

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

T. WILLARD FAIR, *Chairman*

Members

PETER BOULWARE

DR. AKSHAY DESAI

ROBERTO MARTÍNEZ

JOHN R. PADGET

KATHLEEN SHANAHAN

LINDA K. TAYLOR

Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education



MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 18, 2009

TO: Selected District School Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Eric J. Smith

SUBJECT: 2009-10 Class Size Reduction Transfers

On November 30, 2009, I sent to you the school average class sizes for your district based upon class size information updated through November 20, 2009. Section 1003.03(4)(a), F.S., requires a budget modification for any district school that did not reduce school-level class size averages as required by law. The law directs the Department to calculate, for each school that is not in compliance, an amount that is proportionate to the amount of class size reduction not accomplished. The calculation is the amount that will be transferred from a district's class size reduction operating categorical funds to a fixed capital outlay account for class size reduction. In order to establish a prior year school-level baseline for new traditional public schools, the October 2008 district class size average has been assigned. The preliminary calculation of the initial transfer is attached, as well as the transfer after unexpected growth has been applied.

Section 1003.03(4)(a), F.S., allows a district to submit evidence documenting why the class size reduction requirements were not met. Appeals have been received and are currently being reviewed. Documentation of each school's extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the State Board of Education on January 19, 2010. Based upon this review, alternative transfer assessments may be recommended to the Legislative Budget Commission. The Commissioner's transfer budget amendment must be submitted to the Legislative Budget Commission by February 15 of each year.

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