

Hello, as a parent and educator, I support SB580. Including the definition of "employment relations" to include class size and caseload limits as mandatory collective bargaining subjects for school districts is imperative in providing equitable education to students and equitable workplace/conditions/environments for educators. Research has shown that students in smaller classes, overall perform better in all subjects and score higher on evaluations/assessments, including standardized tests, when compared to students in larger size classrooms. Also, students receiving Special Education support, deserve a case manager that actually has time, and a manageable caseload to administer effective services. Considering caseload numbers, without considering the fact that cases are actually human beings, leads to an unrealistic and inequitable outcome. A case manager needs appropriate time to lesson plan, create and gather materials, collaborate with general education teachers, parents, social workers, school psychologists, counselors, occupational and physical therapists, and write IEPs. If caseloads and class sizes are not considered, then the students suffer because the time spent teaching them has been cut short due to district/Sped legal obligations and paperwork. Educators deserve workplace/conditions/environments that lead to more positive impacts on students, making sure to create a sense of community, respect and greater learning opportunities for students.