

Class Size Reduction Modifications

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

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), 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) 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

- 66 and student achievement;
- 67 (iii) provide critical staff supports that improve early learning outcomes, including:
- 68 (A) instructional coaches;
- 69 (B) reading specialists;
- 70 (C) special education staff;
- 71 (D) English learner staff; and
- 72 (E) paraprofessionals for targeted small group instruction; and
- 73 (iv) other activities the local governing board determines necessary to meet purposes
- 74 of this subsection.
- 75 (d) An LEA governing board shall:
- 76 (i) establish a written policy that defines the LEA's minimum teacher to student ratio
- 77 requirements for each grade level described in Subsection (1);
- 78 (ii) review and update the policy at least once every three years;
- 79 (iii) make the policy publicly available on the LEA's website; and
- 80 (iv) monitor and maintain compliance with the established teacher to student ratios.
- 81 (4) A school may use nontraditional innovative and creative methods to ~~[reduce class sizes]~~
- 82 achieve the purposes described in Subsection (3)(c) with this appropriation and may use
- 83 part of an allocation to focus on ~~[class size reduction]~~ the purposes described in
- 84 Subsection (3)(c) for specific groups, such as at risk students, or for specific blocks of
- 85 time during the school day.
- 86 (5)(a) An LEA governing board may use up to 20% of an allocation under this section
- 87 for capital facilities projects if such projects would help to ~~[reduce class size]~~ achieve
- 88 the purposes described in Subsection (3)(c).
- 89 (b) If a school district's or charter school's student population increases by at least 5% or
- 90 at least 700 students from the previous school year, the LEA governing board may
- 91 use up to 50% of an allocation received by the school district or charter school under
- 92 this section for capital facilities projects targeted toward classroom construction.
- 93 (6) This appropriation is to supplement any other appropriation made for ~~[class size~~
- 94 reduction] the purposes described in Subsection (3)(c).
- 95 (7) The Legislature shall provide for an annual adjustment in the appropriation authorized
- 96 under this section in proportion to the increase in the number of students in the state in [~~kindergarten through grade 8]~~
- 97 the applicable grade bands described in Subsection (1).

98 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

99 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.