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MEMORANDUM

TO: Felicia Ortiz, Board President
Nevada State Board of Education

FROM: Megan Peterson, Deputy Superintendent, Student Investment Division *mp*

DATE: October 12, 2023

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Class Size Reduction Report pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 388.700(7)

Introduction

Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 388.700 outlines requirements intended for the reduction of student to teacher ratios for kindergarten through third grade through the development of annual Class Size Reduction (CSR) plans developed at the district level, and various quarterly, annual, and biennial reporting requirements; charter schools are excluded from these requirements. NRS 388.700(7) requires that an annual report be submitted by November 15 to the Budget Division of the Office of Finance and the Fiscal Analysis Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau regarding the following data related to district class size reduction efforts:

- the number of teachers employed full-time
- *the number of teachers employed to attain the class size ratios required by NRS 388.700(1)*
- the number of substitute teachers filling vacancies or long-term positions
- the number of pupils enrolled
- the number of teachers assigned to teach in the same classroom with another teacher or in any other arrangement other than one teacher assigned to one classroom of pupils

There are two types of CSR plans and ratios in use for the 2021-2023 biennium: regular and alternative. School districts are required to report on a quarterly basis the average daily enrollment of pupils and the number of licensed teachers designated to teach on a full-time basis in classes where core curriculum is taught, broken down by school, grade level, and classroom configuration. Per NRS 388.700, only licensed personnel teaching core curriculum classes may be counted for the class size ratio calculation; teachers of art, music, physical education, special education, librarians, and specialists may not be included for calculation purposes.

Each school that exceeds their target pupil-teacher ratio must request a variance for the next quarter of the school year, which the Nevada State Board of Education may approve for good cause. Good cause may include, but is not limited to, facility limitations, difficulty hiring, or funding limitations. Each variance must include the justification for the variance and a plan of action specific to that school to reduce the class size ratio, per Assembly Bill (AB) 204 (2019).

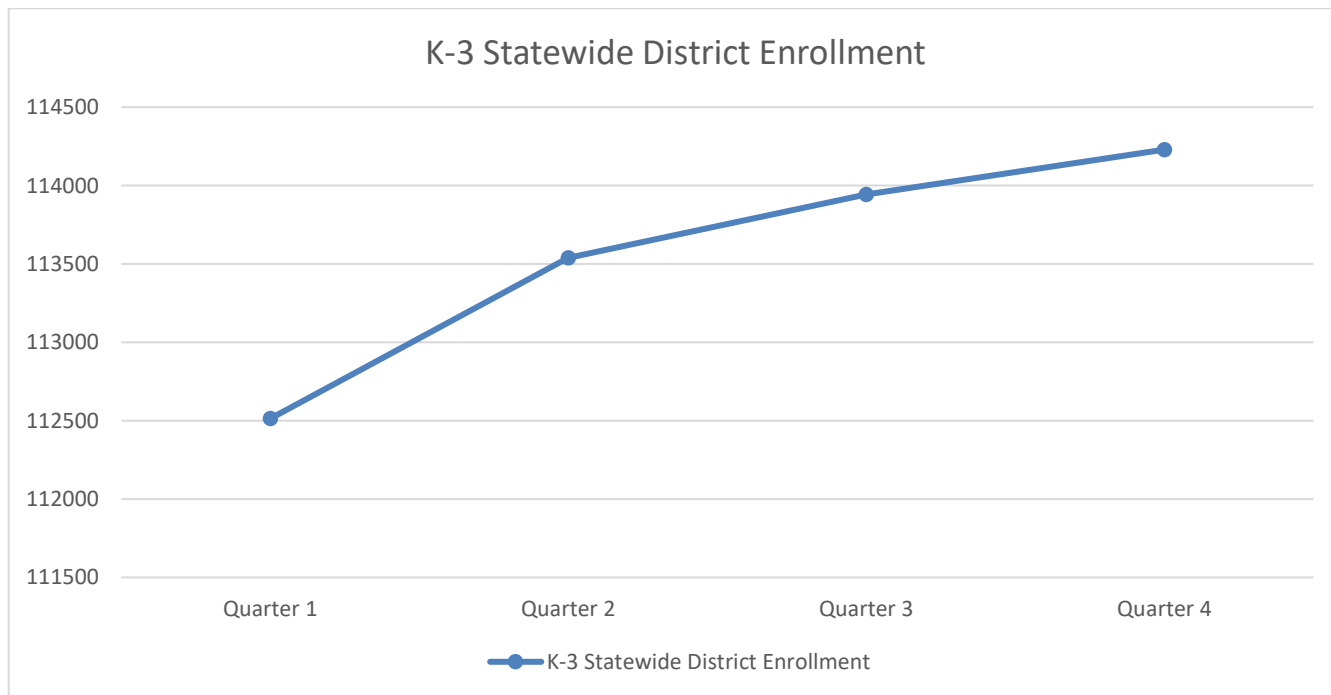
Class size ratios under the regular and alternative plan are as follows:

Regular Plan			
<i>As prescribed in NRS 388.700(1)</i>			
Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
16:1	16:1	16:1	18:1
Alternative Plan			
<i>As prescribed in NRS 388.720(2) – available for counties with populations less than 100,000 Fifth-sixth grades within elementary schools only</i>			
Kindergarten	First-Third Grades	Fourth Grade	Fifth-Sixth Grades
16:1	22:1	25:1	25:1

The Pupil-Centered Funding Plan was implemented effective fiscal year 2022 (FY22), pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 543 (2019) and SB 439 (2021) at which time funds previously identified for CSR funding under Senate Bill (SB) 555 (2019) were rolled into the statewide base per-pupil funding amount, providing districts flexibility for the allocation of funds to meet the needs of their students and school communities. While districts have continued to direct funding to class size reduction efforts, this has occurred with great variation across districts and braided state and federal funding sources. Because funding operations have changed, *it is no longer possible to identify the number of teachers employed specifically to attain class size ratios.*

Statewide Trends

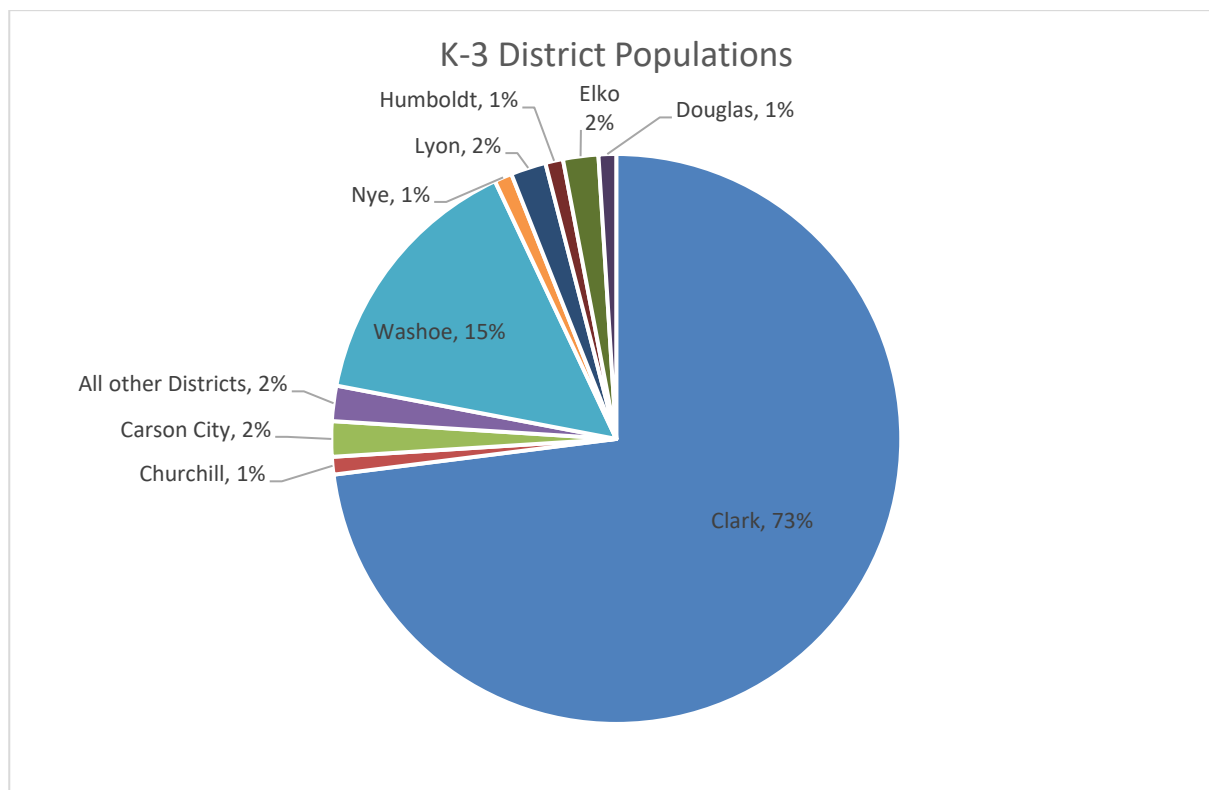
According to the FY23 average daily enrollment (ADE) reports, enrollment across all grades statewide increased from 470,384 students in Q1 to 472,098 students in Q4. Approximately 29% of this enrollment is for grades kindergarten through third. Of the K-3 enrollment across the state, 83% of that enrollment is in district schools, with 17% in charter schools. The below graph charts the growth in each quarter for K-3 district enrollment.



Districts on alternative plans also submit enrollment and educator counts for grades 4-6, however, only if those grades are within an elementary school. Because this data is not statewide, nor inclusive of all grades 4-6 within a given district, the averages are **not** meaningful reflections of ratios or the barriers to target ratios across the state. For context, 23% of statewide enrollment is for grades 4-6, approximately 107,690 students. Of the 4-6 enrollment

across the state, district enrollment again makes up 83%, with 17% in charter schools. Of the 89,906 students enrolled in district schools, only 7,259 were reported for class size reduction purposes, approximately 8% of district enrollment and 7% of statewide enrollment.

It is important to note that Kindergarten is the only grade that all districts share a target ratio for: 16:1. Approximately 88% of students in grades 1-3 are on the regular CSR plan, with targets of 16:1 and 18:1. The remaining 12% of students in grades 1-3, across 13 rural districts, are on the alternative CSR plan with targets of 22:1. The following chart illustrates the breakdown of K-3 populations across districts:



Assembly Bill 266 (2021) introduced a new reporting requirement for districts requiring that board of trustees determine and report the number of job vacancies in their district based on the number of licensed teachers needed to achieve the recommended ratios of pupils per licensed teacher. Long-term substitutes, while eligible for class size reduction reporting, may not be counted for AB 266 reporting. Throughout FY23 reporting, NDE provided a count of “CSR Ratio Surplus” for each district. These numbers represented, by school and grade, the approximate number of students that would be without a classroom if the recommended class size ratio was treated as a cap. Reporting a kindergarten ratio of 21:1 in a school did not contextualize the circumstance for the grade, school, or district. A ratio of 21:1 indicates five students over the ratio; however, it matters whether there are two kindergarten classrooms in the school (a total of ten students exceeding the ratio) or ten classrooms, leaving 50 students – easily three additional classrooms in a single school – over the recommended ratio. The numbers reported throughout the FY23 quarterly reports are the most conservative estimate of students impacted by class size ratios, given aggregate calculations and the permissibility of long-term substitutes to qualify under the student to teacher ratio.

Teacher and enrollment counts will be based on four-quarter averages of the information reported to the Department, broken out by district, grade, ADE enrollment, CSR ADE reported, teachers reported under CSR quarterly reporting, substitute teachers reported under CSR quarterly reporting, number of teachers in single-teacher classrooms, number of teachers in combined grade or team-teaching classrooms, the approximate class size ratio, the approximate number of students affected by exceeding the ratio, and the approximate number of teachers and/or classrooms needed to support the target ratio:

Grade	K	1	2	3
CSR ADE Reported	26,177	29,557	28,476	29,347
CSR Teachers Reported	1,311	1,538	1,481	1,371
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	59	69	69	67
Single Teacher Classrooms	1302	1509	1462	1351
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	7	26	16	17
Class Size Ratio	20	19	19	21
Students Affected by Ratio	5,458	4,622	4,484	4,767
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	339	286	277	267

Please note that substitute teachers filling vacancies or long-term positions are highly variable and frequently moved in and out of quarterly reports. Additionally, NDE only received data for quarters 2-4 and averaged across three quarters, rather than four. To account for the variability of substitute teachers and the three-quarter average, substitute teachers filling vacancies have been coded in half measures (0.5) to represent the approximate amount of time they served as the primary educator for a classroom. CSR Teachers Reported reflects the total number of teachers, inclusive of substitute teachers, for the purposes of calculating the class size ratio.

District Data

Averaged data is available for each of the seventeen districts below:

Carson City School District – Alternative Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5
CSR ADE Reported	471	508	515	491	499	540
CSR Teachers Reported	23	26	25	23	21	23
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	0	1	1	1	0	0
Single Teacher Classrooms	23	26	25	23	21	23
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0	0	0	0.16	0.29	0.30
Class Size Ratio	20	20	21	21	23	23
Students Affected by Ratio	103	3	20	7	1	1
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	6	0	1	0	0	0

Churchill County School District – Alternative Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5
CSR ADE Reported	230	244	219	221	215	253
CSR Teachers Reported	12	12	11	10	10	10
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	1	0	0	0	0	0
Single Teacher Classrooms	12	12	11	10	10	10
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0	0	0	0	0	0
Class Size Ratio	19	20	20	22	21.5	25
Students Affected by Ratio	38	0	0	1	0	1
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	2	0	0	0	0	0

Clark County School District – Regular Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3
CSR ADE Reported	18,836	21,442	20,508	21,193
CSR Teachers Reported	946	1101	1056	992
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	43	53	57	56
Single Teacher Classrooms	944	1097	1053	986
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0	0	0	4
Class Size Ratio	20	19	19	21

Students Affected by Ratio	3,874	4,006	3,889	3,776
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	242	250	243	210

Douglas County School District – Alternative Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5
CSR ADE Reported	312	359	350	386	371	388
CSR Teachers Reported	14	20	17	17	16	15
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Single Teacher Classrooms	14	20	17	17	16	15
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0	0	0	0	0	0
Class Size Ratio	22	18	21	23	23	26
Students Affected by Ratio	88	10	11	28	15	24
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	6	0	1	1	1	1

Elko County School District – Alternative Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
CSR ADE Reported	729	738	736	755	795	459	137
CSR Teachers Reported	36	36	35	33	36	20	7
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	5	6	2	3	1	2	2
Single Teacher Classrooms	36	35	33	32	35	19	6
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0	0	0	1.23	1.22	1.76	0
Class Size Ratio	19	20	20	22	22	21	17
Students Affected by Ratio	165	22	35	62	0	0	0
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	10	1	2	3	0	0	0

Esmeralda County School District – Regular Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
CSR ADE Reported	6	10	9	5	8	6	6
CSR Teachers Reported	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Single Teacher Classrooms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Class Size Ratio	16	12	10	6	7	5	3
Students Affected by Ratio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Eureka County School District – Alternative Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
CSR ADE Reported	12	19	25	28	31	17	27
CSR Teachers Reported	1.77	2	3	1	3	1	1.78
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Single Teacher Classrooms	0.5	2	2	1	2	1	1
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0.25	0.75	0.42	0.59	0.22	0.78	1.27
Class Size Ratio	6	10	10	18	12	12	14
Students Affected by Ratio	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Humboldt County School District – Alternative Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
CSR ADE Reported	231	241	244	219	246	73	80

CSR Teachers Reported	13	14	12	11	11	4	4
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	5	5	4	4	4	0	1
Single Teacher Classrooms	9	9	8	8	8	2.5	2.5
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0.66	2.27	1.49	0.64	1.5	1.69	1.9
Class Size Ratio	15	15	15	16	17	11	10
Students Affected by Ratio	42	10	3	5	0	0	1
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

Lander County School District – Alternative Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
CSR ADE Reported	69	80	84	77	76	0	0
CSR Teachers Reported	4	4	4	4	3	0	0
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Single Teacher Classrooms	4	4	4	4	3	0	0
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0.42	0.19	0	0	0.38	0	0
Class Size Ratio	12	14	21	19	16	0	0
Students Affected by Ratio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Lincoln County School District – Regular Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
CSR ADE Reported	59	69	69	63	54	60	42
CSR Teachers Reported	4	3	3	4	3	3	3
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Single Teacher Classrooms	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0.38	1.22	1.28	1.38	1.35	1.40	0.75
Class Size Ratio	16	19	20	17	15	17	14
Students Affected by Ratio	8	19	21	5	0	0	0
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	0	1	1	0	0	0	0

Lyon County School District – Alternative Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
CSR ADE Reported	612	655	685	677	708	394	438
CSR Teachers Reported	33	31	32	31	29	17	19
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	0	2	0.5	0	1	0	0.5
Single Teacher Classrooms	33	31	32	31	29	17	19
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Class Size Ratio	18	21	21	21	23	21	22
Students Affected by Ratio	87	18	22	42	12	9	5
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	5	1	1	2	0	0	0

Mineral County School District – Alternative Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
CSR ADE Reported	53	50	38	45	44	63	51
CSR Teachers Reported	3	2	3	3	2	4	3
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.5
Single Teacher Classrooms	3	2	2	2	2	3	2
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0	0.44	0.56	0.52	0.48	0.50	0.50
Class Size Ratio	16	21	18	16	16	19	20
Students Affected by Ratio	6	0	0	0	0	0	0

Classrooms Needed for Ratio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Nye County School District – Alternative Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5
CSR ADE Reported	393	426	402	417	406	429
CSR Teachers Reported	20	20	18	19	16	16
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	2	1	2	1	0	1
Single Teacher Classrooms	20	20	17	17	14	14
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0.33	0.35	1.15	1.69	1.98	1.52
Class Size Ratio	17	18	18	19	21	24
Students Affected by Ratio	88	22	30	30	31	45
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	6	1	1	1	1	2

Pershing County School District – Regular Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5
CSR ADE Reported	43	58	59	55	56	57
CSR Teachers Reported	3	3	3	2	2	3
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Single Teacher Classrooms	3	3	3	2	2	3
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0	0.29	0.21	0.12	0.29	0.12
Class Size Ratio	12	17	17	23	22	18
Students Affected by Ratio	0	0	0	7	1	0
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	0	0	0	0	0	0

Storey County School District – Alternative Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5
CSR ADE Reported	33	29	25	24	32	29
CSR Teachers Reported	2	1	2	1	2	1
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Single Teacher Classrooms	1	1	1	1	1	1
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0.88	0.62	0.79	0.71	0.92	0.59
Class Size Ratio	20	21	16	16	18	19
Students Affected by Ratio	5	1	0	2	0	0
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	0	0	0	0	0	0

Washoe County School District – Regular Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3
CSR ADE Reported	3,993	4,540	4,436	4,590
CSR Teachers Reported	192	255	252	214
Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	1	0.5	2.5	2.5
Single Teacher Classrooms	192	241	248	210
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0	14.25	4.26	4.25
Class Size Ratio	21	18	17	21
Students Affected by Ratio	933	507	449	805
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	58	32	28	50

White Pine County School District – Alternative Plan

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
CSR ADE Reported	95	89	71	103	75	95	3
CSR Teachers Reported	5	5	4	5	5	5	0

Substitute Teachers Filling Vacancies	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Single Teacher Classrooms	5	5	4	5	5	5	2
Combined Grade / Team Classrooms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Class Size Ratio	16	17	17	17	15	16	17
Students Affected by Ratio	21	4	4	4	4	4	5
Classrooms Needed for Ratio	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Conclusion

If Nevada were to limit each of its existing district classrooms to their respective target ratios, 17% of K-3 students across Nevada – 19,331 students – would not have a classroom. This does not account for K-3 students enrolled in charter schools that make up an additional 17% of the Nevada K-3 population.

While educators are not the only need represented by the count of classrooms, as many districts additionally cite facility limitations, the most conservative estimates – not accounting for the number of substitutes filling vacancies or in long-term positions – cite the need for an additional 1,174 educators at minimum to begin to address target class size ratios. 91% of all variance requests for class size reduction cite funding limitations, with 93% further citing difficulty hiring.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Amelia Thibault via email at acthibault@doe.nv.gov or by phone at 775-687-2451.