



2010-11 Preliminary Class Size Report

Based on 10/31/2010 Unaudited Register

November 2010



**Department of
Education**

Joel I. Klein, Chancellor

2010-2011 Preliminary Class Size Definition

- Each school year, the NYCDOE reports on class size twice – a Preliminary report in November and an Updated report in February.
 - This Preliminary report is based on early data in ATS and STARS – schools’ register and scheduling systems – from October 31, 2010.
- Class size summaries report the number of students (“seats filled”) and number of sections in grades K-8 and Core courses in Middle Schools and High Schools.
- For Core course sections in Middle and High Schools, schools identify specific standardized course names. Courses can be offered across grade levels, leading to High School courses given in Middle Schools and vice versa.
- School-level data from ATS and STARS are unaudited, pending reviews and updates throughout the year. Middle Schools and High Schools typically finalize their schedules in STARS at the end of each term.
 - Historically, early data analysis includes long-term absences, incomplete scheduling data, and other characteristics that are updated by schools by the February report.
- All school-level and citywide data and trends from this report must be considered Preliminary in light of these known issues.

Class Size Context in 2010-11

- Schools experienced both a reduction in funding by 4.2% and an increase in costs, largely due to increases in teacher salaries and costs of special education.
- Given the fiscal crisis, schools might have anticipated class size increases commensurate with 4.2% budget cuts.
- However, schools were urged to minimize reductions to their instructional programs and eliminate teaching positions only when necessary to meet their budget cuts. No teachers were laid off. This emphasis successfully mitigated an excessive rise in class sizes.
- Continued decline in federal, state, and local fiscal resources will significantly impact the capacity of schools to maintain class size reduction policies in the future.
 - Federal funds are projected to decrease by over \$850 Million between FY11 and FY12 with the phase-out of ARRA stimulus funding.¹
 - NY State Contracts for Excellence (currently, Foundation Aid) funds have been reduced by 6% in FY11 (\$39 Million) as part of the Governor's Gap Elimination Adjustment.²

Class Size Context in 2010-11 (continued)

- Citywide, average class size increased by 2%, a difference of 0.6 students per class ¹
 - Elementary Schools increased by 4% - 22.9 to 23.7 average students per class
 - Middle Schools increased by 3% - 26.1 to 27 average students per class
 - High Schools increased by 1% - 26.5 to 26.7 average students per class
- Approximately, two-thirds of schools decreased school-wide class size or increased less than the budget cut of 4.2%
 - 526 schools decreased
 - 365 schools increased by less than 4.2%
 - 541 schools increased by more than 4.2%
- Preliminary data suggests NYC average class sizes did not grow as rapidly as similar districts
 - LA Unified School District is projecting increases of 5 students in grades K-3 and 2 students in grades 4-8). ²
- State Education Department Target 75 Schools
 - Recognizing that the current economic climate necessitates changes to the NYCDOE Class Size Reduction Plan created in 2007, the State Education Department and the Chancellor agreed to focus on the 75 lowest achieving, highest class size schools.
 - These schools have received individual coaching throughout the summer and into the school year to allocate resources to reducing class size and pupil-teacher ratio.
 - Because of these increased efforts at the district and school levels, the SED Target 75 group has decreased class size by 1% despite citywide increases.

Class Size – Summary Data

2010-11 Average Class Size - Preliminary

(Based on 10/31/2010 unaudited register and scheduling data; audited data available end of January)

	All*	GE*	CTT*	G&T*	<u>GE and CTT</u>					
Gen Ed, CTT, G&T	K-3	22.9	23.1	22.1	22.9					
	4-5	25.2	25.3	24.5	24.4	<i>English</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>All Core</i>
	6-8**	27.0	27.1	25.5	29.9	26.7	26.8	27.0	27.1	26.9
	9-12***	26.9	26.9	26.7	n/a	26.3	26.4	27.4	27.3	26.9
Special Class	K-8	6:1:1	4.4	9-12 English		12.2				
			8.6	9-12 Math		12.8				
			10.1	9-12 Social Studies		13.2				
			9.8	9-12 Science		12.9				

* 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).

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

Class Size – Change over time

(General Education and CTT classes only)

Grade Level	Preliminary FY2011	FY2010	FY2009	FY2008	FY2007	FY2006	FY2005	FY2004
K	22.0	21.7	20.7	20.6	20.7	20.9	20.8	20.9
1	22.9	22.0	21.3	21.1	21.3	21.2	21.7	21.6
2	23.2	22.2	21.4	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.2	21.6
3	23.8	22.5	21.9	21.0	21.3	21.4	21.5	22.2
4	25.0	24.4	23.4	23.5	23.9	24.0	24.3	24.6
5	25.4	24.8	24.2	24.1	25.0	25.5	26.2	26.4
6	26.3	26.1	25.6	25.5	26.0	26.4	26.7	27.1
7	27.1	26.8	26.5	26.2	27.2	27.3	28.0	28.3
8	27.4	27.5	26.8	26.6	27.2	27.3	28.0	28.1

Middle School Core	26.9**	26.2**	25.2**	- **	- **	- **
HS Core	26.9*	26.6*	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 2010-2011

- In the continuing effort to update school-level data, Middle Schools and High Schools were instructed over the summer to confirm their course data based on a standardized list of general course names and subjects. This year, class size reports are organized by this updated data in STARS – CoreSubjectID. This process will continue to make course-level data more accurate.
- In 2010-11, nearly all Middle Schools moved to the STARS (formerly HSST) scheduling data system. In the short term, the change to STARS resulted in somewhat inconsistent data as principals used 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 single sections with two teachers were not being reported as two different sections. The accurate reporting of CTT courses continues to improve significantly due to updates to STARS and an increased training initiative guiding support networks and schools.