



2009-10 Preliminary Class Size Report

10/31/09 Unaudited Register Data

November 2009



**Department of
Education**

Joel I. Klein, Chancellor

Class Size Context in 2009-10

- Schools experienced both a reduction in funding (by 4.9%) and an increase in costs (due to average teacher salaries rising by over 4%) simultaneously
- Given the fiscal crisis, schools might have anticipated class size increases on par with 4.9% budget cuts
- However, schools were urged to minimize cuts to instructional program and, specifically, teachers
- This emphasis successfully mitigated an excessive rise in class sizes
- One third of schools experienced a decrease in class size, which will be analyzed further
- One third of schools experienced an increase in class size below 5%
- One third of schools experienced an increase in class size above 5%, including:
 - 157 schools which remained below class size targets
 - 221 schools which were below class size targets in 2008-09 and rose above this year's targets
 - 145 schools which were above class size targets in 2008-09 and this year's targets
- Preliminary data suggests that NYC average class sizes did not grow as rapidly as similar districts (e.g., LA is projecting increases of 2-4 students across all grades)
- Continued decline in fiscal resources will significantly reduce the capacity of schools to meet annual class size targets in the future

Class Size – Summary Data

2009-10 Average Class Size - Preliminary

(Snapshot of 10/31/2009 register; final data available end of January, after official registers established)

	All*	GE*	CTT*	G&T*						
Gen Ed, CTT, G&T	K-3	22.1	22.2	21.5	21.8					
	4-5	24.5	24.6	24.0	23.8	<i>English</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>All Acad</i>
	6-8**	26.6	26.8	25.0	28.7	26.4	26.3	26.9	26.7	26.6
	9-12***	26.8	27.1	26.0		26.4	26.1	27.3	27.4	26.8
Special Class	K-8	}	6:1:1	5.0		9-12 English			12.8	
			8:1:1	7.0		9-12 Math			13.2	
			12:1	10.3		9-12 Social Studies			13.2	
			12:1:1	9.9		9-12 Science			13.3	

* Official class, except for high school. Excludes Special Class (Self-Contained Special Education) classes. CTT is Collaborative Team Teaching, with two teachers sharing a class that combines General Ed and Special Education students.
 ** Includes 9th grades residing in Jr. High Schools (i.e. 6-9 schools)
 *** HS courses are all academic classes, as reported in STARS

Class Size – Change over time

Grade Level	FY2010 Preliminary	FY2009	FY2008	FY2007	FY2006	FY2005	FY2004
K	21.7	20.7	20.6	20.7	20.9	20.8	20.9
1	22.0	21.3	21.1	21.3	21.2	21.7	21.6
2	22.2	21.4	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.2	21.6
3	22.5	21.9	21.0	21.3	21.4	21.5	22.2
4	24.4	23.4	23.5	23.9	24.0	24.3	24.6
5	24.7	24.2	24.1	25.0	25.5	26.2	26.4
6	25.8	25.6	25.5	26.0	26.4	26.7	27.1
7	26.6	26.5	26.2	27.2	27.3	28.0	28.3
8	27.4	26.8	26.6	27.2	27.3	28.0	28.1

Middle School Core	26.6**	25.2**	-	-	-
HS Core	26.8*	26.2*	26.1*	25.6	26.2

* Starting in FY08, HS average class size methodology was no longer comparable to historical class data. In FY09, changes to CTT reporting further shifted methodology.

** Class size information for middle school academic courses became available for the first time in FY09.

Reporting Methodology

- In 2009-10, all Middle Schools moved to the HSST/STARS data system. In the short term, the change to HSST/STARS has resulted in somewhat inconsistent data as principals were using the system for the first time. In the longer term, this change should result in more accurate reporting of core and elective courses.
- In previous years, accurate reporting of CTT courses required a manual matching process to make sure that single classes with two teachers were not being reported as two different classes. This year, updates to HSST/STARS permitted schools to more accurately report CTT classes as one section without the matching process. While reporting of CTT classes improved, further system enhancements and user training will be required to ensure that CTT classes are being properly reported.