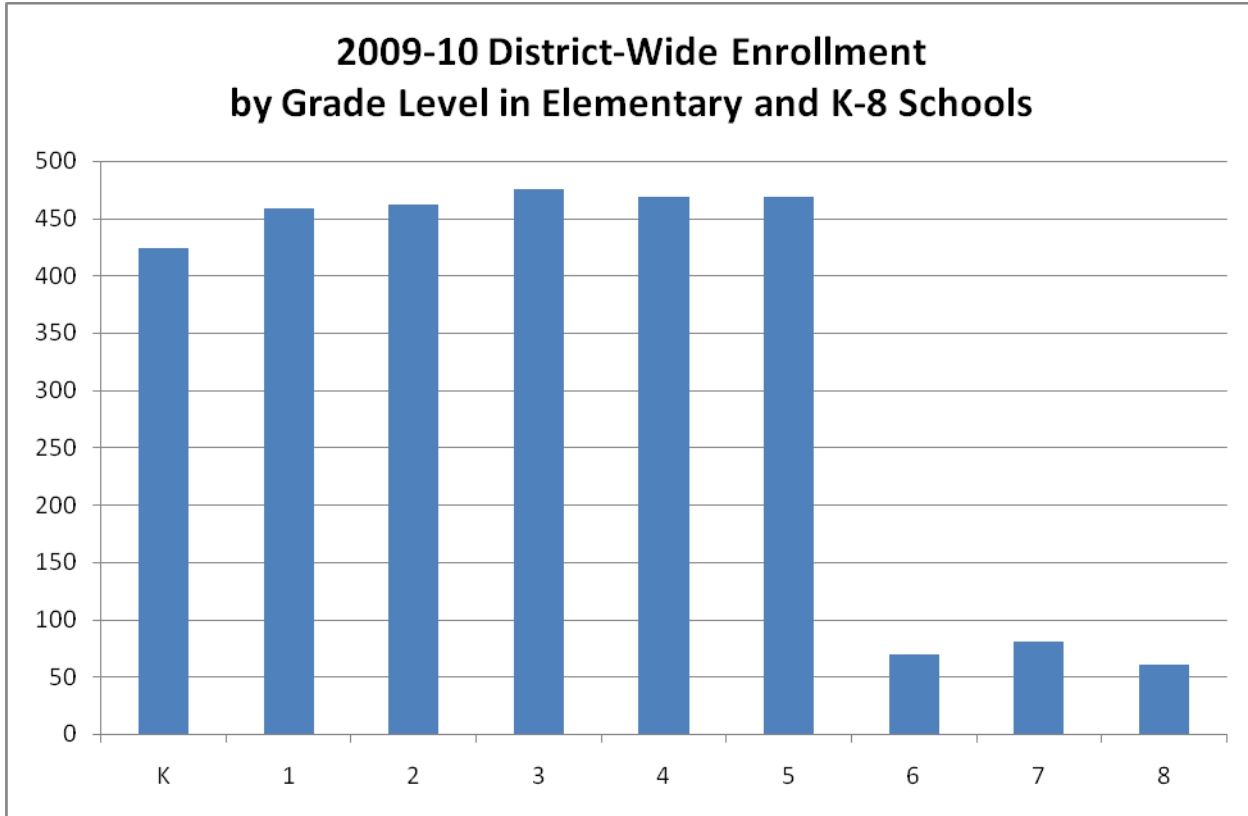
**Overall Findings**

For the third year, class sizes at the elementary level are generally smaller than years prior to 2007-08. This decrease is the direct result of funding from the Local Option Levy and the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund from the state in the current biennium.

***District-Wide Enrollment by Grade Level***

2009-10 District enrollment in grades K-5 ranged from 424-475 students per grade as of September 16, 2009. This year there are 424 kindergarten students; last year there were 440 kindergarten students. The 2009-10 count of 424 students is below the five year average of 435 students.

Kindergarten historically shows smaller enrollment numbers than first grade due to enrollment of kindergarteners in private programs, especially those offering full-day classes or after-school-care options.



**Figure 1: Enrollment by Grade Level in Elementary and K-8 Schools**

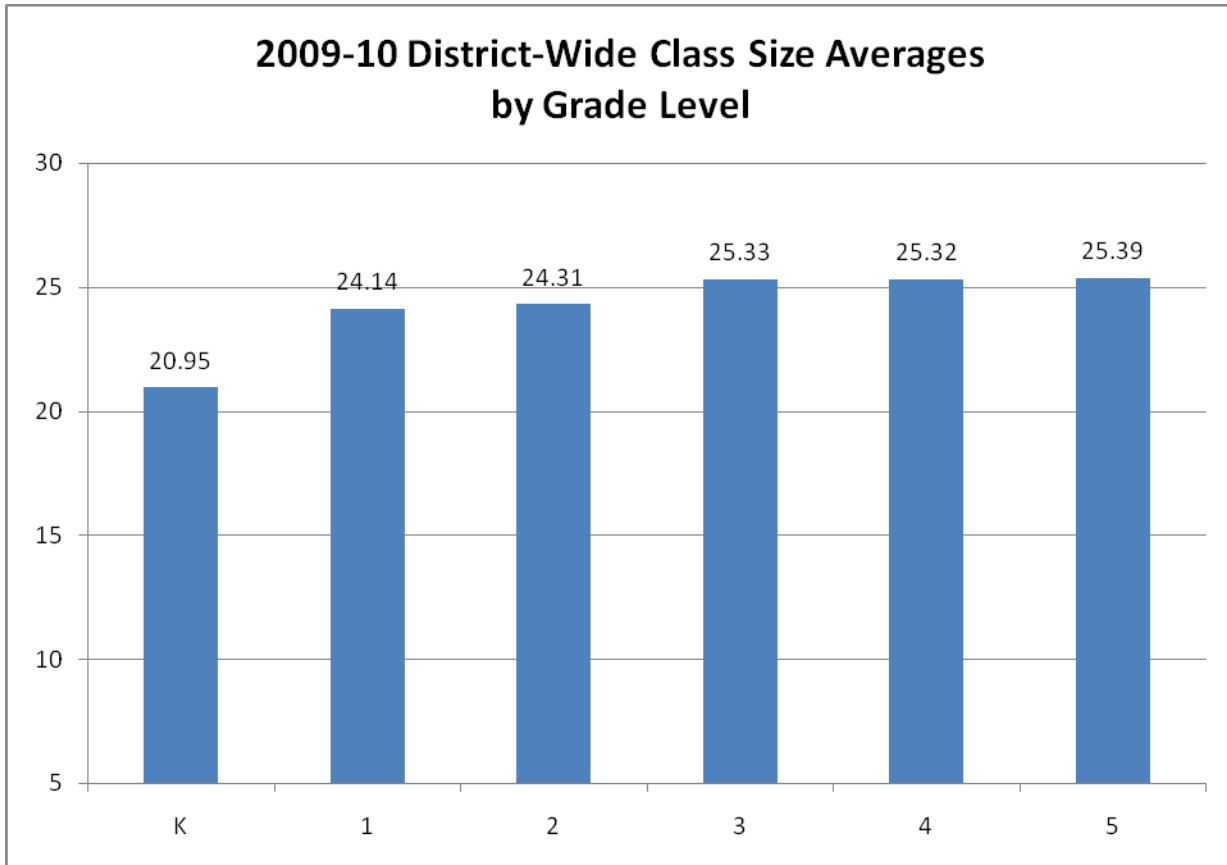
Notes about Figure 1:

- Life Skills and K-2 Transition Program Students are counted in the total grade level census for each school location.

***District-Wide Class Size Averages by Grade Level***

As shown below, average class size generally increases at each grade level. This is a direct result of an overall District philosophy to keep class sizes smaller in the lower grades to support basic skills development, particularly in reading.

Figure 3, on the next page, compares this data with previous years.



**Figure 2: Average Class Size K-5**

Notes regarding Figure 2:

- The calculation of average class size includes total class size for blended-grades at each grade level.
- In some cases a very low or very high class size in a particular school or class has shifted the average for the grade level.

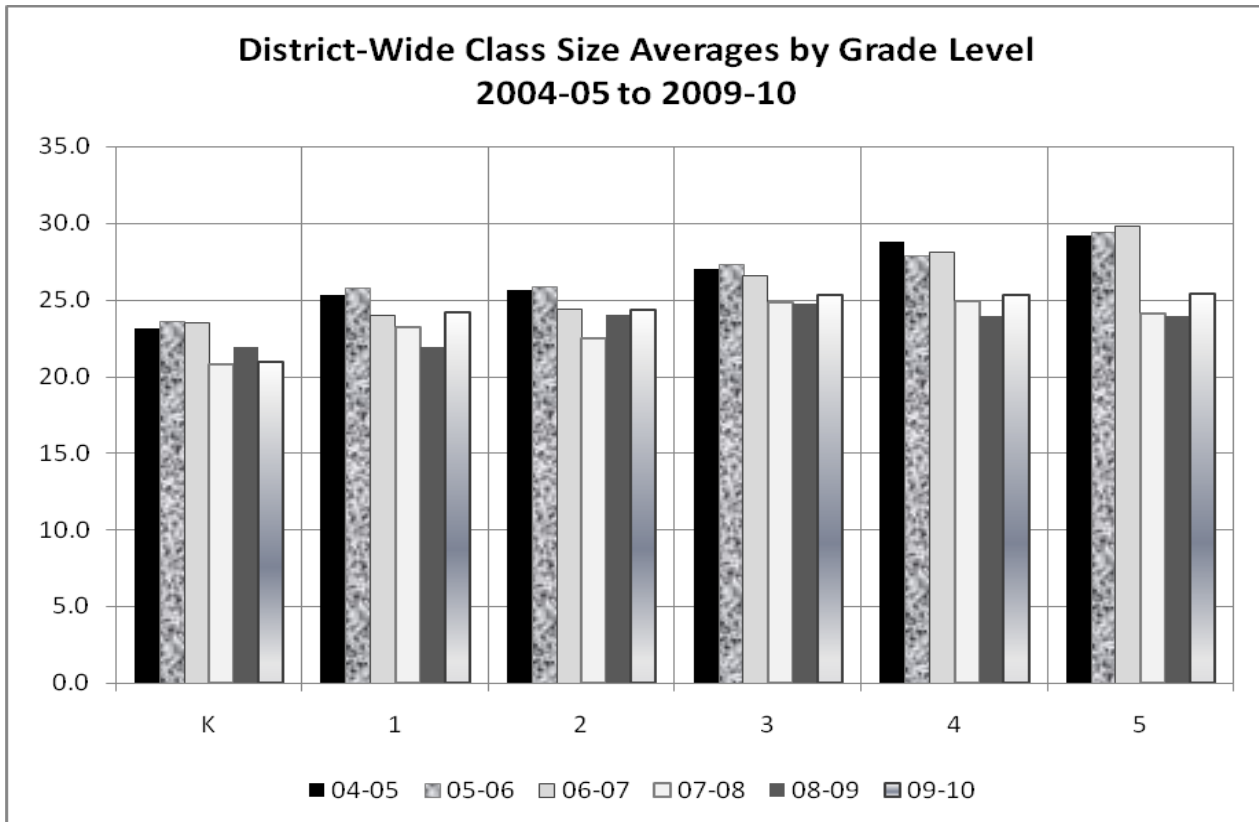
***District-Wide Class Size Averages by Grade Level – Six Year Trend***

The average class size dropped notably in the 2007-08 school year (the first year of the Local Option Levy). Since 07-08, the averages have remained below the 2006-07 level, but flattened out across the 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades in 2009-10.

Beginning in 2007-08, the Local Option Levy added a teacher at each elementary and K-8 to reduce classes sizes in third through fifth grades. In 2009-10, the economic recession caused state revenue to decrease dramatically. The Board addressed the loss of state funds by increasing the Local Option Levy for 2009-10 to fund one of the teachers at each elementary and K-8 school previously paid by state revenue.

In the 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years, one teaching position at each elementary and K-8 school was added to address class size in grades K-2, funded with additional state revenue known as the School Improvement Fund Grant. The School Improvement Fund was not continued beyond 2008-09.

Total enrollment at the K-5 level reached a 5-year high of 2,857 in 2006-07, and has dropped since that year. This year’s drop of 37 students is largely due to the smaller kindergarten class (20 fewer students) and a drop of 12 students from the last year’s 4<sup>th</sup> grade class as it moved to 5<sup>th</sup> grade.



**Figure 3: Class Size Averages K-5 Comparison**

Notes regarding Figure 3:

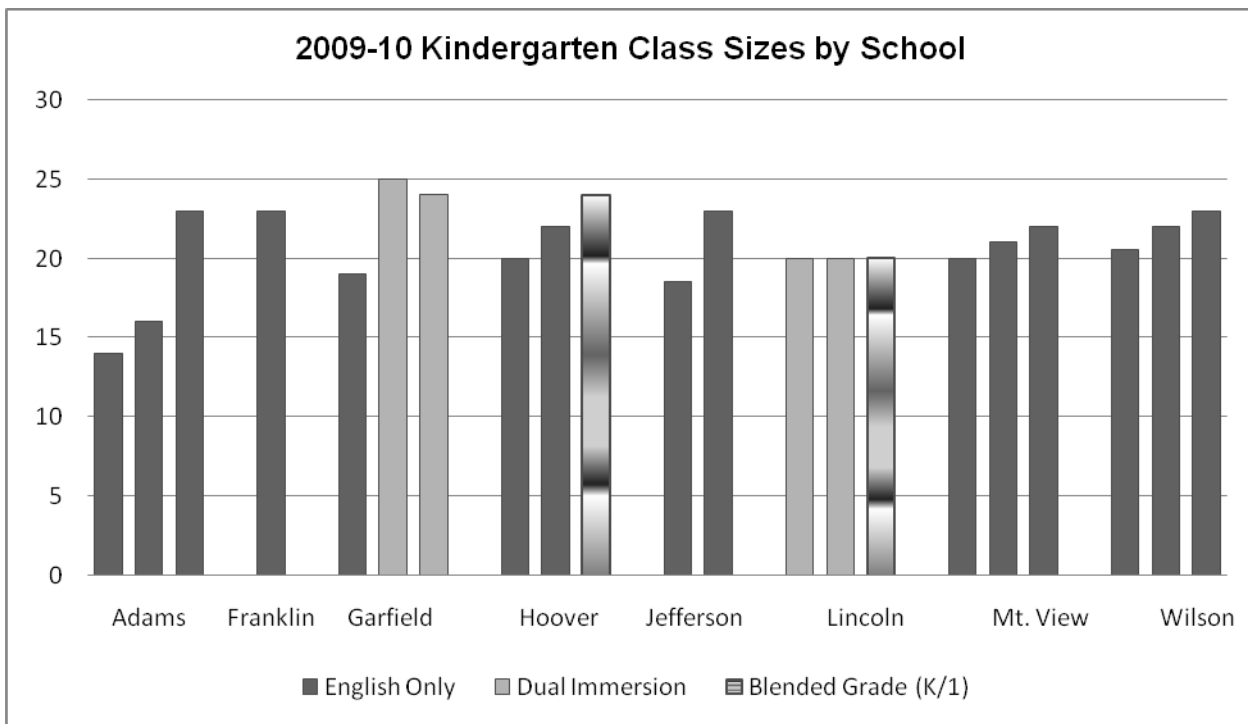
- The calculation of average class size includes total class size for blended-grades at each grade level.

**Kindergarten Class Sizes by School**

There are twenty-one (21) kindergarten classes in the District providing a variety of scheduling options. This is one more kindergarten class compared to the 2008-09 academic year. In the past four years, with the exception of last year, there have been K/1 blends.

The District average for kindergarten class size is just under twenty-one (20.95) students per class. Class sizes range from a low of fourteen (14) students to a high of twenty-five (25).

This year, there are three (3) classes more than two students below the district average, and seven (7) classes more than two students above the district average. In comparison, the 2008-09 report showed three classes that were at least two students above the District average and two classes that were more than two students below the District average.



**Figure 4: Kindergarten Class Size**

Notes regarding Figure 4:

- Transitions/Life Skills students assigned to each classroom are counted at 0.5 to represent other program instructional time conducted outside of the home room.

The State requires the District to provide five half-days per week of instruction for kindergarten students. However, the Title I schools, Lincoln K-8 and Garfield School, provide five full days of instruction with the extra instructional costs being covered by Title I funds.

In an effort to provide further enrichment opportunities to District patrons, Adams, Hoover, Jefferson, Mt. View and Wilson Schools provide the option of a fee-based kindergarten enrichment program for the second half of the school day. The fee for this enrichment program is \$3,195 for the year (\$355 per

month for 9 months) with full scholarships to families who qualify for the free and reduced lunch programs.

Below is a chart illustrating the number of Kindergarten classes in each program type offered by individual schools for the 2009-10 academic year.

School/Program	5 half days	5 half days plus 5 half days enrichment	5 full days
Adams	2	1	
Franklin K-8	1		
Garfield			
English Instruction			1
Dual-immersion: Spanish/English Instruction			2
Hoover	1	2	
Jefferson	1	1	
Lincoln K-8			
English Instruction (K/1 blend)			1
Dual-immersion: Spanish/English Instruction			2
Mountain View	2	1	
Wilson	2	1	

**Table 1: Kindergarten Offerings by School**

Notes regarding Table 1:

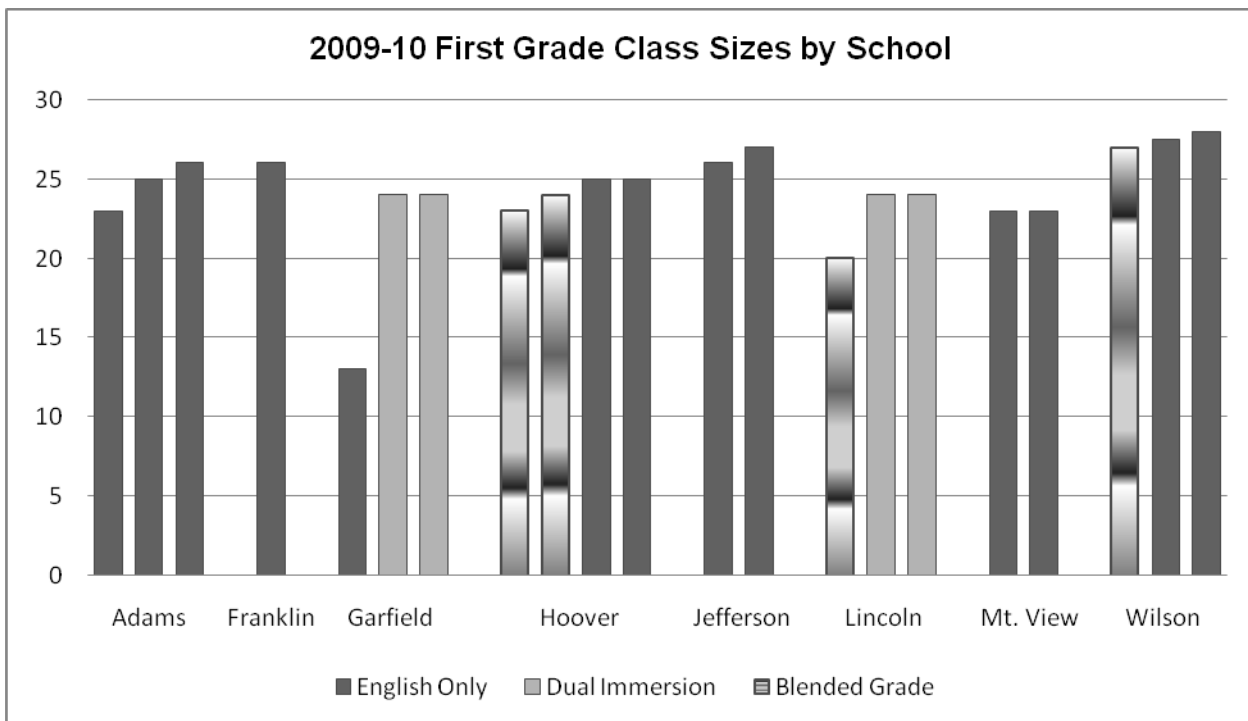
- One of Hoover’s 5 half days plus 5 half days enrichment classes is a K/1 blend.

**First Grade Class Sizes by School**

There are twenty-one (21) classes in the District with first grade students. Seventeen (17) of these classes are single grade classes. One class blends first and second grades, and two classes blend Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grades. The Lincoln blended class is an English-only class.

The District average for the first grade class size is just over twenty-four (24.1) students per class. The smallest first grade class has an enrollment of thirteen (13) students; the largest class is twenty-eight (28) students.

There are seven first grade classes with 26 or more students, compared to two first grade classes with twenty-six (26) students in 2008-09.



**Figure 5: First Grade Class**

Notes regarding Figure 5:

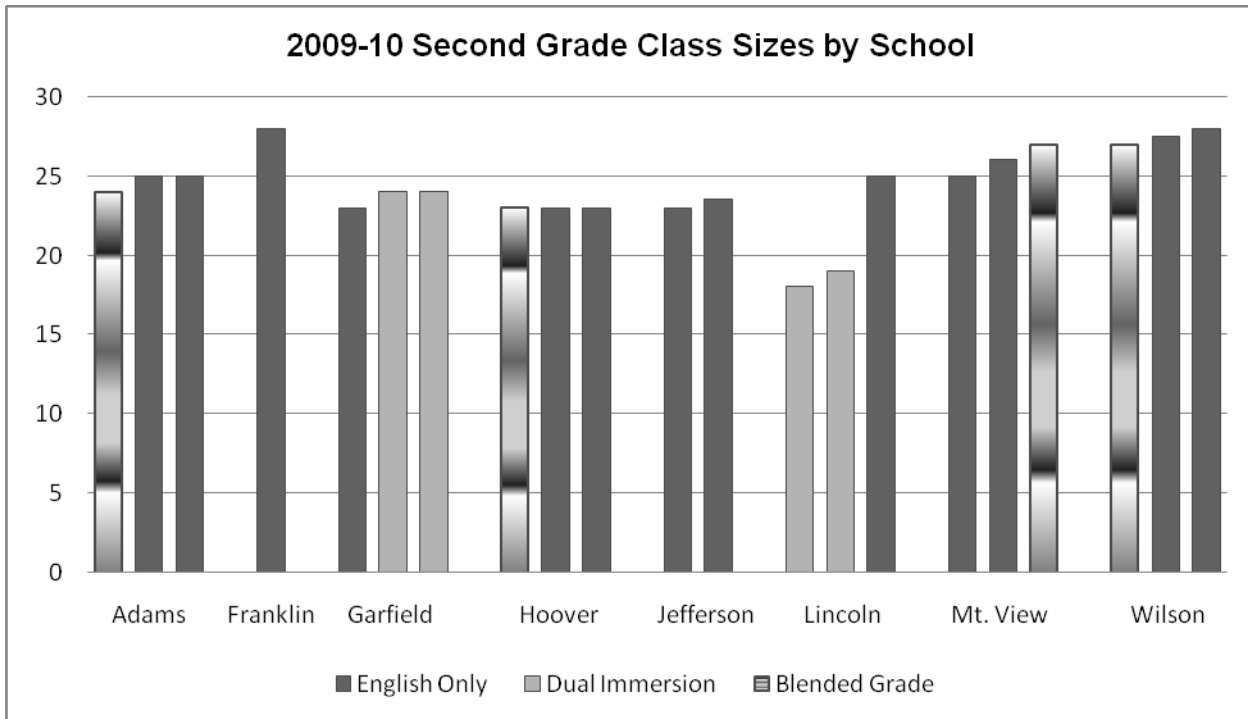
- Transitions/Life Skills students assigned to each classroom are counted at 0.5 to represent other program instructional time conducted outside of the home room.

**Second Grade Class Sizes by School**

There are twenty-one (21) classes in the District with second grade students. Seventeen (17) of these classes are single grade classes. There are two classes blending first and second graders and two blending second and third graders.

The District average for second grade class size is just over twenty-four (24.3) students per class. The smallest class is eighteen (18) students and the largest class size is twenty-eight (28) students.

There are six second grade classes that have twenty-six (26) or more students, which matches the count in the 2008-09 school year.



**Figure 6: Second Grade Class Size**

Notes regarding Figure 6:

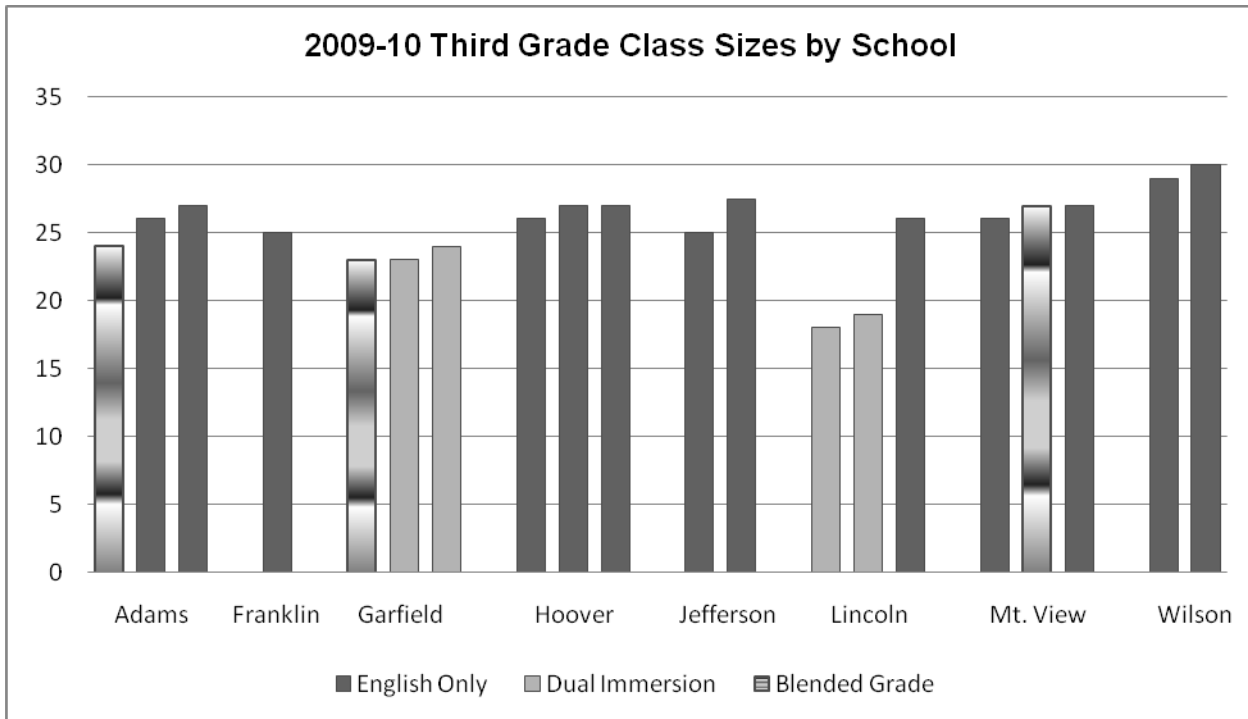
- Transitions/Life Skills students assigned to each classroom are counted at 0.5 to represent other program instructional time conducted outside of the home room.

**Third Grade Class Sizes by School**

There are twenty (20) classes with third grade students in the District. Seventeen (17) of these classes are single grade classes. Two are second/third grade blends and one is a third/four blend.

The District average for third grade class size is just over twenty-five (25.3) students per class. The smallest class size is eighteen (18); the largest class has thirty (30) students.

Twelve third grade classes have twenty-six (26) or more students compared to nine classes in the 2008-09 school year. Three of the third grade classes exceed the District average by more than two students.



**Figure 7: Third Grade Class Size**

Notes regarding Figure 7:

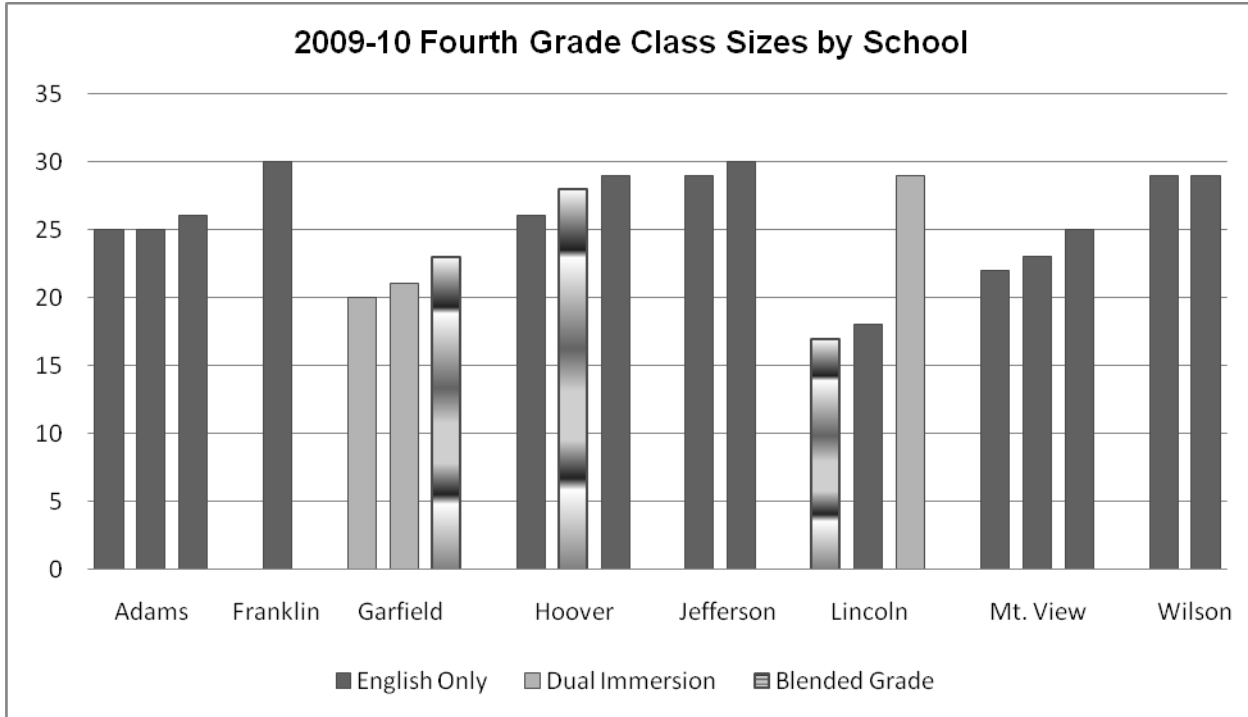
- Life Skills students assigned to each classroom are counted at 0.5 to represent other program instructional time conducted outside of the home room.

***Fourth Grade Class Sizes by School***

There are twenty (20) classes serving fourth grade students in the District. Seventeen (17) of these classes are single grade classes. There are two four/five blends and one third/fourth grade blend.

The District average for fourth grade class size is just over twenty-five (25.2) students per class. The smallest fourth grade class serves seventeen (17); the largest class has thirty (30) students.

Ten fourth grade classes have twenty-six (26) or more students compared to nine classes in 2008-09.



**Figure 8: Fourth Grade Class Size**

Notes regarding Figure 8:

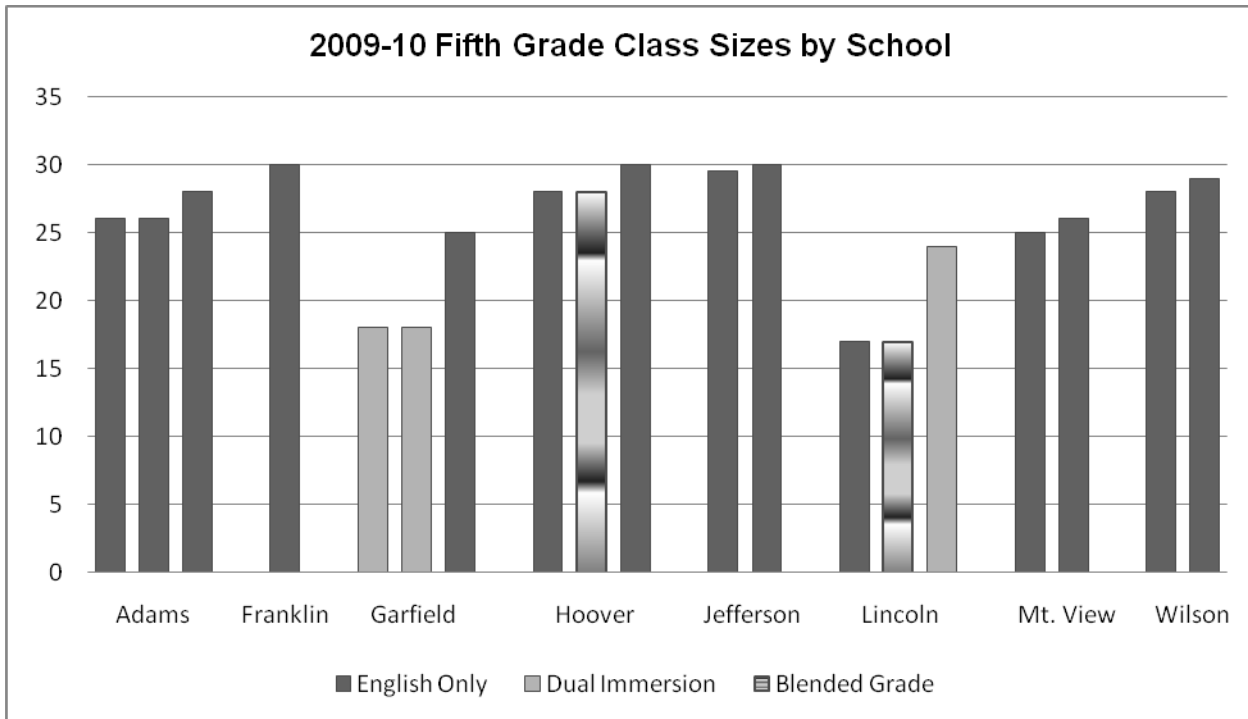
- Life Skills students assigned to each classroom are counted at 0.5 to represent other program instructional time conducted outside of the home room.

***Fifth Grade Class Sizes by School***

There are nineteen (19) classes with fifth grade students in the District. Seventeen (17) of these classes are single grade classes. There two fourth/fifth grade blend classes.

The District average for fifth grade class sizes is just over twenty-four (24.2) students per class. The smallest class size is seventeen (17); the largest classes have thirty (30) students.

Twelve (12) fifth grade classes have twenty-six (26) or more students, compared to nine (9) fifth grade classes in 2008-09.



**Figure 9: Fifth Grade Class Size**

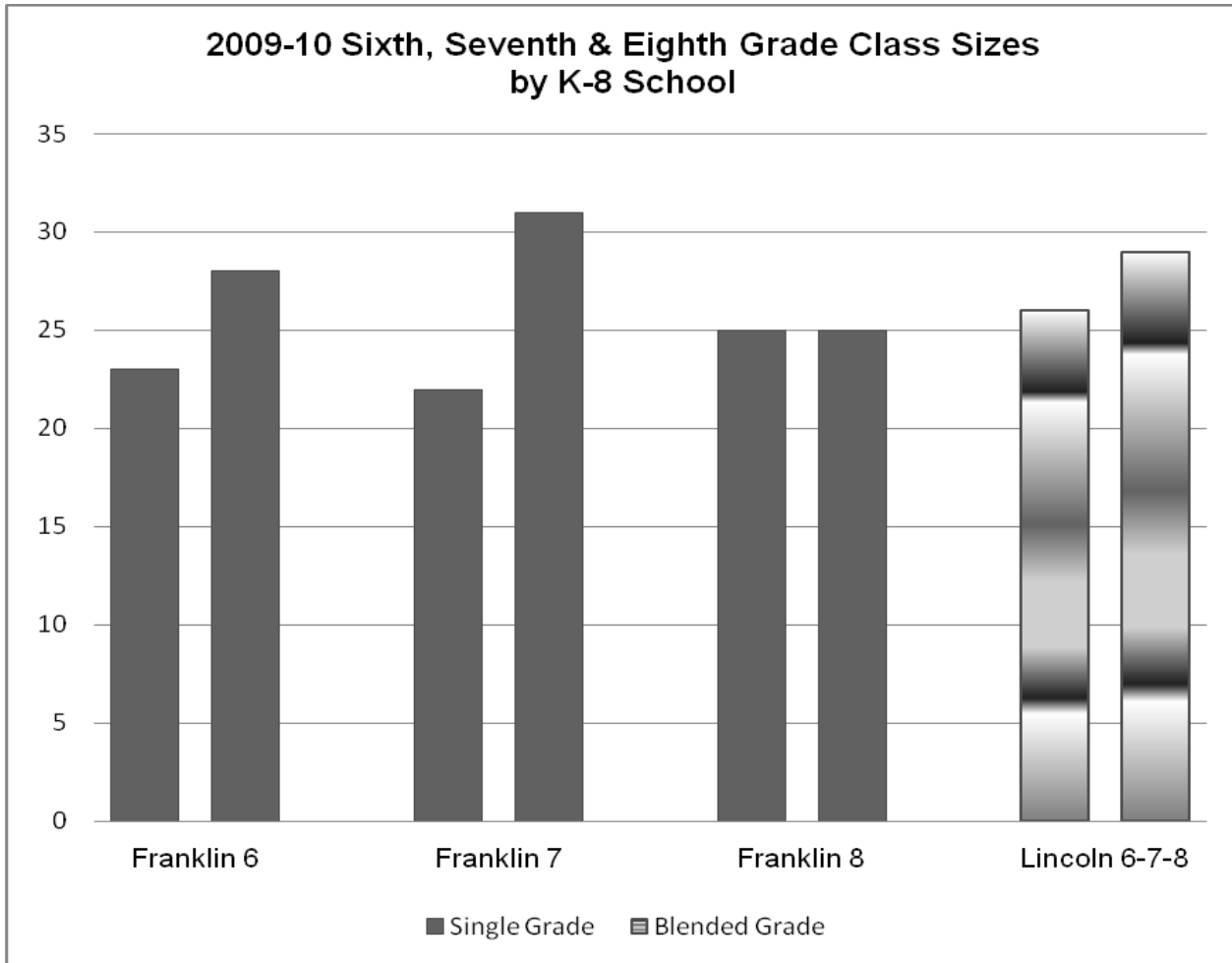
Notes regarding Figure 9:

- Life Skills students assigned to each classroom are counted at 0.5 to represent other program instructional time conducted outside of the home room.

***Sixth, Seventh & Eighth Grade Class Sizes by School***

There are 209 middle school students enrolled in K-8 schools, representing a decrease of twenty (20) students compared to last year. At Lincoln, the middle school students are in two blended-grade classes. At Franklin, there are two classes per grade.

Class size averages for the sixth through eighth grades in K-8 programs were not calculated due to the small number of total middle school students and the frequency of blended classes.



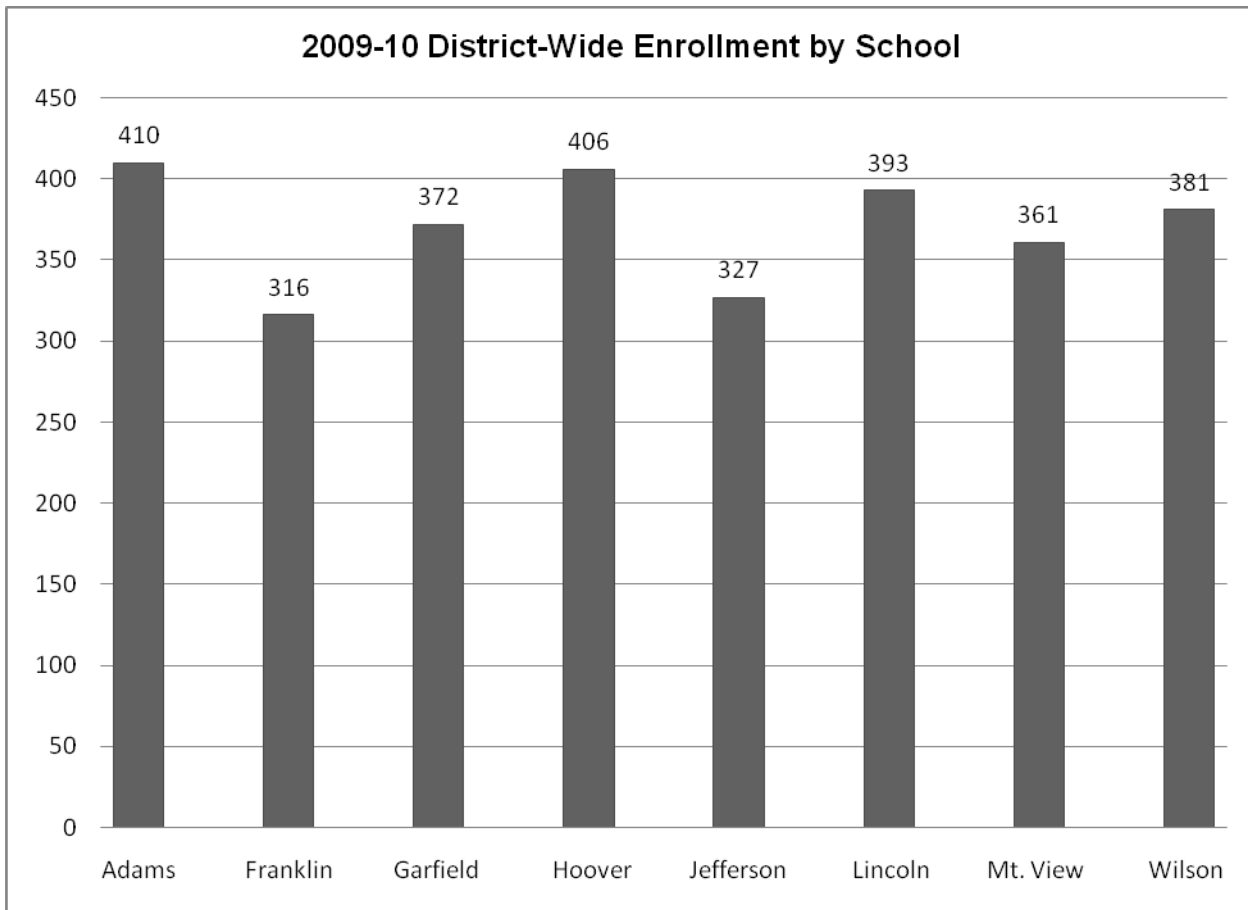
**Figure 10: Sixth - Eighth Class Size in K-8 Schools**

Notes regarding Figure 10:

- There are no dual-immersion classes at the sixth- through eighth grade levels.

***District-Wide Enrollment by School***

The range in individual school enrollments is generally limited by facility capacity.



**Figure 11: Enrollment by School**

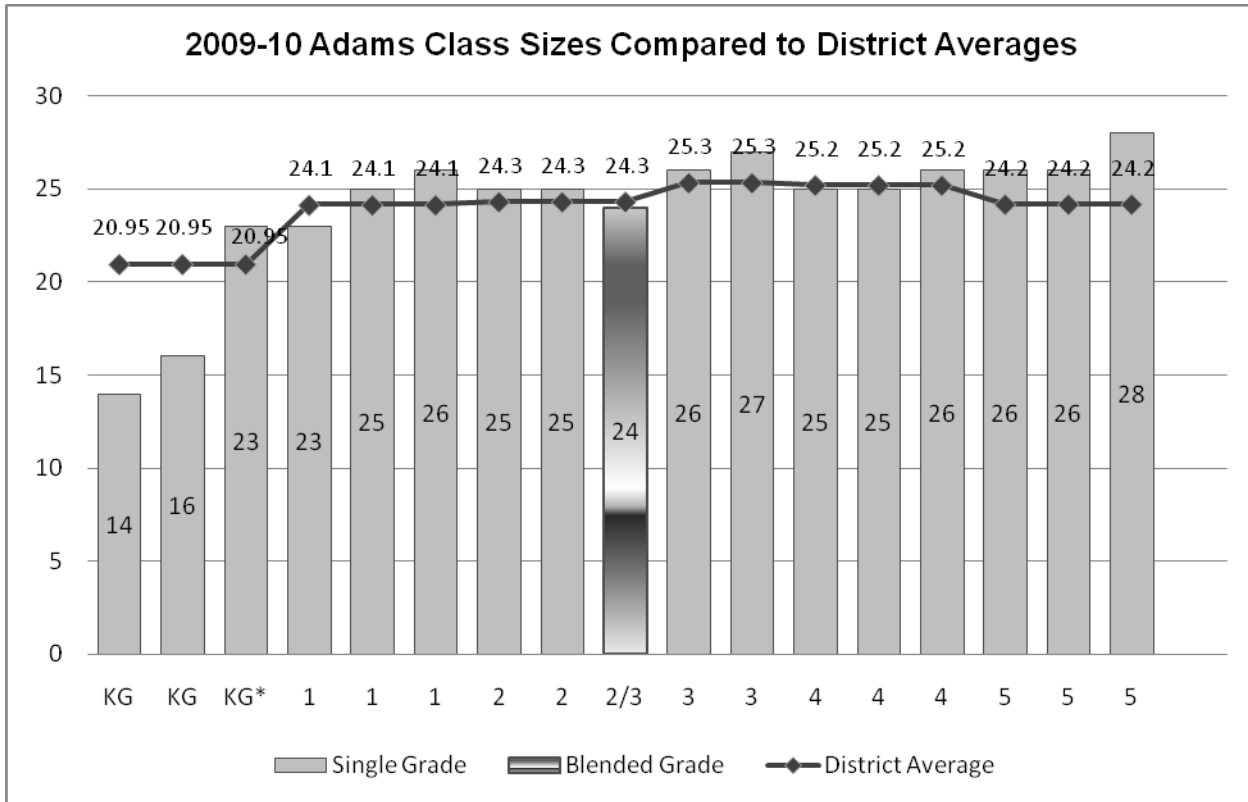
Notes about Figure 11:

- The students in Life Skills Jefferson and the students in the K-2 Transition program at Wilson are counted in the total school census.

**Adams Class Sizes Compared to District Average**

Adams Elementary School has 410 students in seventeen (17) classes this year and is the largest elementary school in the District. Sixteen (16) of the classes are single grade.

Overall, enrollment at Adams decreased only slightly by three (3) students from last year.



**Figure 12: Adams enrollment compared to District Average**

Notes about Figure 12:

- K\* indicates enrichment kindergarten class.
- District average shown for the blended class is the average for the lower of the grade levels.

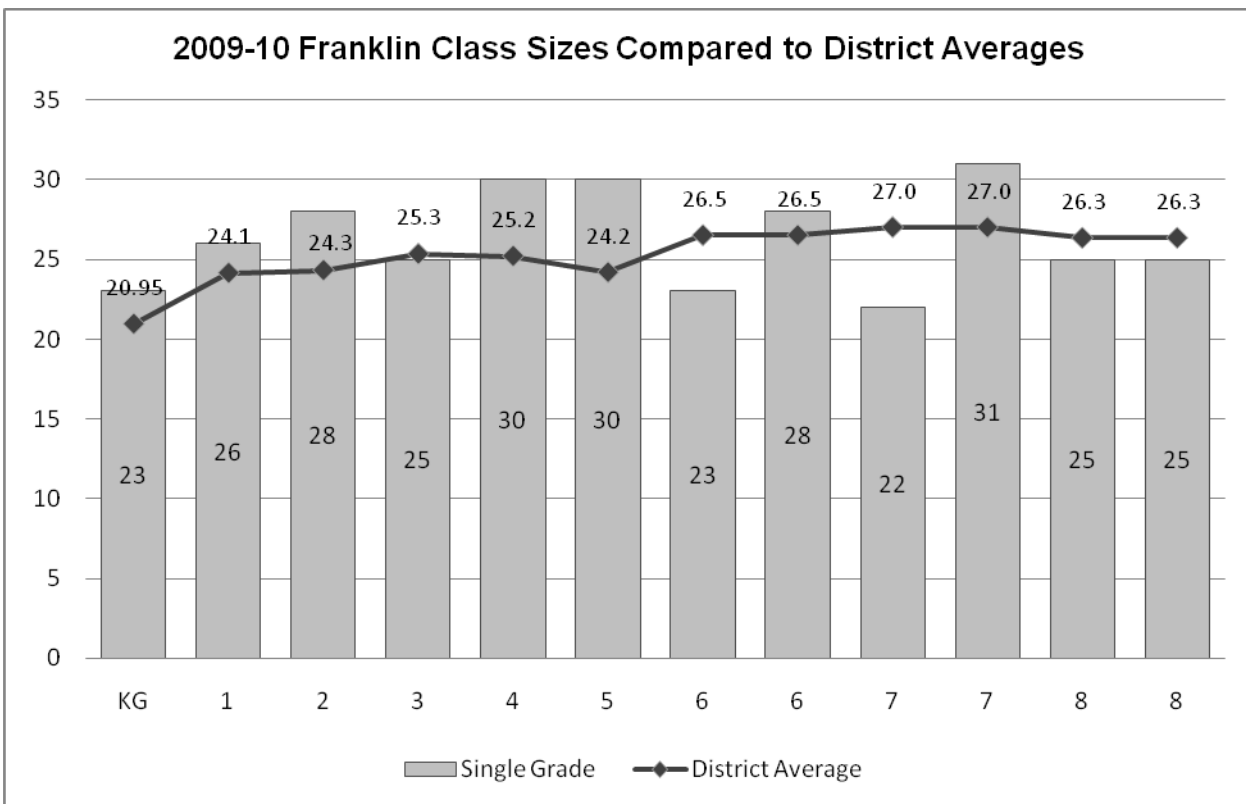
**Franklin K-8 Class Sizes Compared to District Average**

This year, the overall enrollment of Franklin K-8 School is 316 students in twelve (12) classes. All classes are single grade.

Franklin is a school of choice that draws students from throughout the District. Franklin does not have an enrollment boundary and registration is conducted via a lottery process.

Enrollment has decreased by eight (8) students compared to last year. Grades kindergarten through fifth grade exceed last year’s enrollment by seven (7) students, however grades six through eight are less than last year by fifteen (15) students.

The kindergarten through fifth grade class sizes at Franklin match or exceed the District averages.



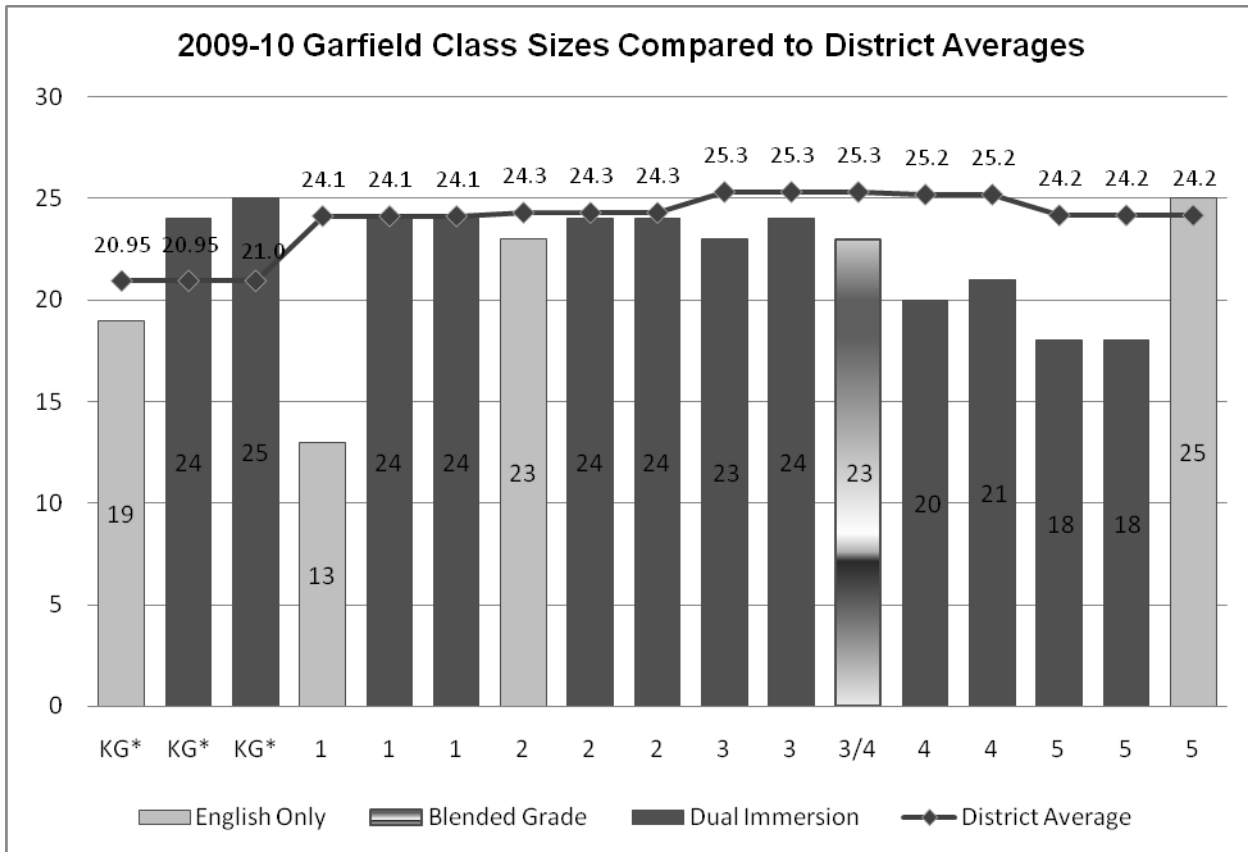
**Figure 13: Franklin enrollment compared to District Average**

**Garfield Class Sizes Compared to District Average**

There are 372 students at Garfield Elementary School this academic year in seventeen (17) classes. Overall enrollment at Garfield decreased this year by nine (9) students in comparison to last year. There is one blended-grade class at the third and fourth grade level, which is the same number as the 2008-09 school year. The blended-grade class is an English-only class.

Garfield offers a dual-immersion program at all grade levels. Two classes at each grade level offer instruction in both English and Spanish language. Parents must generally elect this track at the kindergarten or first grade level.

Class sizes vary at different grade levels due to dual-immersion versus traditional English language only classes. Because students must enter the dual immersion program in kindergarten or first grade, the classes are intentionally set larger in the smaller grades to compensate for attrition that reduces the class sizes by the higher grades. Conversely, the English-only classes tend to grow because students can no longer be placed in the dual immersion classes.



**Figure 14: Garfield enrollment compared to District Average**

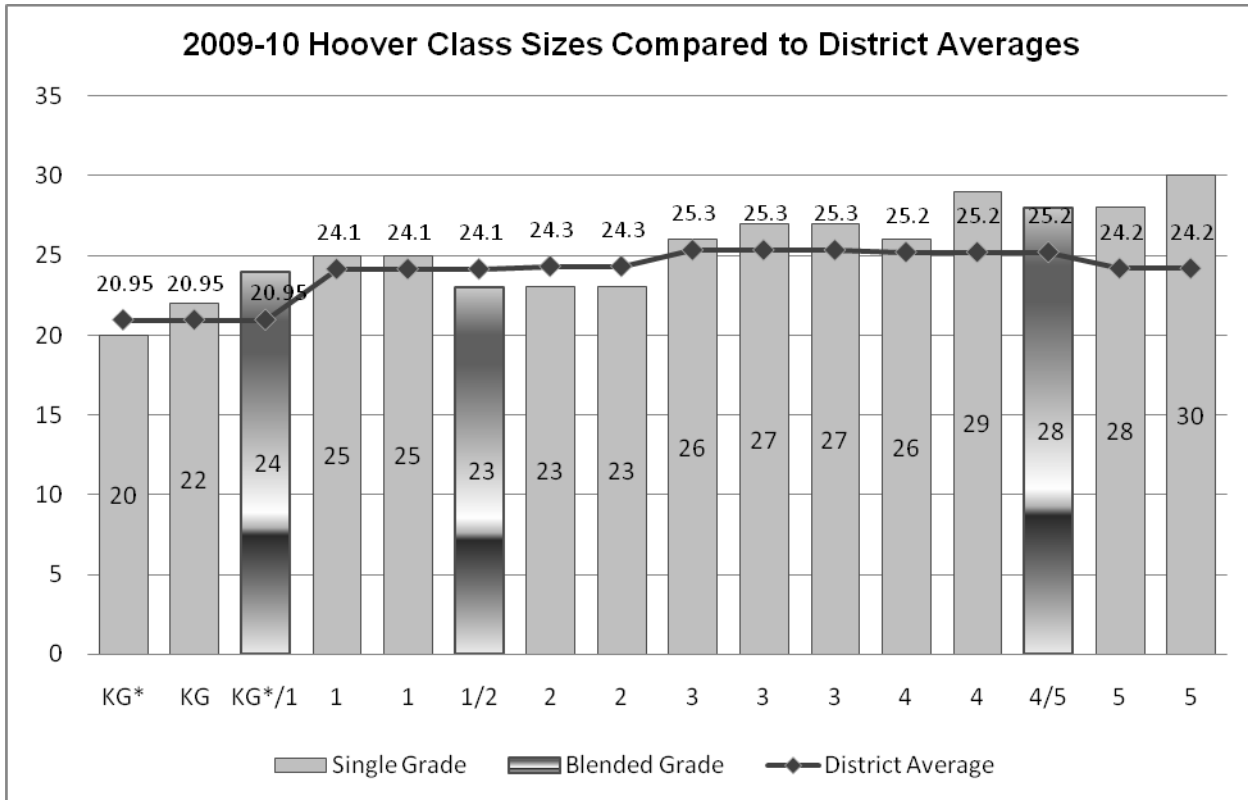
Notes about Figure 14:

- All kindergarten classes at Garfield are full-day instructional classes.
- District average shown for the blended class is the average for the lower of the grade levels.

**Hoover Class Sizes Compared to District Average**

Hoover Elementary School has 406 students in sixteen (16) classes. There are three blended-grade classes: one at the kindergarten/first grade level, one at the first/second grade level and one at the fourth/fifth grade level. This is an increase of one blended classes compared to last year.

Enrollment at Hoover has decreased by six (6) students compared to last year.



**Figure 15: Hoover Comparison to District Average**

Notes about Figure 12:

- K\* indicates kindergarten enrichment class.
- District average shown for the blended class is the average for the lower of the grade levels.

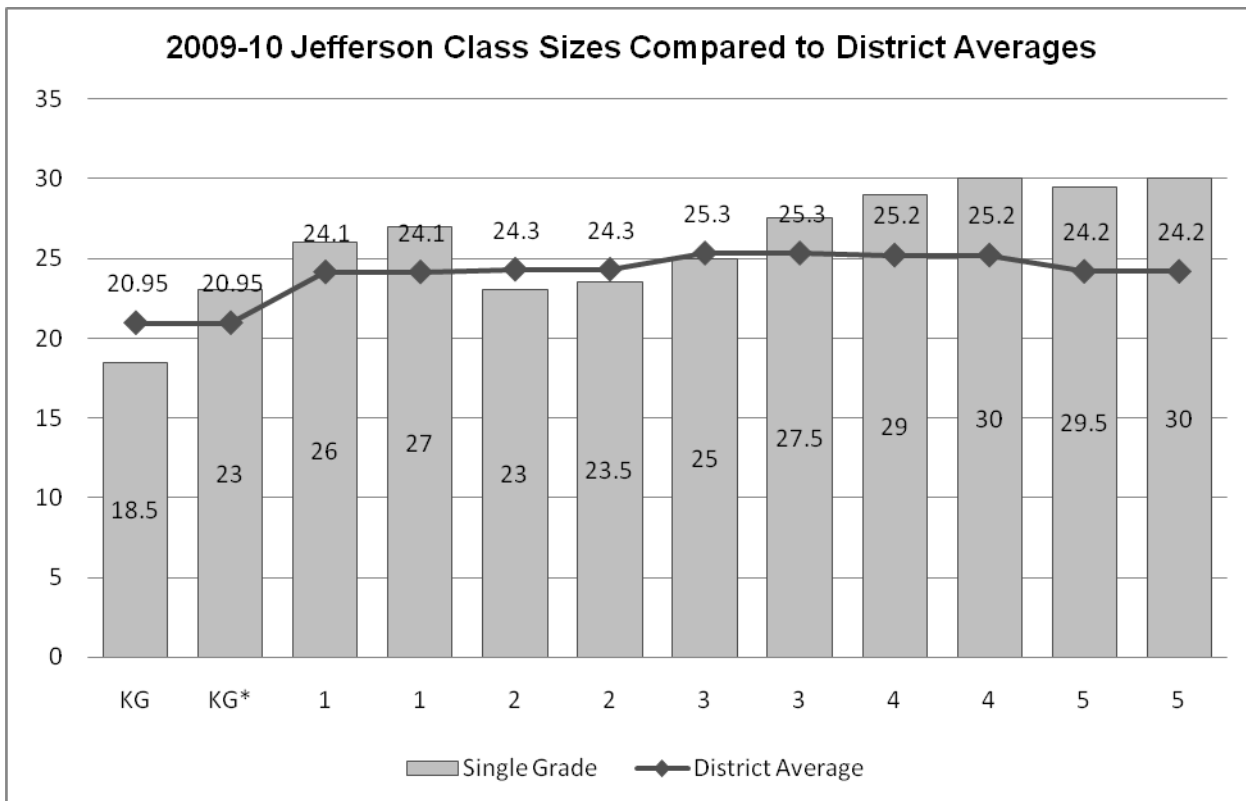
**Jefferson Class Sizes Compared to District Average**

Jefferson has 327 students in twelve (12) classes for the 2009-10 school year. There are no blended classes at Jefferson.

As home to the Life Skills Program, enrollment for Jefferson’s individual classes include an average adjustment of 0.50 per student to account for the varying amounts of time that Life Skills students spend in the general education classroom.

Overall population at Jefferson decreased this year by seventeen (17) students. This is the second-largest decrease in enrollment among elementary and K-8 students in the District.

Parents and teachers at Jefferson strongly desire straight-grade classes. This has resulted in the fourth and fifth grade class sizes being larger than the District averages.



**Figure 16: Jefferson compared to District Average**

Notes about Figure 12:

- K\* indicates kindergarten enrichment class.
- Life Skills students assigned to each classroom are counted at 0.5 to represent other program instructional time conducted outside of the home room.

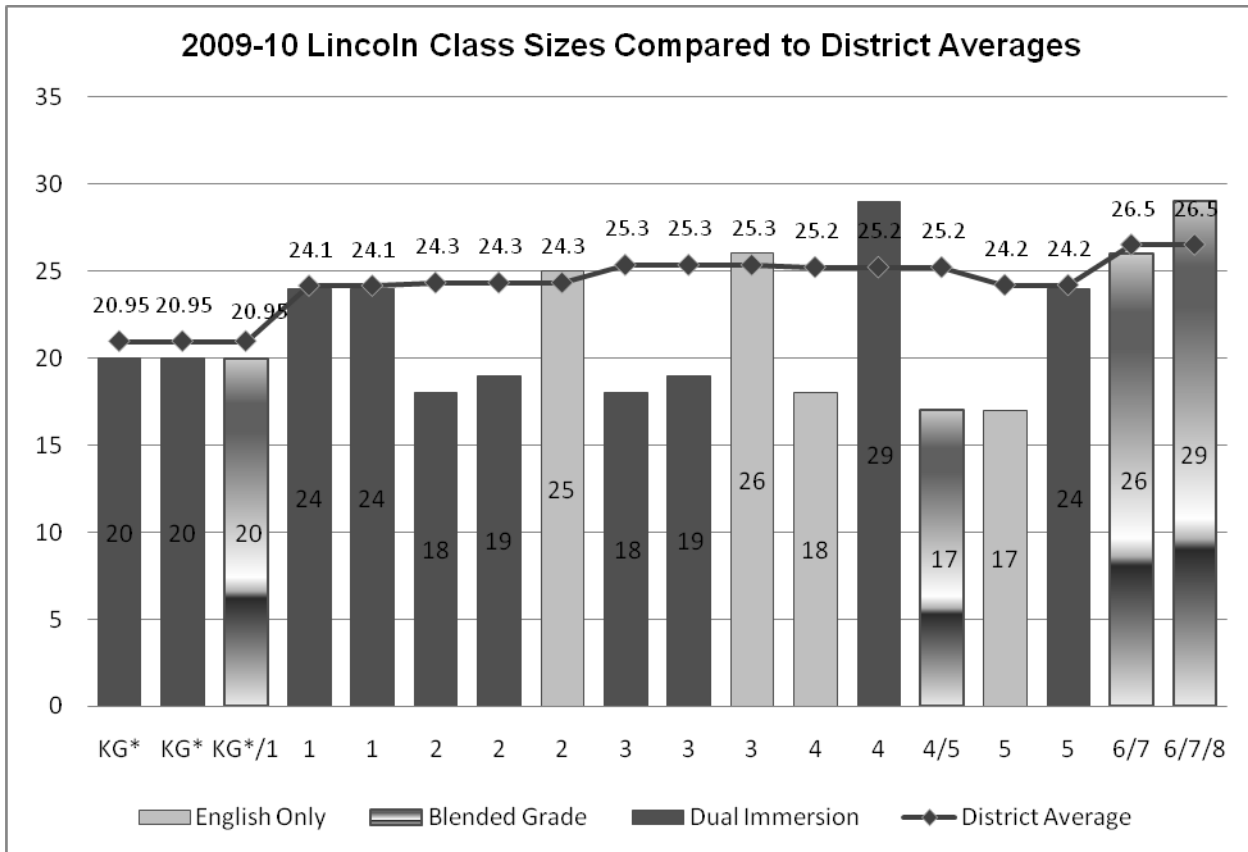
**Lincoln K-8 Class Sizes Compared to District Average**

Overall population at Lincoln this year is 393 students, served by eighteen (18) classes. There are four blended year classes this year. Lincoln’s student enrollment decreased by 32 students. Overall population at Lincoln decreased this year by thirty- two (32) students. This matches Jefferson’s decrease as the largest enrollment decrease among elementary and K-8 students in the District.

Lincoln K-8 School also offers dual-immersion classes. Similar to Garfield Elementary, participation in the dual-immersion track must be elected by the first grade.

Lincoln expanded enrollment three years ago to include 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. There are five (5) fewer students at the middle school level this year compared to last year.

Also like Garfield Elementary, class sizes vary from the District average in part due to the dual-immersion program. Additionally, the community demographics of the Lincoln boundary area tends to be highly mobile, which may also explain enrollment fluctuations.



**Figure 17: Lincoln School compared to District Average**

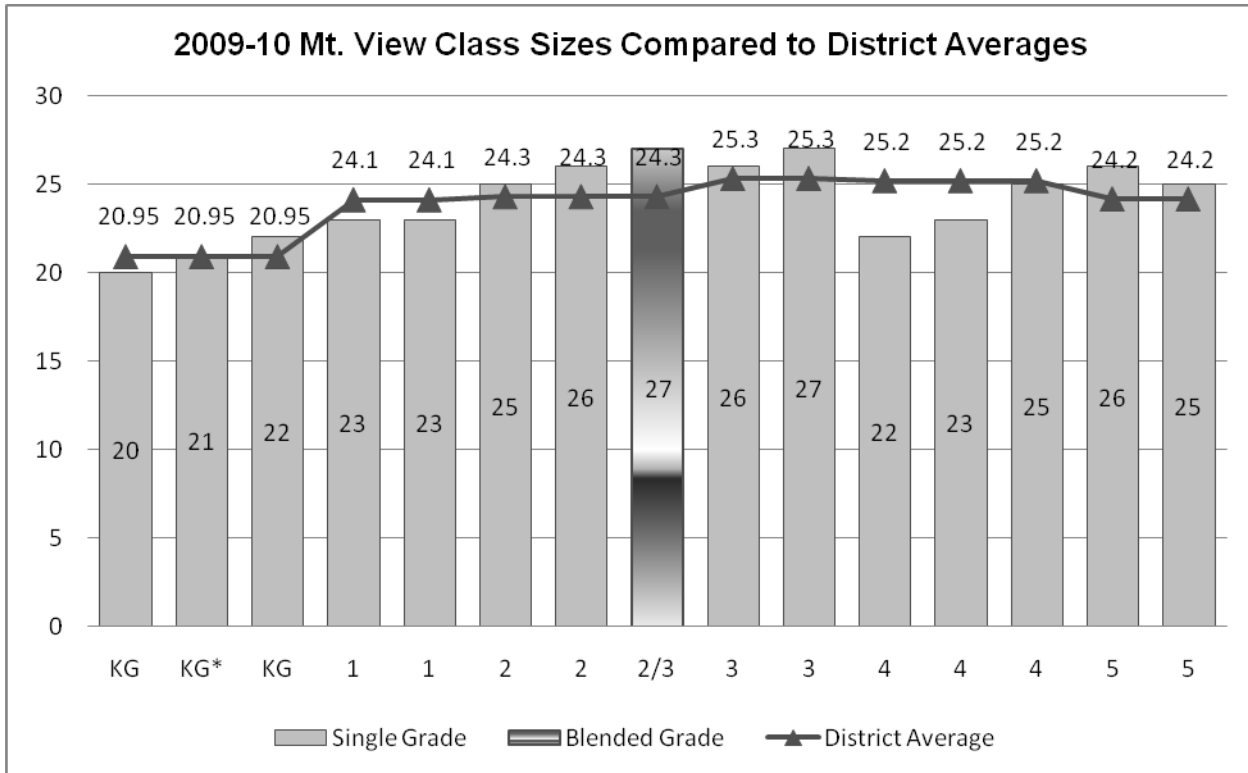
Notes about Figure 17:

- All kindergarten classes at Lincoln are full-day instructional classes.
- District average shown for the blended class is the average for the lower of the grade levels.

***Mt. View Class Sizes Compared to District Average***

Mountain View Elementary has 361 students in fifteen (15) classes, a decrease of two classes in comparison to last year. There is one blended class at the second/third grade level.

Overall enrollment at Mt. View has decreased sixteen (16) students in comparison to last year. This is the second largest decrease among the elementary and K-8 schools. With the exception of the 22-student 4<sup>th</sup> grade class, all classes are within 3 students of the district average for the grade.



**Figure 18: Mountain View compared to District Average**

Notes about Figure 18:

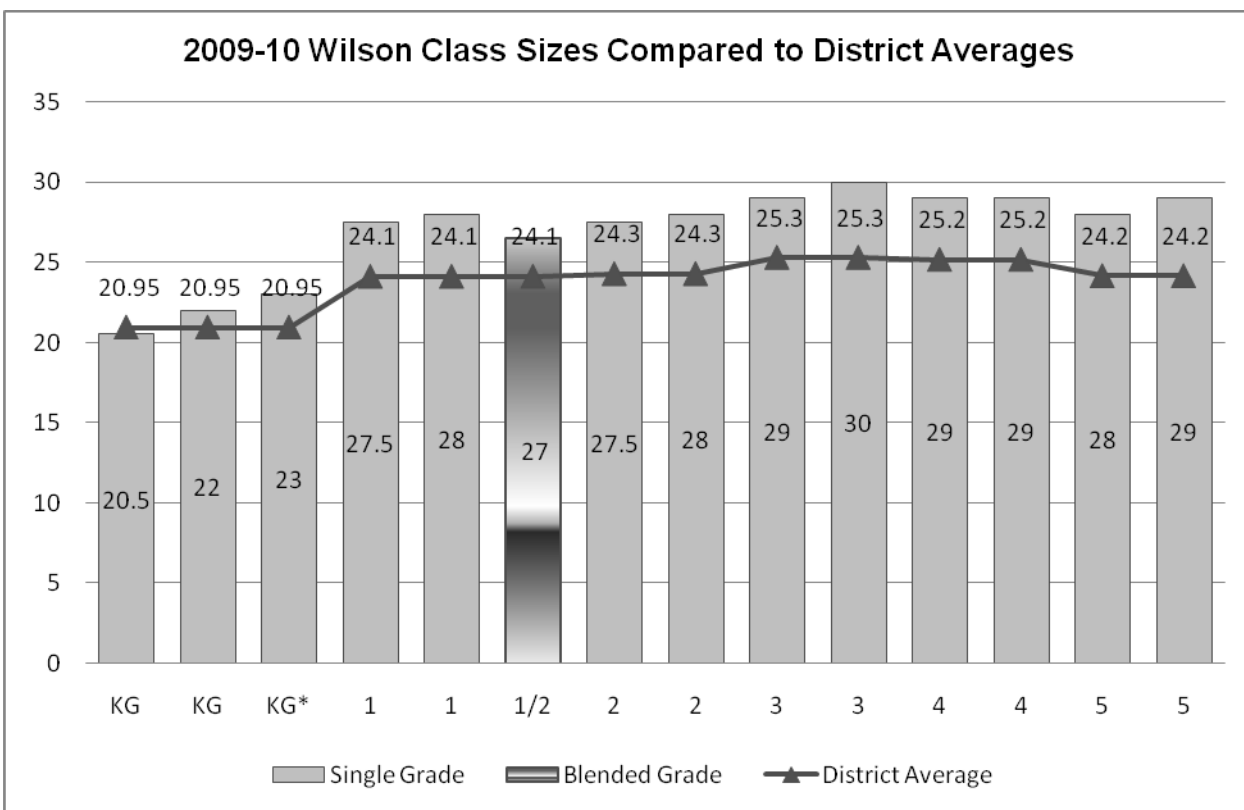
- K\* indicates enrichment kindergarten class.
- District average shown for the blended class is the average for the lower of the grade levels.

**Wilson Class Sizes Compared to District Average**

Wilson Elementary School has 377 students in fourteen (14) classes. There is one blended class at the first/second grade level.

Wilson is home to the K-2 Transitions Program and, similar to the adjustments made for Life Skills students at Jefferson School, individual class counts at Wilson are prorated at 0.5 per student in the K-2 Transitions Program to capture the time spent by these students in a general education classroom. Additionally, similar to the school-of-choice program offered at Franklin K-8, the Core Knowledge curriculum is incorporated into instructional standards in all classes at Wilson Elementary.

The overall student population at Wilson increased by thirty (30) students this year. Wilson is the only elementary or K-8 school to increase enrollment this year.



**Figure 19: Wilson compared to District Average**

Notes about Figure 17:

- K\* indicates enrichment kindergarten class.
- Transitions students assigned to each classroom are counted at 0.5 to represent other program instructional time conducted outside of the home room.
- District average shown for the blended class is the average for the lower of the grade levels.