

Class Size Reduction Requirements



Amendment to the
Florida Constitution

Class Size

- Defines "Core-curricula courses" as those courses defined by the Department of Education as mathematics, language arts/reading, science, social studies, foreign language, English for Speakers of Other Languages, exceptional student education, and courses taught in traditional self-contained elementary school classrooms.
- Limits the meaning of "core" exclusively for maximum class size requirements as established in the Constitution of Florida.

SB 30A, Class Size

- Defines “Extra-curricular Courses” as those not defined as “core-curricula courses,”
- Includes as Extra-curricular to include, but not be limited to, physical education, fine arts, performing fine arts, vocational education, and career and technical education.
- Again, says that the use of the definition is limited to the use as described in the implementation of the class size maximums established in the Florida Constitution.

Class Size

- Constitutional Class Size Maximums are:
 - PK-3 18 per classroom
 - 4-8 22 per classroom
 - 9-12 25 per classroom
- Implementation - 2003-2004 district not in compliance must reduce the average number of students per classroom in each by at least two students each year.

Class Size Reduction Phase-In

- For FY 2003-2004 through 2005-2006, the calculation for compliance for each of the 3 grade groupings is the average at the **district level**.
 - For fiscal years 2006-2007 through 2008-2009, the calculation for compliance for each of the 3 grade groupings is the average at the **school level**.
 - For fiscal years **2010-2011***, and thereafter, the calculation for compliance is at the **individual classroom level**.
- * The 2009 legislative session changed the school year to 2010-11 for compliance at the classroom level.

Class Size Baselines

- The Department will annually calculate each of the three average class size grade groupings based upon the October student membership survey.
- The baseline from which each district's average class size must be reduced for the 2003-2004 school year will be the February 2003 student membership survey updated to include classroom identification numbers as required by the department. (March, 2003; Survey C)