

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



JIM HORNE
Commissioner of Education



MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 17, 2003

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Jim Horne

SUBJECT: Implementation of Class Size Reduction Requirements/2004 Compliance Calculation and Data Integrity Issues

The Constitutional Amendment for class size reduction requires each district, beginning in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, to reduce the average number of students in each classroom by at least two students per year until constitutionally required class size limits are reached, namely 18 students in Grades PK-3, 22 students in Grades 4-8, and 25 students in Grades 9-12.

The attached report provides district class size averages for 2003-2004 compared to 2003 baseline district class size averages, indicating district compliance with the required class size reduction for 2003-2004. ***Each district MIS Director has already received district class size averages for both years in individual district reports.*** The attached report summarizes this information. The report indicates that thirty-two districts did not comply with the class size reduction requirements for the 2003-2004 fiscal year and are now subject to a monetary penalty calculation. The timeline for the (1) penalty calculation, (2) process to submit data corrections, and (3) the appeal process will be provided next week. In the meantime, I encourage all districts to continue reviewing class size information for each school to determine if there are data errors and/or to identify factors that may have prevented you from complying with this requirement despite your appropriate efforts to do so.

There has been concern expressed by some districts that the process and timelines for reporting class size information compromised data integrity. I recognize the difficulty in implementing the large scale data reporting changes that were required to report individual class size information. As a result, Department staff worked with district MIS staff throughout the year to correct and update erroneous information used for this important calculation. The following summarizes the process that was available for all districts to use to review and update class size information.

JEANINE BLOMBERG
ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
ACCOUNTABILITY, RESEARCH, AND MEASUREMENT

Please note that districts were provided six different opportunities to submit corrections for the calculation of district class size averages.

2003 Baseline District Class Size Averages

- The original 2003 Baseline District Class Size Averages were released on May 12, 2003.
- Districts submitted corrections. Updated district class size averages were then reported to individual districts on June 2.
- Districts submitted corrections. Updated district class size averages were then reported to individual districts on September 2, 2003.
- Districts submitted corrections. Final 2003 Baseline District Class Size Averages were then reported to individual districts on September 19, 2003.

2003-2004 District Class Size Averages

- Student survey period conducted during the week of October 13, 2003.
- District class size averages were reported to individual districts on November 7, 2003.
- Districts submitted corrections. Updated district class size averages were then reported to individual districts on November 14, 2003.
- Districts submitted corrections. Updated district class size averages were then reported to individual districts on November 20, 2003.
- Districts submitted corrections. Final District Class Size averages were then reported to individual districts on December 1, 2003.

Throughout this process, detailed reports were available for districts to review which term/classroom/period combinations were included in the district class size averages, what scheduling methods were reported, and the number of unduplicated students included in the count. It was and continues to be important that districts access and study these detailed reports to assure that their classrooms were reported accurately and that no schools or classrooms were excluded from the averages, if they should have been included.

If you have additional questions regarding the implementation of the class size reduction requirements, please contact Jeanine Blomberg, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Accountability, Research and Measurement, at (850) 245-0437, or Jeanine.Blomberg@fldoe.org.

Attachment

cc: School District Finance Officers
MIS Directors

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DISTRICT CLASS SIZE AVERAGES
2004 COMPLIANCE CALCULATION**

	Grades PK - 3				Grades 4 - 8				Grades 9-12				Complied in all 3 Grade Groups
	2003*	2004	Change	Complied	2003*	2004	Change	Complied	2003*	2004	Change	Complied	
	-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-	-5-	-6-	-7-	-8-	-9-	-10-	-11-	-12-	-13-
ALACHUA	20.57	19.92	-0.65		21.52	20.34	-1.18	YES	22.91	22.92	0.01	YES	
BAKER	19.68	15.32	-4.36	YES	23.00	22.89	-0.11		20.37	21.16	0.79	YES	
BAY	18.56	17.78	-0.78	YES	20.17	21.07	0.90	YES	22.59	23.59	1.00	YES	YES
BRADFORD	22.24	17.18	-5.06	YES	22.06	19.80	-2.26	YES	20.81	20.39	-0.42	YES	YES
BREVARD	20.54	18.50	-2.04	YES	22.93	20.89	-2.04	YES	24.58	24.05	-0.53	YES	YES
BROWARD	24.87	20.81	-4.06	YES	27.16	23.68	-3.48	YES	28.23	25.96	-2.27	YES	YES
CALHOUN	16.73	15.80	-0.93	YES	19.29	18.15	-1.14	YES	15.54	17.85	2.31	YES	YES
CHARLOTTE	19.31	17.89	-1.42	YES	22.58	22.51	-0.07		22.70	24.13	1.43	YES	
CITRUS	20.76	13.38	-7.38	YES	22.41	19.54	-2.87	YES	19.93	20.08	0.15	YES	YES
CLAY	20.18	18.94	-1.24		26.70	20.34	-6.36	YES	21.76	22.58	0.82	YES	
COLLIER	20.20	18.13	-2.07	YES	23.80	22.10	-1.70		23.72	24.49	0.77	YES	
COLUMBIA	19.08	17.36	-1.72	YES	23.71	20.05	-3.66	YES	21.96	22.29	0.33	YES	YES
DADE	30.21	27.26	-2.95	YES	29.42	27.62	-1.80		26.04	26.07	0.03		
DESOTO	19.41	18.28	-1.13		20.16	21.94	1.78	YES	23.94	22.55	-1.39	YES	
DIXIE	20.01	16.60	-3.41	YES	18.78	16.55	-2.23	YES	20.28	20.56	0.28	YES	YES
DUVAL	21.72	19.69	-2.03	YES	22.35	21.41	-0.94	YES	23.62	22.47	-1.15	YES	YES
ESCAMBIA	21.27	19.82	-1.45		22.63	22.33	-0.30		24.06	24.45	0.39	YES	
FLAGLER	17.94	21.14	3.20		21.47	24.10	2.63		22.50	23.06	0.56	YES	
FRANKLIN	16.31	17.84	1.53	YES	18.60	21.50	2.90	YES	17.62	20.18	2.56	YES	YES
GADSDEN	20.62	21.90	1.28		23.46	22.80	-0.66		20.46	19.04	-1.42	YES	
GILCHRIST	20.82	17.79	-3.03	YES	21.27	19.74	-1.53	YES	17.00	17.89	0.89	YES	YES
GLADES	18.86	19.49	0.63		30.57	24.64	-5.93	YES	15.84	17.17	1.87	YES	
GULF	19.70	17.77	-1.93	YES	20.81	21.15	0.34	YES	19.29	19.71	0.42	YES	YES
HAMILTON	15.02	17.49	2.47	YES	18.24	21.19	2.95	YES	20.18	21.25	1.07	YES	YES
HARDEE	19.18	19.88	0.70		21.23	20.30	-0.93	YES	25.17	22.64	-2.53	YES	
HENDRY	21.38	19.87	-1.51		22.55	23.41	0.86		23.05	22.22	-0.83	YES	
HERNANDO	23.19	20.82	-2.37	YES	25.96	23.80	-2.16	YES	22.63	23.47	0.84	YES	YES
HIGHLANDS	21.02	18.35	-2.67	YES	22.50	19.55	-2.95	YES	23.74	22.31	-1.43	YES	YES
HILLSBOROUGH	21.00	20.49	-0.51		21.68	21.52	-0.16	YES	23.77	22.86	-0.91	YES	
HOLMES	19.00	18.24	-0.76		20.59	21.21	0.62	YES	18.05	17.69	-0.36	YES	
INDIAN RIVER	22.19	19.68	-2.51	YES	25.18	23.03	-2.15	YES	22.29	22.08	-0.21	YES	YES
JACKSON	19.55	19.10	-0.45		20.64	20.01	-0.63	YES	16.74	18.42	1.68	YES	
JEFFERSON	16.89	17.05	0.16	YES	21.75	19.43	-2.32	YES	16.00	17.62	1.62	YES	YES
LAFAYETTE	16.57	15.78	-0.79	YES	22.93	19.04	-3.89	YES	17.69	17.45	-0.24	YES	YES
LAKE	21.80	20.16	-1.64		22.96	22.10	-0.86		24.70	25.41	0.71		
LEE	22.95	20.15	-2.80	YES	23.97	21.91	-2.06	YES	24.74	24.63	-0.11	YES	YES
LEON	20.52	18.18	-2.34	YES	22.05	20.84	-1.21	YES	22.84	22.80	-0.04	YES	YES
LEVY	18.96	18.05	-0.91		20.59	19.51	-1.08	YES	19.37	20.38	1.01	YES	
LIBERTY	22.73	16.23	-6.50	YES	19.94	21.31	1.37	YES	19.64	24.29	4.65	YES	YES
MADISON	18.84	17.35	-1.49	YES	21.65	20.73	-0.92	YES	22.02	20.46	-1.56	YES	YES
MANATEE	22.34	20.05	-2.29	YES	24.06	22.18	-1.88		25.60	25.29	-0.31		
MARION	18.11	17.67	-0.44	YES	20.15	19.00	-1.15	YES	18.88	19.48	0.60	YES	YES
MARTIN	21.55	19.25	-2.30	YES	22.34	21.26	-1.08	YES	24.78	24.97	0.19	YES	YES
MONROE	23.79	24.92	1.13		20.60	25.09	4.49		21.92	24.85	2.93	YES	
NASSAU	22.29	19.90	-2.39	YES	23.47	22.40	-1.07		23.23	22.31	-0.92	YES	
OKALOOSA	20.53	17.97	-2.56	YES	22.70	22.22	-0.48		23.63	24.85	1.22	YES	
OKEECHOBEE	19.39	17.82	-1.57	YES	24.74	22.09	-2.65	YES	19.99	21.10	1.11	YES	YES
ORANGE	19.60	18.57	-1.03		21.59	21.25	-0.34	YES	22.99	24.79	1.80	YES	
OSCEOLA	24.46	20.05	-4.41	YES	25.57	21.71	-3.86	YES	24.31	24.01	-0.30	YES	YES
PALM BEACH	25.60	22.61	-2.99	YES	25.25	23.40	-1.85		24.50	25.00	0.50	YES	
PASCO	20.51	19.50	-1.01		24.74	22.24	-2.50	YES	22.06	21.95	-0.11	YES	
PINELLAS	20.02	17.41	-2.61	YES	22.90	21.70	-1.20	YES	24.72	24.75	0.03	YES	YES
POLK	20.74	19.07	-1.67		21.53	20.61	-0.92	YES	22.92	23.08	0.16	YES	
PUTNAM	18.96	18.54	-0.42		19.32	18.83	-0.49	YES	19.64	19.63	-0.01	YES	
SAINT JOHNS	22.89	19.68	-3.21	YES	23.96	20.76	-3.20	YES	22.04	23.06	1.02	YES	YES
SAINT LUCIE	23.38	21.28	-2.10	YES	26.80	25.35	-1.45		23.37	23.68	0.31	YES	
SANTA ROSA	22.03	20.46	-1.57		24.89	22.90	-1.99		26.49	25.03	-1.46		
SARASOTA	20.79	19.36	-1.43		23.10	22.42	-0.68		21.93	22.45	0.52	YES	
SEMINOLE	20.56	18.45	-2.11	YES	22.53	20.37	-2.16	YES	23.71	23.70	-0.01	YES	YES
SUMTER	19.72	17.97	-1.75	YES	21.86	21.01	-0.85	YES	18.74	20.44	1.70	YES	YES
SUWANNEE	15.68	13.79	-1.89	YES	25.28	21.87	-3.41	YES	24.61	21.70	-2.91	YES	YES
TAYLOR	17.36	17.68	0.32	YES	20.20	20.47	0.27	YES	25.18	22.41	-2.77	YES	YES
UNION	21.72	21.90	0.18		21.88	20.96	-0.92	YES	20.72	20.22	-0.50	YES	
VOLUSIA	21.49	20.66	-0.83		21.06	21.02	-0.04	YES	24.11	23.07	-1.04	YES	
WAKULLA	21.48	19.03	-2.45	YES	23.13	20.83	-2.30	YES	21.55	21.68	0.13	YES	YES
WALTON	19.44	17.91	-1.53	YES	20.62	21.82	1.20	YES	18.26	20.46	2.20	YES	YES
WASHINGTON	20.55	17.03	-3.52	YES	24.92	21.19	-3.73	YES	18.88	21.42	2.54	YES	YES
FAU LAB	27.20	26.25	-0.95		27.96	25.09	-2.87	YES				n/a	
FSU LAB	22.55	25.17	2.62		27.64	27.33	-0.31		19.39	24.68	5.29	YES	
A/M LAB	21.28	23.17	1.89		18.80	17.75	-1.05	YES	18.66	19.09	0.43	YES	
UF LAB	24.10	21.81	-2.29	YES	29.64	27.49	-2.15	YES	21.69	23.69	2.00	YES	YES
STATE	23.06	20.70	-2.36	45	24.16	22.59	-1.57	53	24.10	24.08	-0.02	66	36

*2003 District Class Size Averages--Updated through 9/19/03