



April 1, 2024

SUMMARY OF BILL: Reduces the maximum class sizes and average class sizes by one student each school year over a period of five school years, beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures –

Exceeds \$100,000,000/FY25-26 and Subsequent Years*

Other Fiscal Impact – Additional mandatory increases in local expenditures will be incurred. Due to multiple unknown variables, the extent and timing of such increases cannot be quantified with reasonable certainty. *

Assumptions:

- Based on the Department of Education’s (DOE’s) 2022-23 Annual Statistical Report, there are 70,571 classroom teachers across local education agencies (LEAs).
- The average cost for a Tennessee teacher is estimated to be \$80,121 (\$58,260 salary + \$21,861 benefits).
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104, the required class sizes for public school students, including Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes, are as follows:

Cohort	Average Class Size	Maximum Class Size
K to 3	20	25
4 to 6	25	30
7 to 12	30	35
CTE	20	25

- In FY23-24, the minimum number of educators required for maximum classroom sizes across different grade levels is 40,870. Reducing the class size by one student in each of the next five school years will result in an increase in total classroom teachers as follows:

Cohort	2023-24	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
K to 3	14,747	15,523	16,385	17,349	18,433	19,662
4 to 6	8,777	9,142	9,540	9,974	10,449	10,971
7 to 12	14,470	14,969	15,503	16,077	16,696	17,364
CTE	2,022	2,129	2,247	2,379	2,528	2,696
Special Education	855	900	950	1,006	1,069	1,140
Total	40,870	42,663	44,626	46,785	49,175	51,833

- The number of additional classrooms required and teachers that will need to be hired across different grade levels is as follows:

Cohort	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
K to 3	776	862	964	1,084	1,229
4 to 6	366	397	434	475	522
7 to 12	499	535	574	618	668
CTE	107	118	132	149	168
Special Education	45	50	56	63	71
Total	1,793	1,962	2,160	2,390	2,658

- The increase in educators would cost:
 - \$143,656,953 in (1,793 x \$80,121) in the 2025-26 school year;
 - \$157,197,402 in (1,962 x \$80,121) in the 2026-27 school year;
 - \$173,061,360 in (2,160 x \$80,121) in the 2027-28 school year;
 - \$191,489,190 in (2,390 x \$80,121) in the 2028-29 school year; and
 - \$212,961,618 in (2,658 x \$80,121) in the 2029-30 school year.
- The cumulative increase in educators would cost:
 - \$143,656,953 in the 2025-26 school year;
 - \$300,854,355 (\$143,656,953 + 157,197,402) in the 2026-27 school year;
 - \$473,915,715 (\$173,061,360 + \$300,854,355) in the 2027-28 school year;
 - \$665,404,905 (\$191,489,190 + \$473,915,715) in the 2028-29 school year; and
 - \$878,366,523 (\$212,961,618 + \$665,404,905) in the 2029-30 school year and subsequent years.
- It is not known if any LEAs are already in compliance with the year one requirements of the proposed legislations. Staffing levels across LEAs vary and additional classrooms may require additional support staff and other administrative personnel. Because LEA-specific data is unavailable, the extent and timing of any additional personnel that may be required cannot be estimated with certainty. However, it is reasonably assumed that the mandatory increase in local expenditures will exceed \$100,000,000, beginning in FY25-26, with significant additional increases in subsequent years.
- To accommodate the increase in the number of required classrooms, additional costs for facilities and equipment may occur. These costs may include classroom materials, CTE equipment, and additional infrastructure modifications.
- Given the lack of LEA-specific data regarding current classroom and staffing levels, a precise, mandatory increase in local expenditures cannot be estimated with certainty.
- No impact to state government.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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