



2010-11 Updated Class Size Report

Based on 1/28/2011 schedule and register

February 2011



**Department of
Education**

Cathleen P. Black, Chancellor

2010-2011 Updated Class Size Definition

- The NYCDOE reports on class size twice a year – a preliminary report in November and an updated report in February.
 - This February updated report is based on a *snapshot* of Fall Term data in ATS (schools' register system) and STARS (schools' scheduling system) as of January 28, 2011.
 - School-level data from ATS and STARS are generated by the schools and are reviewed and updated throughout the year.
 - All school-level and citywide data and trends from this report must be considered as of January 28, 2011.

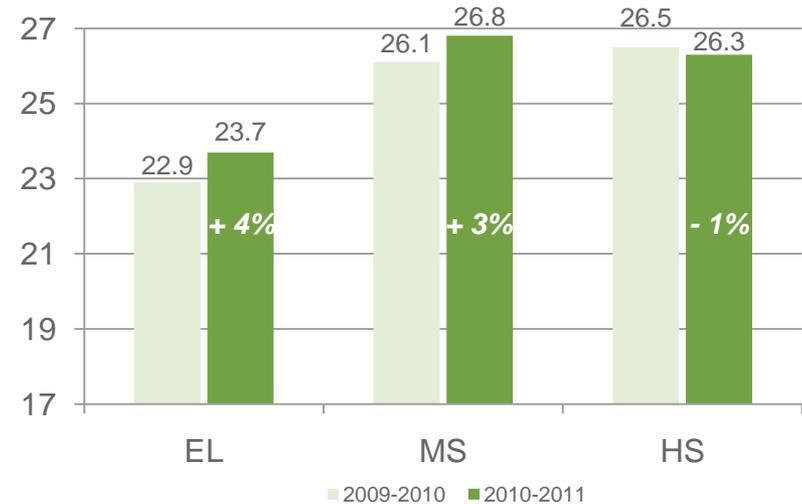
- Class size summaries report the following data:
 - Number of students (“seats filled”)
 - Number of sections (individual classes) in grades K-8
 - Number of sections of Core courses (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies) in Middle Schools and High Schools
 - Pupil-teacher ratio for each school

Class Size Context in 2010-11

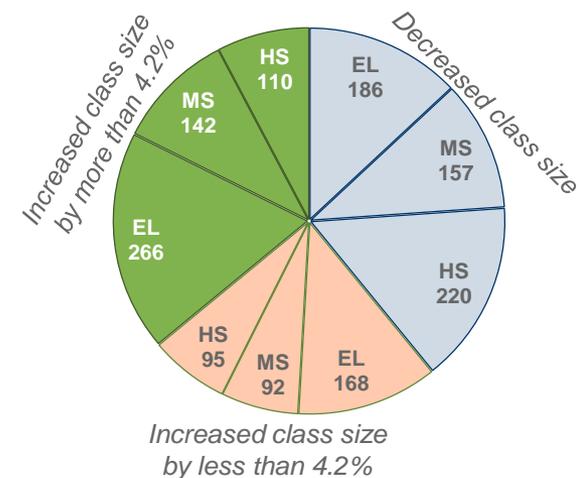
- Schools experienced both a reduction in funding by 4.2% and an increase in costs, largely due to increases in teacher salaries and costs of special education.
- Given the fiscal crisis, schools might have anticipated class size increases commensurate with 4.2% budget cuts.
- However, schools were urged to minimize reductions to their instructional programs and eliminate teaching positions only when necessary to meet their budget cuts. Teacher layoffs were avoided and schools successfully mitigated an excessive rise in class sizes.
- Continued decline in federal, state, and local fiscal resources will significantly impact the capacity of schools to maintain class size reduction policies in the future.
 - Governor Cuomo's recently proposed FY12 Executive Budget includes a \$1.4 Billion cut to education funding for New York City. ¹
 - Federal funds are projected to decrease by over \$850 Million between FY11 and FY12 with the phase-out of ARRA stimulus funding. ²
 - NY State Contracts for Excellence (currently, Foundation Aid) funds have been reduced by 6% in FY11 (\$39 Million) as part of the Governor's Gap Elimination Adjustment. ³

Class Size Context in 2010-11 (continued)

- From 2009-2010 to 2010-2011, citywide average class size increased by 1%, a difference of 0.4 students per class. ¹
 - Elementary Schools increased by 4%
 - 22.9 to 23.7 average students per class
 - Middle Schools increased by 3%
 - 26.1 to 26.8 average students per class
 - High Schools **decreased** by 1%
 - 26.5 to 26.3 average students per class



- Approximately, two-thirds of schools decreased school-wide class size or increased it less than the budget cut of 4.2%.
 - 563 schools decreased
 - 355 schools increased by less than 4.2%
 - 518 schools increased by more than 4.2%



 Over 50% of High Schools (220 of 425) **decreased** their school-wide class size.

¹ Citywide changes are based on General Education and Collaborative Team Teaching (CTT) students and sections.

Class Size Context in 2010-11 (continued)

- Preliminary data suggest NYC average class sizes did not grow as rapidly as those in similar districts.
 - LA Unified School District is projecting increases of 5 students in grades K-3 and 2 students in grades 4-8.¹
- State Education Department Target 75 Schools
 - Recognizing that the current economic climate necessitates changes to the NYCDOE Class Size Reduction Plan created in 2007, the State Education Department (SED) and the Chancellor agreed to focus on the 75 lowest achieving, highest class size schools.
 - These schools have received individual coaching throughout the summer and into the school year to allocate resources to reduce class size and pupil-teacher ratio (PTR).
 - Because of these increased efforts at the district and school levels, the SED Target 75 group has **decreased class size by 3%** despite citywide increases.
 - In 2010-2011, each Target 75 school has decreased class size or PTR (or kept PTR below citywide levels).

Class Size – Summary Data

2010-11 Average Class Size – Updated

(Based on 1/28/2011 register and scheduling data)

	All*	GE*	CTT*	G&T*	<u>GE and CTT</u>					
Gen Ed, CTT, G&T	K-3	22.9	23.1	22.3	22.8					
	4-5	25.2	25.3	24.7	24.7	<i>English</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>All Core</i>
	6-8**	26.9	27.1	25.4	29.8	26.4	26.7	26.9	26.9	26.7
	9-12***	26.5	26.5	26.5	n/a	25.9	26.0	27.0	26.9	26.5
Special Class	K-8	6:1:1	5.0	9-12 English		11.8				
			8.0	9-12 Math		12.4				
			10.2	9-12 Science		12.7				
			9.9	9-12 Social Studies		12.4				

* Official class, except for High School. Excludes Special Class (Self-Contained Special Education) classes. CTT is Collaborative Team Teaching, with two teachers sharing a class that combines General Ed and Special Education students.

** Includes 9th grades residing in Jr. High Schools (i.e., 6-9 schools).

*** High School courses are all Core academic classes, as reported in STARS.

Class Size – Change Over Time

(General Education and CTT classes only)

Grade Level	Updated FY2011	FY2010	FY2009	FY2008	FY2007	FY2006	FY2005	FY2004
K	22.1	21.7	20.7	20.6	20.7	20.9	20.8	20.9
1	22.9	22.0	21.3	21.1	21.3	21.2	21.7	21.6
2	23.2	22.2	21.4	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.2	21.6
3	23.7	22.5	21.9	21.0	21.3	21.4	21.5	22.2
4	25.0	24.4	23.4	23.5	23.9	24.0	24.3	24.6
5	25.4	24.8	24.2	24.1	25.0	25.5	26.2	26.4
6	26.2	26.1	25.6	25.5	26.0	26.4	26.7	27.1
7	27.1	26.8	26.5	26.2	27.2	27.3	28.0	28.3
8	27.3	27.5	26.8	26.6	27.2	27.3	28.0	28.1

Middle School Core	26.7	26.2	25.2**	- **	- **	- **
HS Core	26.5*	26.6*	26.2*	26.1*	25.6	26.2

* Class size information for middle school academic courses became available for the first time in FY09.

** Starting in FY08, HS average class size methodology was no longer comparable to historical class data. In FY09, changes to CTT reporting further shifted methodology.

Reporting Methodology in 2010-2011

In the continuing effort to maintain accurate school-level data, the NYCDOE has implemented process and system improvements:

- Course-level data standardization
 - Middle Schools and High Schools were instructed over the summer to confirm their course data based on a standardized list of general course names and subjects. Class size reports are organized by this updated data field in STARS, CoreSubjectID. Courses can be offered across grade levels, leading to High School courses given in Middle Schools and vice versa. This process will continue to make course-level data more accurate.
- Middle School STARS migration
 - Nearly all Middle Schools migrated to the STARS (formerly HSST) scheduling data system. During this migration, we experienced some inconsistencies with section-level data – e.g., non-standard course names – as schools ramped up their knowledge of the system. However, in the long term, this change will result in more accurate reporting of core and elective courses.
- Improved CTT section reporting
 - In previous years, accurate reporting of CTT sections required a manual matching process to eliminate duplicative section reporting. The accurate reporting of CTT sections continues to improve significantly due to updates to STARS and a citywide training initiative to support networks and schools.