



Michael Priser
President

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Dr. Shirley Miles
Director, DoDEA
Sent via email attachment

Dr. Miles,

FEA requests that DoDEA delay filling any of the 159 new Resource Manager positions it is creating. This request is made out of concern that the cost of these new positions may make increasing middle school class sizes a necessity, rather than an option, in the near future.

Since you have indicated you will make no decisions about possible increases in DoDEA middle school class sizes until a year from now, FEA believes the hiring of these Resource Managers requires equal consideration and caution.

Filling these Resource Manager positions will encumber between \$8 million and \$10 million of DoDEA's budget per year. Those are funds that may prove the difference between being able to maintain – or even decrease – class sizes in DoDEA middle schools when you make your determination next year.

There is no reason to rush a decision of this magnitude, particularly when it has the potential to make cutting middle school staff (and, thereby, increasing middle school class sizes) a necessity, rather than an option to be considered. Creating and filling 159 new administrative positions in the space of just a few months, while leaving the fate of middle class sizes in limbo for a full year, gives the appearance of misplaced priorities.

FEA calls for careful consideration before creating any new non-classroom positions in DoDEA, particularly when the quality of education for our middle school students remains under threat due to the possibility of class size increases.

On behalf of FEA, I urge you to delay hiring any of these Resource Managers at least until the question of middle school staffing and its impact on class sizes has been settled.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Priser', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Priser
President
Federal Education Association