



2012-13 Updated Class Size Report

Based on 02/04/2013 schedule and register

February 2013



**Department of
Education**

Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

Average Class Size Data

- The NYCDOE reports on class size twice a year: a preliminary report in November and an updated report in February.
 - This February updated report is based on a *snapshot* of official class data in ATS (schools' register system) and STARS (schools' scheduling system for Middle and High Schools) as of February 4, 2013.
 - Due to complications related to Hurricane Sandy, the preliminary data was based on October 26, instead of October 31, and was reported on December 14 instead of November 15.
- Class size summaries report the number of students (“seats filled”) and number of sections in grades K-8 official classes and core courses in Middle Schools and High Schools.
 - ATS data reflects official class (homeroom/advisory) organizations for grades K-8 updated as of 2/4/2013.
 - STARS reflects the registers of core courses for grades 6-12 for Term 1.
- Middle Schools and High Schools typically finalize their schedules in STARS at the end of each term.
 - Most High Schools ended Term 1 on January 25 at the end of ‘Regents Week’. Almost all Middle Schools are annualized, and keep the ‘Term 1’ schedule during the whole year. Those that are semester-based, however, continue to finalize their Term 1 schedules and registers throughout the month of February for the purposes of Class List Reporting.
 - The decrease in registers that historically takes place in HS between Term 1 and Term 2 is not accounted for in this class size report.



Class Size Methodology

- Middle Schools and High Schools use STARS¹ to identify courses by the subject, content and nature of the course.
- The process for collecting information from High Schools and Middle Schools about their courses through STARS has been updated in FY13.
 - Schools now categorize each course into specific subjects by department
 - Schools must now indicate details about each course, such as delivery mechanism, course duration, position in sequence, and rigor
 - Schools distinguish online courses and other characteristics
 - This information is used to identify courses as “core” or “non-core”
- Updates to course coding in STARS allow the DOE to:
 - Further standardize the identification of core courses² in the class size report
 - Identify college and career readiness courses for Progress Report calculations
 - Report the student growth component of the teacher evaluations per state requirements

¹ In 2012-13, all Middle Schools must schedule each student into a minimum of 4 core courses in STARS for the purpose of class list reporting. Previously, the transition to STARS resulted in somewhat inconsistent data. In the longer term, this change will result in more accurate reporting of core and elective courses.

²Core courses are defined as credit bearing courses within the four major content areas: English, science, math, and social studies. These courses are mandated as part of the graduation sequence or electives students take to satisfy graduation requirements.



Class Size Context

- In 2012-13, overall schools' tax levy budgets were held flat. Some schools may have experienced adjustments in their budgets depending on changes in their student and staff composition.
- The number of ICT classes continues to grow, while the number of General Education and Self Contained Classes has decreased.
 - Independent of class size trends, more students are being served by two teachers in the class. For example, a school with one General Education class with 30 pupils will show a class size of 30. If, in the next year, this one class changes to an ICT class with 30 pupils and two teachers, their class size remains unchanged, but the ratio of pupils to teachers is now 15:1, not 30:1.
- From FY12 to FY13 the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) for GE and ICT increased by 0.1 students per teacher. This growth is smaller than the growth in average class size this year due to the increase in ICT programs as the additional teacher in each of these classes brings down the PTR.
- New academic policy requires seniors to take five and a half hours of instruction per day, even if they have fulfilled graduation requirements. This change has resulted in an increase in total courses taken by students.

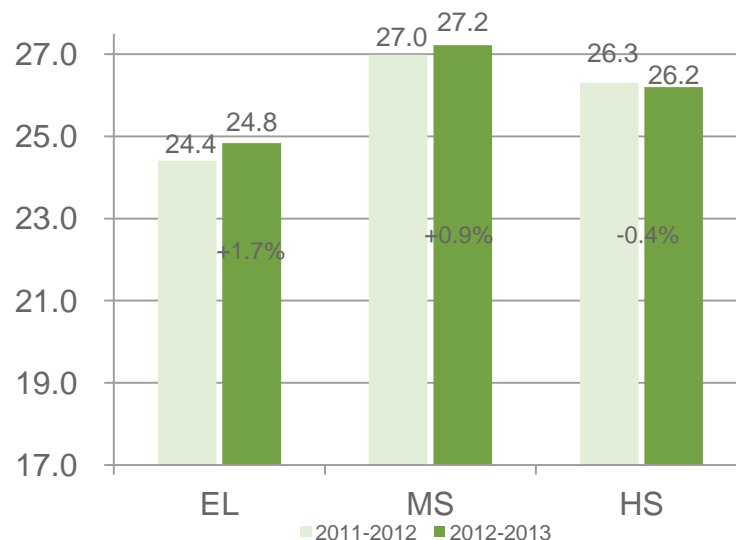
*Although accurate reporting of ICT courses requires a manual matching process to make sure single sections with two teachers are not being reported as two different sections, reporting of ICT courses continues to improve significantly due to updates to STARS and an increased training initiative guiding support networks and schools.



Class Size Context (continued)

From 2011-2012 to 2012-2013, Citywide average class size¹ increased by 0.3% from 26.3 to 26.4, an increase of 0.1 students per class

- Elementary School class sizes increased by 0.4 students from 24.4 to 24.8 average students per class
- Middle School class sizes increased by 0.2 students from 27.0 to 27.2 average students per class
- High School class sizes decreased by 0.1 students from 26.3 to 26.2 average students per class



Nearly half of all schools² had no or minimal³ increases in class size

- 733 schools either decreased or had minimal increases in class size
- 747 schools experienced increases in class size
- Fewer Middle Schools had an increase in class size compared to Elementary Schools and High Schools.

¹ Citywide changes are based on General Education and Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) students and sections.

² Based on schools with GE and ICT class size data in both 2012 and 2013.

³ Minimal increases are defined as any increase that is less than 1%.

2012-13 Average Class Size – Summary Data

(Based on 02/04/2013 register and scheduling data)

Gen Ed, ICT, G&T	All*	GE*	ICT*	G&T*	<u>GE and ICT</u>				
					English	Math	Science	Social Studies	All Core
K-3	24.4	24.5	23.9	25.9					
4-5	25.7	25.7	25.5	25.7					
6-8**	27.3	27.5	26.4	n/a	26.8	27.1	27.3	27.4	27.2
9-12***	26.3	26.3	26.3	n/a	25.6	25.9	26.9	26.9	26.3

Self-contained	K-8	Class Size		Average Class Size	
		Ratio	Value	Subject	Value
		6:1:1	5.5	9-12 English	10.5
		8:1:1	7.5	9-12 Math	11.8
		12:1	10.0	9-12 Science	12.0
		12:1:1	9.8	9-12 Social Studies	11.6

* Official class, except for High School. Excludes Self-Contained Special Education classes. ICT is Integrated Co-teaching, with two teachers sharing a class that combines General Ed and students with disabilities.

** Includes 9th grades residing in Jr. High Schools (i.e., 6th-9th grades) and 5th grade in Middle schools with a 5th grade.

*** High School courses are all core academic classes, as reported in STARS.

Class Size – Change over time

(General Education and ICT classes only)

Grade Level	FY2013	FY2012	FY2011	FY2010	FY2009	FY2008	FY2007	FY2006	FY2005	FY2004
K	23.1	22.8	22.1	21.7	20.7	20.6	20.7	20.9	20.8	20.9
1	24.6	23.9	22.9	22.0	21.3	21.1	21.3	21.2	21.7	21.6
2	24.7	24.2	23.2	22.2	21.4	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.2	21.6
3	25.2	24.5	23.7	22.5	21.9	21.0	21.3	21.4	21.5	22.2
4	25.5	25.3	25.0	24.4	23.4	23.5	23.9	24.0	24.3	24.6
5	25.9	25.8	25.4	24.8	24.2	24.1	25.0	25.5	26.2	26.4
6	26.8	27.0	26.2	26.1	25.6	25.5	26.0	26.4	26.7	27.1
7	27.6	27.2	27.1	26.8	26.5	26.2	27.2	27.3	28.0	28.3
8	27.6	27.4	27.3	27.5	26.8	26.6	27.2	27.3	28.0	28.1

Middle School Core	27.2 ⁽³⁾	26.9	26.7	26.2	25.2 ⁽²⁾	NA ⁽²⁾	NA ⁽²⁾	NA ⁽²⁾
HS Core	26.3 ⁽³⁾	26.4	26.5	26.6	26.2 ⁽¹⁾	26.1 ⁽¹⁾	25.6 ⁽¹⁾	26.2 ⁽¹⁾

- (1) Starting in FY08, High School average class size methodology was no longer comparable to historical class data. In FY09, changes to ICT reporting further shifted methodology.
- (2) Class size information for middle school academic courses became available for the first time in FY09.
- (3) Starting in FY13 Middle and High School core courses are defined centrally, rather than being indicated as core by schools.