

Class Size Reduction Modifications

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

House Sponsor: Candice B. Pierucci

LONG TITLE~~§~~ → **[Committee Note:****The Education Interim Committee recommended this bill.****Legislative Vote:** 12 voting for 0 voting against 8 absent } ← §**General Description:**

This bill amends the class size reduction appropriation.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- renames the appropriation;
- modifies provisions regarding the use of class size reduction funding;
- modifies which grade levels the program applies to;
- requires a local education agency to establish and maintain certain policies regarding teacher to student ratios;
- expands permitted uses of the allocation to include certain staff supports;
- establishes reporting requirements;
- requires certain information to be publicly available; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill contains a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53F-2-312, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Sixth Special Session, Chapter 9

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section 53F-2-312 is amended to read:

53F-2-312 . Early learning add-on.

(1) Money appropriated to the state board for ~~[class-size reduction shall be used to reduce the average class-size in]~~ achieving the purposes described in Subsection (3) shall be used for the following grades:

(a) for the 2024-2025 school year, kindergarten through grade 8 in the state's public schools[.] ;

(b) for the 2025-2026 school year, kindergarten through grade 6 in the state's public schools;

(c) for the 2026-2027 school year, kindergarten through grade 5 in the state's public schools;

(d) for the 2027-2028 school year, kindergarten through grade 4 in the state's public schools; and

(e) for the 2028-2029 school year and each subsequent school year, kindergarten through grade 3 in the state's public schools.

(2) A school district or charter school shall receive an allocation for ~~[class-size reduction]~~ achieving the purposes described in Subsection (3)(c) based on the school district or charter school's prior year average daily membership plus growth in ~~[kindergarten through grade 8]~~ the applicable grade bands described in Subsection (1) as determined under Section 53F-2-302 compared to the total prior year average daily membership plus growth in [kindergarten through grade 8] the applicable grade bands described in Subsection (1) statewide.

(3)(a) ~~[An]~~ Subject to Subsection (3)(c) ~~§→~~ **and except as provided in Subsection (8)** ~~←§~~ ,
an LEA governing board may use an allocation [
~~to reduce class-size in]~~ under this section for any one or all of the grades referred to
under this section, except as otherwise provided in Subsection (3)(b).

(b) ~~§→~~ **[(i)] Except as provided in Subsection (8):**

[(i)] ←§ An LEA governing board shall use 50% of an allocation to ~~[reduce class size]~~

achieve the purposes described in Subsection (3)(c) in any one or all of grades kindergarten through grade [2] 3, with an emphasis on improving student reading skills.

[(ii)] If a school district's or charter school's average class size is below 18 students in kindergarten through grade [2] 3, an LEA governing board may petition the state board for, and the state board may grant, a waiver of the requirement described in Subsection (3)(b)(i).

- (c) An LEA governing board shall use the allocation to:
- (i) improve outcomes in early learning, including through targeted class size reduction strategies;
 - (ii) maintain appropriate teacher to student ratios that support effective instruction and student achievement;
 - (iii) provide critical staff supports that improve early learning outcomes, including:
 - (A) instructional coaches;
 - (B) reading specialists;
 - (C) special education staff;
 - (D) English learner staff; and
 - (E) paraprofessionals for targeted small group instruction; and
 - (iv) other activities the local governing board determines necessary to meet purposes of this subsection.
- (d) An LEA governing board shall:
- (i) establish a written policy that defines the LEA's minimum teacher to student ratio requirements for each grade level described in Subsection (1);
 - (ii) review and update the policy at least once every three years;
 - (iii) make the policy publicly available on the LEA's website; and
 - (iv) monitor and maintain compliance with the established teacher to student ratios.
- (4) A school may use nontraditional innovative and creative methods to ~~[reduce class sizes]~~ achieve the purposes described in Subsection (3)(c) with this appropriation and may use part of an allocation to focus on ~~[class size reduction]~~ the purposes described in Subsection (3)(c) for specific groups, such as at risk students, or for specific blocks of time during the school day.
- (5)(a) An LEA governing board may use up to 20% of an allocation under this section for capital facilities projects if such projects would help to ~~[reduce class size]~~ achieve the purposes described in Subsection (3)(c).
- (b) If a school district's or charter school's student population increases by at least 5% or at least 700 students from the previous school year, the LEA governing board may use up to 50% of an allocation received by the school district or charter school under this section for capital facilities projects targeted toward classroom construction.
- (6) This appropriation is to supplement any other appropriation made for ~~[class size reduction]~~ the purposes described in Subsection (3)(c).
- (7) The Legislature shall provide for an annual adjustment in the appropriation authorized

under this section in proportion to the increase in the number of students in the state in [
kindergarten through grade 8] the applicable grade bands described in Subsection (1).

§→ (8) **Notwithstanding any provision of this section, an LEA governing board may
use an allocation under this section for grades that include grade 4 through grade 6 if the
LEA has achieved a 70% grade 3 literacy proficiency rate based on the most recent
available year's data.** ←§

Section 2. **Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.