

**School Class Size Requirements**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Jordan D. Teuscher**

Senate Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

This bill establishes a class size limitation within the public education system.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- establishes a class size limitation;
- allows for a certain variance from the class size limitation; and
- provides certain rulemaking authority to the State Board of Education.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill provides a special effective date.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**53G-6-408**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53G-6-408** is enacted to read:

**53G-6-408 . Class size limitation.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a)(i) "Class" means a course, section, or instructional period in which an LEA or school assigns a group of students to a teacher who is primarily responsible and accountable for the instruction of a particular subject or group of subjects during a specific class period or instructional block.

(ii) "Class" does not include a large-group class.

(b) "Large-group class" means a secondary grade class:

(i) which traditionally includes a larger group of students, including a choir, band,

- 31 orchestra, or physical education class; and
- 32 (ii) for which there is adequate supervision and facilities for safe and effective
- 33 instruction.
- 34 (c) "Secondary grade" means grades 6 through 12 in a middle school, junior high school,
- 35 and high school.
- 36 (2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), an LEA or school within an LEA may
- 37 not assign more than 25 students to a class.
- 38 (b) The limitation described in Subsection (2)(a) does not apply:
- 39 (i) if the LEA or school assigns a paraeducator, paraprofessional, or teaching aide to
- 40 the class the majority of classroom time; or
- 41 (ii) for an online school or course using an asynchronous learning model.
- 42 (3) If, after the school year begins, unanticipated enrollment changes make immediate
- 43 compliance with Subsection (2) impracticable, an LEA governing board may approve a
- 44 temporary variance for the affected class for the remainder of the term, if the board:
- 45 (a) adopts a written plan to return the class to compliance for the immediately ensuing
- 46 term or semester; and
- 47 (b) provides written notice to the parents or guardians of students in the affected class
- 48 within 10 school days that describes the reason for the variance and the steps the
- 49 LEA or school will take to return to compliance.
- 50 (4)(a) The state board shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
- 51 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to establish procedures for:
- 52 (i) LEA documentation of compliance; and
- 53 (ii) reporting class sizes to the state board.
- 54 (5)(a) The state board may make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
- 55 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to:
- 56 (i) identify additional class types in secondary grades that:
- 57 (A) are pedagogically suited to large-group instruction; and
- 58 (B) for which a designation as a large-group class described in Subsection
- 59 (5)(a)(ii) does not impair instructional effectiveness or student safety; and
- 60 (ii) designate a class described in Subsection (5)(a)(i) as a large-group class that is
- 61 exempt from the limitation described in Subsection (2).
- 62 (6) Nothing in this section prohibits an LEA or a school within an LEA from adopting more
- 63 stringent class size limits.

64 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

65      This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.