

Class Size Reduction and Reallocation Calculation

Reduction Calculation for Districts and Charter Schools Not in Compliance (Section 1003.03(4)(a) and (b), Florida Statutes)

The reduction in the class size categorical allocation is the sum of the amounts calculated by 1) multiplying the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students that exceed the maximum for each grade group by the district's FTE student dollar amount of the class size categorical allocation, and 2) multiplying the total number of FTE students that exceed the maximum for all classes by the base student allocation adjusted by the district cost differential. The charter school reduction is calculated at the school level in the same manner as for traditional public schools, but is independent from the traditional public school reduction amount. The amount of funds reduced for a school district is the lesser of the sum of the reduction amounts for traditional public schools and charter schools or the undistributed balance of the district's class size categorical allocation. The reduction calculation is performed in December, and by this time of the fiscal year, districts have received approximately one-half of the class size categorical allocation.

Reallocation to Districts and Charter Schools That Are in Compliance (Section 1003.03(4)(c) and (d), Florida Statutes)

The Commissioner is required to reallocate a portion of the reduction to districts and charter schools that are in compliance with the class size statute. Up to 5 percent of the base student allocation, not to exceed 25 percent of the total reduction, is reallocated. The reallocations for traditional public schools and charter schools are each calculated separately based on their respective reductions.

Restoration to Districts and Charter Schools Not in Compliance (Section 1003.03(4)(e), Florida Statutes)

Each district and charter school out of compliance with the class size statute is required to submit a compliance plan to the Commissioner by February 15 that describes the specific actions that will be taken to fully comply with class size reduction requirements by October of the following school year. A compliance plan for a traditional public school must be certified by the school board. A charter school's compliance plan must be certified by the charter school's board of directors.

For traditional public schools, the balance of the reduction remaining after the reallocation to districts that are in compliance will be restored to the district's class size categorical allocation for those districts that are not in compliance but have submitted a certified plan by the deadline. The restoration is based on each qualifying district's proportion of the total reduction for all qualifying districts for which a reduction was calculated.

For charter schools, the balance of the reduction remaining after the reallocation to charter schools that are in compliance will be restored to the charter school's class size categorical allocation for those charter schools that are not in compliance but have submitted a certified plan by the deadline. The restoration is based on each qualifying charter school's proportion of the total reduction for all qualifying charter schools for which a reduction was calculated.

No district or charter school shall have an amount restored that is greater than the amount reduced. Districts or charter schools that submit a compliance plan after February 15 are not eligible to participate in the restoration calculation.