

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

T. WILLARD FAIR, *Chairman*

Members

DR. AKSHAY DESAI

MARK KAPLAN

ROBERTO MARTÍNEZ

JOHN R. PADGET

KATHLEEN SHANAHAN

SUSAN STORY

Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education



CONTACT PERSON:

NAME: Lavan Dukes
Martha Haynes
PHONE: (850) 245-0400
(850) 245-0405

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 2, 2010

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Linda Champion

SUBJECT: 2010-11 Class Size Reduction Simulated Calculation, Funds Reduction, and Funds Reallocation

Committee Substitute for House Bill (CS/HB) 5101 amends Section 1003.03(4), F.S., to require the Florida Department of Education to determine the number of students assigned to any individual class that exceeds the class size maximum based on the October student membership survey. In addition, the legislation directs the Department to calculate the amount to be reduced from the class size reduction categorical allocation of noncompliant districts, and reallocate those funds to compliant districts and noncompliant districts that submit a compliance plan certified by the district school board to the Commissioner by February 15, 2011.

The Department has simulated the 2010-11 class size reduction calculation by using the results of the 2009-10 October full-time-equivalent student survey and the requirements of Section 1003.03(1), F.S., that the number of students assigned to any individual class shall not exceed the class size maximums of 18 in grades prekindergarten through 3, 22 in grades 4 through 8, and 25 in grades 9 through 12. The methodology outlined in the amended statute requires the Department to:

LINDA CHAMPION
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

1. Identify, for each grade group, the number of classes in which the enrollment exceeds the maximum, the number of students that exceeds the maximum for each class, and the total number of students that exceeds the maximum for all classes.
2. Determine the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students that exceeds the maximum class size for each grade group.
3. Multiply the total number of FTE students that exceeds the maximum class size for each grade group by the district's FTE dollar amount of the class size reduction allocation for that year and calculate the total for all three grade groups.
4. Multiply the total number of FTE students that exceeds the maximum class size for each grade group by 50 percent of the Base Student Allocation adjusted by the District Cost Differential.
5. Reduce the district's class size reduction categorical allocation by an amount equal to the sum of the preceding two steps. The amount of funds reduced shall be the lesser of the amount calculated or the undistributed balance of the district's class size reduction categorical allocation.

The attached spreadsheet displays the results of the simulated calculation performed in January 2010, using the class size reduction categorical allocation from the 2009-10 Third Calculation of the Florida Education Finance Program. Based on the simulation, 120,995.78 FTE are out of compliance, for a reduction of \$351,616,099 in class size reduction funds.

CS/HB 5101 states that the Commissioner must prepare a reallocation of these funds for the districts that have fully met the class size requirements, but in the simulation no district is fully compliant. If one or more district were compliant in all grade groups, Column 7 would show the maximum amount of funds that could be reallocated to the fully compliant district(s) from the noncompliant districts. Column 8 displays the minimum funds that would be remaining after the reallocation calculation, which would be added back to the class size categorical calculation for districts that submit to the Commissioner a compliance plan that has been certified by the district school board. In this example, the amount of funds available for reallocation to noncompliant districts which submit certified compliance plans would be the sum of Columns 7 and 8. However, no district is eligible to receive a reallocation in excess of its initial reduction.

In the event Amendment 8 to the Florida Constitution is approved by 60 percent of the voters in the November 2010 general election, an alternate statutory procedure will be followed for class size reduction calculations.

If you have questions regarding the class size reduction requirements, please call Linda Champion at (850) 245-0406.

cc: District Finance Officers

LC/mh