

1 **Class Size Reduction Modifications**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

House Sponsor: Candice B. Pierucci

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 ~~§~~ [Committee Note:

5 ~~The Education Interim Committee recommended this bill.~~

6 ~~Legislative Vote: 12 voting for 0 voting against 8 absent } ← §~~

7 **General Description:**

8 This bill amends the class size reduction appropriation.

9 **Highlighted Provisions:**

10 This bill:

- 11 ▶ renames the appropriation;
- 12 ▶ modifies provisions regarding the use of class size reduction funding;
- 13 ▶ modifies which grade levels the program applies to;
- 14 ▶ requires a local education agency to establish and maintain certain policies regarding
- 15 teacher to student ratios;
- 16 ▶ expands permitted uses of the allocation to include certain staff supports;
- 17 ▶ establishes reporting requirements;
- 18 ▶ requires certain information to be publicly available; and
- 19 ▶ makes technical changes.

20 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

21 None

22 **Other Special Clauses:**

23 This bill contains a special effective date.

24 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

25 AMENDS:

26 **53F-2-312**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Sixth Special Session, Chapter 9

28 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

29 Section 1. Section **53F-2-312** is amended to read:

30 **53F-2-312 . Early learning add-on.**

- 31 (1) Money appropriated to the state board for ~~[class size reduction shall be used to reduce~~
 32 ~~the average class size in]~~ achieving the purposes described in Subsection (3) shall be
 33 used for the following grades:
- 34 (a) for the 2024-2025 school year, kindergarten through grade 8 in the state's public
 35 schools[-] ;
- 36 (b) for the 2025-2026 school year, kindergarten through grade 6 in the state's public
 37 schools;
- 38 (c) for the 2026-2027 school year, kindergarten through grade 5 in the state's public
 39 schools;
- 40 (d) for the 2027-2028 school year, kindergarten through grade 4 in the state's public
 41 schools; and
- 42 (e) for the 2028-2029 school year and each subsequent school year, kindergarten
 43 through grade 3 in the state's public schools.
- 44 (2) A school district or charter school shall receive an allocation for ~~[class size reduction]~~
 45 achieving the purposes described in Subsection (3)(c) based on the school district or
 46 charter school's prior year average daily membership plus growth in ~~[kindergarten~~
 47 ~~through grade 8]~~ the applicable grade bands described in Subsection (1) as determined
 48 under Section 53F-2-302 compared to the total prior year average daily membership plus
 49 growth in ~~[kindergarten through grade 8]~~ the applicable grade bands described in
 50 Subsection (1) statewide.
- 51 (3)(a) ~~[An]~~ Subject to Subsection (3)(c) ~~Œ→~~ **and except as provided in Subsection (8)** ~~←Œ~~ ,
 51a an LEA governing board may use an allocation [
 52 ~~to reduce class size in]~~ under this section for any one or all of the grades referred to
 53 under this section, except as otherwise provided in Subsection (3)(b).
- 54 (b) ~~Œ→~~ **(i) Except as provided in Subsection (8):**
- 54a **(i) ←Œ** An LEA governing board shall use 50% of an allocation to ~~[reduce class~~
 54b size]
 55 achieve the purposes described in Subsection (3)(c) in any one or all of grades
 56 kindergarten through grade [2] 3, with an emphasis on improving student reading
 57 skills.
- 58 (ii) If a school district's or charter school's average class size is below 18 students in
 59 kindergarten through grade [2] 3, an LEA governing board may petition the state
 60 board for, and the state board may grant, a waiver of the requirement described in
 61 Subsection (3)(b)(i).

- 62 (c) An LEA governing board shall use the allocation to:
- 63 (i) improve outcomes in early learning, including through targeted class size
- 64 reduction strategies;
- 65 (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 [
97 kindergarten through grade 8] the applicable grade bands described in Subsection (1).

97a **§→ (8) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, an LEA governing board may**
97b **use an allocation under this section for grades that include grade 4 through grade 6 if the**
97c **LEA has achieved a 70% grade 3 literacy proficiency rate based on the most recent**
97d **available year's data.** ←§

98 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

99 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.