



March 10, 2024

SUMMARY OF BILL: Reduces, from 25 to 15, the maximum class size in grades kindergarten through two (K-2) at a priority school. Establishes that if a priority school that serves students in any of the grades K-2 meets the priority exit criteria set forth in the state's accountability model and is no longer identified as a priority school, then the school shall not exceed the maximum class size established for K-2.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – Reducing the size of K-2 classes in priority schools will increase the share of local expenditures in excess of \$10,894,100, resulting in a shift in funding for some LEAs. However, due to multiple factors, including local maintenance of effort levels and variation in class sizes across districts, a precise fiscal impact cannot be reasonably determined.

Assumptions:

- There are 348 K-2 teachers in priority schools. It is not known how many of these classrooms maintain a class size lower than the maximum of 25 students.
- It is estimated that decreasing the maximum class size to 15 would result in up to a 40 percent increase in the number of K-2 priority teachers, or 139 (348 x .40) additional teachers.
- The average salary for a K-2 teacher is \$52,596 and the average benefits amount is \$15,779.
- The increase in teachers is estimated to increase local expenditures \$9,504,125 [(\$52,596 salary + \$15,779 benefits) x 139].
- It is estimated that classroom costs and supplies will total \$10,000 per classroom. There will be a recurring increase in local expenditures of \$1,390,000 (\$10,000 x 139).
- It is unknown if LEAs will have sufficient space to accommodate additional K-2 classrooms. For LEAs that do not have the capacity, a mandatory increase in local infrastructure expenditures may occur. However, because the amount of available classroom space is unknown, a precise fiscal impact cannot be estimated with certainty.
- The increase in local expenditures is estimated to exceed \$10,894,125 (\$9,504,125 + \$1,390,000).
- Based on historical local maintenance of effort levels, districts contribute local funds in excess of the minimum required local match, allowing local governments to utilize current excess local contributions to fund the minimum local match requirements.

- Reducing the maximum K-2 class size in priority schools may result in a shift in local education funding. However, due to variation of such class sizes and local funding obligations, the extent and timing of any such shift in local expenditures cannot be reasonably determined.

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

/ah