



## PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN

Jeff Dunton, President

[www.adta.bc.ca](http://www.adta.bc.ca)

### Student Enrollment Down Slightly

The Abbotsford School District released its student enrolment numbers at the October Board meeting. As of September 30th the Board reported 18,644 FTE students, down 8,625 FTE students from the same time last year. The District did make the point that it experienced problems with BCeSIS so this information may not be fully complete and/or entirely accurate. The ADTA will soon receive an updated membership list from the District; once we receive the list we will be able to calculate how many teachers were lost as a result of declining 8,625 students this year.

### Class Size/Composition Violations

Also at the October School Board meeting, the Abbotsford School District released the Class Size and Composition numbers.

Grade Level	Classes with More than 3 Identified Students with Special Needs				Classes that Exceed Class Size Maximums			
	10/11	09/10	08/09	07/08	10/11	09/10	08/09	07/08
K-5	10	5	8	8	0	0	1	1
6 - 8	8	7	5	9	9	1	2	17
9 - 12	147	136	116	128	171	114	111	140
Total	165	148	129	145	180	115	114	158

When the numbers of IEP and class size violations are combined, the District has 345 violations this year. In 2009/10 there were 263 IEP/Class Size violations in 2008/09 there were 243 total violations and in 2007/08 the total violations were 303. There is a troubling increase in the number of violations, of the School Act class size and IEP numbers despite the Ministry of Education's claim of "unprecedented investment in B.C. education." Perhaps the money being wasted on BCeSIS could be better used reducing the class size and composition violations by hiring more teachers.

The most common rationale used to justify the over-sized classes was, "no other option available in the timetable. The situation is suitable for student learning". This rationale was used 110 times. Teachers offered a number of solutions including the hiring of another teacher, reducing the class size to compensate for the increase in IEP students, or the addition of more preparation time. In some cases principals made adjustments, but in the majority of cases nothing changed.

**Get your Consultation/Consult forms to the ADTA**

All teachers who disagreed with the composition or size of their classes need to submit their consultation/consent forms to the ADTA office ASAP. If the forms are not sent to the ADTA office you will not be part of the grievance process and not eligible for compensation.

**Abbotsford School District's Strategic Plan, 2010-2013**

The District launched an extremely ambitious strategic plan for 2010-2013. I would encourage every teacher to read the plan found at [www.sd34.bc.ca/stratplan](http://www.sd34.bc.ca/stratplan) with feedback sent to [input@sd34.bc.ca](mailto:input@sd34.bc.ca)

There are a few goals that teachers should pay particular attention to:

**Our Goals: Choice and Personalization**

1. To further improve student access to programs and services to meet their individual learning needs.
2. To increase the flexibility in when, where, and how these programs and services can be accessed.

**Goal Two Strategies:**

1. Fully investigate the academic and financial impacts of the practise of having a two-week Spring Break.
2. Consult with parents to determine interest in alternate school calendars for one or more families of schools.
3. Collaborate with other districts in the region to investigate alternative timetable models such as year round schooling.

The ADTA will be monitoring the situation. As you are aware the District did discuss moving 3 Professional Development Days into August, which, in combination with extending the school day a few minutes would allow the District to offer a 2-week Spring Break. In an ADTA poll teachers overwhelmingly voted against moving their Professional Development Days into August.