

Using Federal Funds to Reduce Class Size

Georgia Department of Education

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Presenters



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Introduction



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- Class Size Reduction (CSR) flexibility allows a local educational agency (LEA) to use federal funds to reduce class size.
- Research has found that small classes can have a positive influence on student achievement, all other factors being equal. *Finn (1998); Nye (1995)*
- Class size is only one factor educators must consider when allocating resources to improve student achievement.

Introduction



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- Studies have also shown that students with ineffective teachers lose percentile points of achievement as compared to those children with an effective teacher. Sanders and Rivers (1996)
 - Teacher expertise accounts for more difference in student performance—40%—than any other factor. Ferguson (2001)
 - Students who have several effective teachers in a row make dramatic achievement gains, while those who have even two ineffective teachers in a row lose significant ground. Sack (1999)

Introduction



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- Creating smaller classes with **highly effective teachers** may produce greater student achievement.
- Local educators decide how to best use their federal funds to improve the quality of instruction.

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Considerations



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Several questions must be answered in determining when federal funds may be used to reduce class size:

- How many state or locally paid teachers are required to meet maximum class size requirements?
- Are the classes designed for at-risk children?
- Are the classes self-contained?
- Are the classes departmentalized?

Considerations



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- Do the classes earn additional full time equivalent (FTE) state dollars?
 - For which program(s)? Early Intervention Program (EIP), Remedial Education Program (REP), Gifted Education, Special Education?
 - What delivery model is used?

EIP, REP, Gifted, Special Education



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- Federal funds may be used to reduce the overall class size of regular education classes where an inclusion/augmented model is used to serve students in the EIP, REP, Gifted Program, or Special Education Program.
- Federal funds may NOT be used to reduce class size for the purpose of serving students in the EIP, REP, Gifted Program, or Special Education Program.

EIP, REP, Gifted, Special Education



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- Augmented or inclusion models for special populations or programs require additional teaching staff, who will be paid by the funds generated by the higher FTE weight assigned to the special population.

Class size Reduction Workbook



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Five Worksheets

1. Directions for completing the self-contained and the departmentalized worksheets
2. Sample - Self-Contained
3. Sample - Departmentalized
4. Self-Contained Worksheet
5. Departmentalized Worksheet

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Self Contained Classes



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- Highlighted columns contain formulas. **Do not enter data in these columns**
- Click on Self-Contained Worksheet tab in Class Size Reduction Workbook (not sample-Self Contained)
- **Grade** column - Enter the grade level
- **Course** column - Enter "all subjects"

Self Contained Classes



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- **LEA Maximum Class Size** column – Enter either
 - Per Georgia SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.08
- **OR**
- Per Charter/IE2 LEA Local Class Size Numbers reported to the GaDOE Charter Schools Division
- **Total Students Enrolled in Self-Contained Regular Education Classes** column – Enter total number of students in the grade who will be taught in a regular self-contained class

Self Contained Classes



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- **Number of Teachers Required to Meet LEA Maximum Class Size** column will **automatically divide** the number of students by LEA maximum class size
- **Teachers Paid with State or Local Funds** column - Enter the number of teachers paid with State or local funds teaching a regular education self-contained class

Self Contained Classes



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- **Class Size Average before Reducing Class Size with Federal Funds** column will **automatically divide** the total students by teachers paid with State or local funds to give average class size
 - This column will show, mathematically, which grade has a greater need for class size reduction. Along with the class size, consider the needs assessment results for final determination

Self Contained Classes



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- **The Number of non-Federally Funded Teachers Meets Requirements to Reduce Class Size Using Federal Funds** – this column will display “Yes” if the requirement for number of State or locally funded teachers has been met, or “No” if the requirement has not been met. **Do not enter data in this column.**
- **Additional Teachers Paid With Federal Funds** column – Enter the number of teachers paid with federal funds

Self Contained Classes



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- **Total Number of Teachers** column will **automatically add** the number of State/local paid teachers and the number of Federal paid teachers
- The **Final Average Class Size** column will **automatically give the quotient** when the total number of students enrolled is divided by the sum of the State and locally paid teachers plus the additional teacher paid with federal funds.

Self Contained Classes



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- **Number of Teachers Funded By Title I** column – Enter the number of federal paid teachers funded by Title I
- **Number of Teachers Funded By Title II, Part A** column – Enter the number of federal paid teachers funded by Title II, Part A

Departmentalized Classes



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- Highlighted columns contain formulas. **Do not enter data in these columns**
- Click on the Departmentalized Worksheet tab in the Class Size Reduction workbook – NOT the sample-Departmentalized tab
- **Grade** column - Enter the grade level; for High School, enter 9-12
- **Course** column - Enter the course name

Departmentalized Classes



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- **LEA Maximum Class Size** column – Enter either
 - Per Georgia SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.08
 - OR**
 - Per Charter/IE2 LEA Local Class Size Numbers reported to the Department's Charter Schools Division
- **Total Students Enrolled in Course** – Enter total number of students in the course

Departmentalized Classes



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- **Total Segments Required to Meet LEA Maximum Class Size** column will **automatically divide** the number of students by LEA maximum class size
- **Segments Paid with State or Local Funds** – Enter the number of segments of the course paid with State or local funds

Departmentalized Classes



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- **Average Segment Size before Reducing Class Size with Federal Funds** column will **automatically divide** the total students by segments paid with State or local funds to give average segment size
 - This column will show, mathematically, which course has a greater need for class size reduction. Along with the segment size, consider the needs assessment results for final determination

Departmentalized Classes



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- **Number of non-Federally Funded Instructional Segments Meets Requirements to Reduce Class Size Using Federal Funds** – this column will display “Yes” if the requirement for number of State or locally funded segments has been met, or “No” if the requirement has not been met.
- **Additional Instructional Segments Paid With Federal Funds** column – Enter the number of instructional segments/classes paid with federal funds.

Departmentalized Classes



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- **Total Number of Instructional Segments** column will **automatically add** the number of State/local paid segments and the number of Federal paid segments
- **The Final Average Segment Size** column will **automatically give the quotient** when the total number of students enrolled is divided by the sum of the State and locally paid segments plus the additional segments paid with federal funds.

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Departmentalized Classes



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- **Number of Instructional Segments Funded by Title I** column – Enter the number of federal paid teachers funded by Title I
- **Number of Instructional Segments Funded by Title II, Part A** column – Enter the number of federal paid teachers funded by Title II, Part A

Final Reminder



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After a school district has ensured all maximum class size rules have been met at an individual school, the district may then hire additional teachers with federal funds to reduce class sizes. Any teachers hired with federal funds must be supplemental to those required by State rule 160-5-1-.08, or Charter/IE2 local class size number reported to the Department's Charter Schools Division.

Title I, Part A Program Specialists' Contact Information



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