



**2008-2009 Preliminary Class Size
Report (10/31/2008 snapshot data)
Summary and analysis**

DOE Class Size Reporting

DOE's Preliminary Class Size

Reporting: The attached materials are the *preliminary* class size report for the 2008-2009 School Year, based on the active registers in schools as of 10/31/2008.

This report is provided pursuant to City Council regulation. The data is preliminary only – and has limited analytical or comparative power. Specifically, 10/31 register snapshot data, used as the basis of this report, includes many students who are not attending school : schools have until 12/23 to ensure that students non-attending as of 10/31 are expunged from the school register.

Last year's preliminary City Council report was based on the enrollment snapshot as of 12/7, and included similar data issues.

Improvements in Reporting:

The 2008-09 reports build on the improvements made last year (improved definition of High School class size, multiple reports, and information on minimum and maximum class size by school), including the following:

- Where available in ATS, provision of middle school class size by course section in addition to official class (i.e. homeroom). Official class is still reported. This information was available for 309 of ~450 middle schools.
- Data cleaning for High School Co-teaching courses, to adjust for those cases when a single class with two teachers may have been entered into official systems in two parts.
- A process to allow verification of the class size data by school, including specific outreach to schools with anomalous data.

Once final 10/31/08 registers are available at the end of January 2009, these improvements will again markedly improve the accuracy of class size reporting.

Class Size – Summary Data

PRELIMINARY 2008-09 Average Class Size (Snapshot of 10/31/2008 register, taken as of 10/31/2008 – final data available end of January, after official registers established)

	All*	GE	CTT**	G&T	Special Class (K-9)
K-3	21.4	21.4	21.0	21.3	K-8 { 6:1:1 5.5 8:1:1 7.6 12:1 10.4 12:1:1 10.0 15:1 15.0
4-5	23.8	23.8	23.3	24.8	
6-8**	26.3	26.3	24.5	28.2	
9-12	26.6	26.6	26.3		
					Grades 9-12
<i>Social Studies</i>	26.9	26.4	22.8		<i>Social Studies</i> 12.5
<i>English</i>	26.1	25.5	22.2		<i>English</i> 11.6
<i>Science</i>	27.3	26.9	22.4		<i>Science</i> 12.6
<i>Math</i>	25.7	25.3	21.9		<i>Math</i> 12.5

System- wide, 1.25% of students included in this calculation are estimated to be non-attending as of 10/31 – i.e. the student has not attended school since the start of school (i.e. “no shows”) and students who have not attended school for 20 consecutive days (i.e. Long Term Absences). Such students have typically transferred to private and parochial schools, moved out of New York City, or dropped out.

* Excludes Special Class (Self-Contained Special Education) classes
 ** CTT is collaborative team teaching, where by two teachers share a class that combines general ed and special education students
 *** Includes 9th grades residing in Jr. High Schools (i.e. 6-9 schools)

Reports Available Online

The following reports are available on the DOE website:

- Aggregate Class Size Data:
 - > For each school, aggregated by grade span (K-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12) and program type (General Education, Collaborative Team Teaching (CTT), and Self-Contained Special Education)
 - > For each district, aggregated by grade and program type for grades K-9*, and by core subject and program type for grades 5-9 (where available) and 9-12
- Detailed Class Size Data at the School-level, District-level, Borough-level, and Citywide: average class size broken out by grade and program type for grades K-9*, and core course and program type for grades 5-9 (where available) and 9-12
- Data on Distribution of Class Sizes at the District-level, Borough-level, and Citywide: within a particular grade and program type for grades K-9*, and within core subject and program type for grades 5-9 (where available) and 9-12
- Detailed explanation of methodology
- Glossary of key terminology used in the class size report

Core definitions of class size:

- ES and MS class size: based on the “official class” in which a student is registered. Typically, this is the student’s homeroom. However, the student may be in different classes, with different sizes, through the course of the day.
- MS course data: for all schools programming their classes in MSPA, the report includes a break out of average class size for all core courses.
- HS Class size: reports the average class size by course necessary for graduation (i.e. English 9), and does not include electives (i.e. Journalism).

* Where grade 9 is not reported by subject area

Issues of Note in Analyzing Data

Issue

Next Steps

Non-Attending Students

The register data used for this report is a snapshot of information as of 10/31/2008. This snapshot is not an accurate view of the enrollment as of this date - the snapshot register as of 10/31/2008 has not been fully processed to reflect the official school register. Because the schools must follow strict standards for the discharge of non-attending students from their register, schools have until 12/23/08 to ensure that their register reflects students who are actually attending school as of 10/31. The DOE estimates that approximately 1.25% of the overall student population included in the snapshot falls into this category, and will not be reflected in the final official 10/31/08 audited registers.

- Provide class size reports at the end of January, reflecting updated and clean 10/31 registers for K-8 and post auditing HSST snapshot, to allow comparison to 2007-2008 class size data.

Middle School Class Size Metric

In the 2008-09 school year, not all schools schedule their courses in the same IT system, making it infeasible to report course data for all middle schools. This year's reports will provide class size information for 309 of approximately 450 schools with middle school grades. In the 2009-2010 school year, all middle schools will be on the same scheduling program, which will allow reporting by core course for all middle schools.

- Continue roll-out of single scheduling system to all middle schools, planned for 2009-2010 implementation

High School CTT Reporting

Based on a sampling of high school data, it appeared that many high schools coded the General Education and Special Education portions of CTT classes as distinct class sections in HSST, although the two parts meet as one class. The DOE analyzed which sections in a school's HSST schedule were programmed to meet in the same room on the same day and period – where the sum of these courses reflected a full CTT class size, the matched class sections and enrollment were counted as one class. This analysis removed 941 sections from the high school analysis, 2.2% of the total classes as they were reported last year.

- Maintain CTT course matching until HSST limits the entry of separate sub-sections

Next Steps in Class Size Reporting

- In February 2009, publish average class size statistics based on the registers adjusted for non-attending students, with comparison to 2007-08 statistics. The February report will include pupil teacher ratio.
- Continue to improve accuracy of course coding and data collection:
 - > Include course data for all middle schools as schools migrate to a single programming platform for the 2009-2010 school year.
 - > Adjust HSST data entry procedures to limit the possibility that schools program split sub-sections for CTT classes.