Class Size Reduction Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Carol S. Moss

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill makes changes to the allocation of an existing appropriation for class size reduction.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ensures that funds are directed to local education agencies (LEAs) with the highest need;
- requires an LEA that receives funding to provide a report;
- adjusts which grades the funds may be used for; and
- permits an adjustment for inflation.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides 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 . Appropriation for class size reduction.

(1) Money appropriated to the state board for class size reduction shall be used to reduce the average class size in kindergarten through grade [8] 3 in the state's public schools.

(2) [~~A school district or charter school shall~~] An LEA may receive an allocation for class size reduction based on:

(a) the [~~school district or charter school's~~] LEA's prior year average daily membership plus growth in kindergarten through grade [8] 3 as determined under Section 53F-2-302 compared to the total prior year average daily membership plus growth in kindergarten through grade [8] 3 statewide[~~.~~] ;

(b) student to teacher ratio; and

(c) lack of physical classroom space.

(3) LEAs with the highest student to teacher ratio in kindergarten through grade 3 shall have priority for an allocation described in Subsection (2).

[~~(3)~~] (4)[~~(a)~~] An LEA governing board may use an allocation to reduce class size in any one or all of the grades [~~referred to under this section, except as otherwise provided in Subsection (3)(b)~~] described in Subsection (1).

[~~(b)(i) An LEA governing board shall use 50% of an allocation to reduce class size in any one or all of grades kindergarten through grade 2, 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, 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).~~]

[~~(4)~~] (5) A school may use nontraditional innovative and creative methods to reduce class sizes with this appropriation and may use part of an allocation to focus on class size reduction for specific groups, such as at risk students, or for specific blocks of time during the school day.

[~~(5)~~] (6)(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.

(b) If [~~a school district's or charter school's~~] an LEA'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~~] LEA under this section for [~~classroom construction.~~] a capital project to increase classroom capacity.

(7) An LEA governing board that receives an allocation under this section shall provide a report to the state board that includes:

(a) an accounting of funds received;

(b) a description of how the funds were spent; and

(c) a description of the impact of the funds on reading scores and reduction of class size in the LEA.

[~~(6)~~] (8) This appropriation is to supplement any other appropriation made for class size reduction.

[~~(7)~~] (9) 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~~] 3.

(10) The Legislature may provide for an annual adjustment in the appropriation authorized under this section for inflation.

Section 2. **Effective date.**

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.