

CLASSROOM SIZE AMENDMENTS

2012 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Karen W. Morgan

House Sponsor: Rebecca P. Edwards

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill imposes a maximum class size for kindergarten through grade 3.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ limits the number of students who may be assigned to a teacher who teaches a core curriculum course in kindergarten through grade 3, unless a paraprofessional is assigned to the teacher's class for the duration of the core curriculum course; and

- ▶ establishes qualifications for a paraprofessional assigned to a class that exceeds the maximum class size requirement.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2012.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53A-15-106, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53A-15-106** is enacted to read:

53A-15-106. Maximum class size in kindergarten through grade 3 -- Exception --



28 **Qualifications of a paraprofessional assigned to a class that exceeds the maximum class**
29 **size.**

30 (1) As used in this section:

31 (a) "Core curriculum course" means a language arts, mathematics, science, or social
32 studies course.

33 (b) "Direct supervision of a licensed teacher" means the teacher:

34 (i) prepares the lesson and plans the instructional support activities the paraprofessional
35 carries out; and

36 (ii) evaluates the achievement of the students with whom the paraprofessional works.

37 (c) "Paraprofessional" means an individual who:

38 (i) works under the direct supervision of a licensed teacher; and

39 (ii) meets the qualifications established in Subsection (4).

40 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), the maximum number of students assigned to
41 a teacher who is teaching a core curriculum course may not exceed:

42 (a) 18 students for a kindergarten class, beginning with the 2012-13 school year;

43 (b) 20 students for a first grade class, beginning with the 2013-14 school year;

44 (c) 22 students for a second grade class, beginning with the 2014-15 school year; and

45 (d) 24 students for a third grade class, beginning with the 2015-16 school year.

46 (3) The number of students assigned to a teacher who is teaching a core curriculum
47 course may exceed the maximum class size specified in Subsection (2) if a paraprofessional is
48 assigned to the class for the entire duration of the core curriculum course.

49 (4) A paraprofessional who is assigned to a class pursuant to Subsection (3) shall have:

50 (a) (i) earned a secondary school diploma or a recognized equivalent; and

51 (ii) (A) completed at least two years with a minimum of 48 semester hours at an
52 accredited higher education institution; or

53 (B) obtained an associates or higher degree from an accredited higher education
54 institution; or

55 (b) satisfied a rigorous state or local assessment about the individual's knowledge of,
56 and ability to assist in instructing students in, reading, writing, and mathematics.

57 **Section 2. Effective date.**

58 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2012.

Legislative Review Note
as of 10-27-11 9:06 AM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel