



# Department of Education



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# The Constitutional Requirement

Section 1 of Article IX of the State Constitution was amended in November 2002 establishing, by the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year, the maximum number of students in core-curricula courses assigned to a teacher in each of the following three grade groups:

- 18 students in Prekindergarten through Grade 3.
- 22 students in Grades 4 through 8
- 25 students in Grades 9 through 12



# The Law

## Senate Bill 30-A

The Legislature enacted Senate Bill 30-A specifically implementing the reduction of the average number of students in each classroom by at least two-students-per-year beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year until the maximum number of students per classroom does not exceed the 2010-2011 maximum

### Five Key Principles:

**Clarity**—Districts should have clear goals and definitions for class size reduction.

**Efficiency**—Districts should implement class size reduction in the most efficient means possible.

**Flexibility**—Districts will have flexibility to reduce class size.

**Equity**—Funding for class size will maintain equity among districts

**Accountability**—The State will hold districts accountable for meeting the reduction goals.



# Fundamental Policies

- The State provides funds to pay the cost of reducing the statewide average number of students in each of the three grade groupings by two-students-per-year.
- The class size reduction funds, both operating and capital outlay, are allocated equitably among all districts based on established operating and capital outlay formulas.
- State capital outlay funds are provided for class size reduction facilities that are in excess of the facilities in the district's 5-year capital facilities plan.
- Each district is responsible for determining the details of how it will meet the class size requirement and is provided flexibility to meet this requirement.
- When a district has met the required maximum class size or the two-students-per-year reduction requirement, it may use its class size funds for other purposes, while giving priority to using the funds to increase teacher pay and implementing the salary career ladder.



# Definitions

- Class Size Averages
  - District Level
  - School Level
- Core-Curricula Definitions
- Class Size Average Calculation



# DEFINITION OF CLASS SIZE AVERAGES

## Class Size Averages at District Level

2003-2004

2004-2005

2005-2006

## Class Size Averages at School Level

2006-2007

2007-2008

## Individual Classroom Level

2008-2009 and thereafter



# Tool Box of Implementation Options

- Encourage Dual Enrollment Courses
- Encourage courses from the Florida Virtual School
- Require no more than 24 credits to graduate from high school
- Maximize use of instructional staff
- Use innovative methods to reduce school construction costs
- Use joint use facilities
- Adopt alternative methods of class scheduling
- Redraw school attendance zones
- Operate school beyond normal operating hours
- Use year-round schools or other nontraditional calendars



# Funding for Class Size Reductions

1011.685 Class Size Reduction Operating Categorical

1013.735 Classroom For Kids Program

1013.736 District Effort Recognition Program



## 2003 Baseline District Class Size Averages

	District <u>Averages</u>
Pre-Kindergarten through grade 3.....	23.45
Grades 4 through 8.....	24.54
Grades 9-12.....	23.58

**WARNING! ALL THREE GRADE GROUPINGS EXCEED THE  
INDIVIDUAL CLASS ROOM MAXIMUMS OF 18, 22, AND 25  
STUDENTS**

**79% IN PREK-3, 62% IN 4-8, AND 48% IN 9-12**



## Accountability—Beginning 2003-2004

- ✓ Measure each districts compliance with the 2 student reduction based upon October student membership survey
- ✓ Calculate penalty for districts not meeting the 2 student reduction (3<sup>rd</sup> FEFP Calculation)
- ✓ **Exceptions—Recommendation by the Commissioner that the State Board of Education has reviewed evidence indicating that a district has been unable to meet the class size reduction requirements despite appropriate effort to do so.**



## Accountability—Beginning 2005-2006

- ✓ DOE shall determine by January 15 of each year, which districts are not in compliance (October student membership survey)
- ✓ Districts have opportunity to come into compliance in the February student membership survey
- ✓ Districts not in compliance must implement prescribed policies



## **Accountability—Beginning 2006-2007**

✓ **Districts not in compliance in previous year will be required to implement one of the following policies:**

**(1) Year-round schools**

**(2) Double Sessions**

**(3) Rezoning**

**(4) Maximize use of instruction staff**



## Accountability—Beginning 2006-2007

- ✓ **Constitution Compliance Plan developed by the State Board of Education**



## OTHER PROVISIONS IN SENATE BILL 30-A

- ✓ INCREASES CORPORATE SCHOLARSHIP FUND
- ✓ EXTENDS DROP
- ✓ CREATES ACCELERATED HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS
- ✓ CHANGES STATE UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS
- ✓ CONTINUES FLEXIBILITY FOR CATEGORICAL FUNDS
- ✓ CHANGES EQUITY IN SCHOOL-LEVEL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

