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Members
Ben Gibson
Tom Grady
Michael Olenick
Ryan Petty
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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Suzanne Pridgeon

DATE: January 23, 2020

SUBJECT: 2019-20 Calculations of Reductions to Class Size Operating Funds (Prior to Appeals)

Attached are the calculations of reductions to class size operating funds based on the compliance summaries that were provided to you with a January 9, 2020, memorandum. Section 1003.03(4)(a), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires a reduction in class size categorical funding for districts and charter schools that are not in compliance with the class size requirements established by the Florida Constitution. The attachments list the reduction calculations, prior to appeals, for traditional public schools, charter schools and district-operated schools of choice.

Section 1003.03(4)(c), F.S., authorizes the Commissioner of Education to recommend to the Legislative Budget Commission, by February 15, 2020, an alternate reduction amount if there is evidence that class size requirements were not met despite appropriate efforts to do so or because of an extreme emergency. The deadline for submitting class size appeals was January 10, 2020.

After review of the appeals and completion of the appeals process, up to 5 percent of the Base Student Allocation, not to exceed 25 percent of the reduction amount, will be reallocated to traditional public schools, charter schools and district-operated schools of choice that are in compliance with class size requirements. A school district's traditional public schools and district-operated schools of choice all must be in compliance with class size requirements for the school district to be eligible for a reallocation in either category; however, charter schools are eligible for a reallocation regardless of the sponsoring district's compliance status. The remaining balance will be restored to traditional public schools, charter schools and district-operated schools of choice that are not in compliance with class size requirements, but have submitted a certified plan by February 1, 2020, explaining the actions the school will take to ensure compliance by October 2020. Please note that the reduction amount for each category of schools (i.e., traditional public schools, charter schools and district-operated schools of choice) is independent of the reduction amounts for the other categories of schools and will be reallocated and restored only to that category of schools. No school shall have an amount restored that is greater than the amount reduced.

Suzanne Pridgeon
Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations

2019-20 Calculations of Reductions to Class Size Operating Funds (Prior to Appeals)

January 23, 2020

Page Two

If you have questions regarding the implementation of class size requirements, please call me at 850-245-0406.

SP/jb

Attachment 1 – Preliminary Reduction Calculation for Traditional Public Schools

Attachment 2 – Preliminary Reduction Calculation for Charter Schools

Attachment 3 – Preliminary Reduction Calculation for District-Operated Schools of Choice

cc: District Finance Officers

Charter School Directors

Mark Eggers, Assistant Deputy Commissioner