



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

Class Size and Teacher Report 2008-2009

DOE's Class Size and Teacher Reporting:

The attached materials are the official class size report for the 2008-2009 School Year, based on the audited registers in schools as of 10/31/2008, and the active high school program as of 1/23.

This report is provided pursuant to City Council regulation.

Summary:

- Class sizes and pupil teacher ratios have increased fractionally this year in several grades, particularly in the earliest grades. These increases come on the heels of decreases that have occurred over recent years. High school class sizes have continued to fall.
- The class size increases this year are unfortunate, but understandable given the City's economic circumstances. Class size is related to the number of teachers schools employ - and the combination of budget cuts and increases in teacher salaries means that principals, while they have continued to hire staff, have been cautious about hiring.
- Class size changes at individual schools are mixed throughout the system. The schools that were the highest priority for reduction tended to see class size reductions.
- This year's reporting includes important improvements in the quality of the reported data, including reporting on MS academic courses, which are significantly smaller than homerooms, and ensuring that Collaborative team teaching classes are reported accurately
- As anticipated, this year's audited class size numbers are fractionally lower at grades K-8 and substantially lower at grades 9-12 than the preliminary data released to the City Council in December suggested.
- The DOE remains committed to assisting schools as they work to reduce class sizes—especially in schools where classes remain very large. However, given the changes in the financial situation facing the city and state, DOE will revise its planning and targets to reflect the worsening financial climate.

Class Size – Summary Data

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)

Gen Ed, CTT, G&T

	All*	GE*	CTT*	G&T*					
K-3	21.3	21.4	21.0	21.3					
4-5	23.8	23.8	23.3	24.9	<i>English</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>All Acad.</i>
6-8**	26.3	26.2	24.5	28.2	24.3	25.0	25.8	25.8	25.2
9-12***	26.2	26.3	24.8		25.6	25.3	26.5	26.8	25.8

Special Class

K-8	6:1:1	5.5	<i>9-12 Social Studies</i>	11.9
	8:1:1	7.6	<i>9-12 English</i>	11.2
	12:1	10.3	<i>9-12 Science</i>	12.3
	12:1:1	10.0		
	15:1	15.0	<i>9-12 Math</i>	12.0

- * Official class, except for high school. 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)
- *** HS courses are all academic classes, as reported in HSST; First number

Class Size – Change over time

Historical Class Size Trends and FY2009 Class Size

Grade Level	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
K	20.8	20.9	20.8	20.9	20.7	20.7	20.9
1	21.8	21.6	21.7	21.2	21.3	21.1	21.3
2	21.9	21.6	21.2	21.1	21.1	21.0	21.4
3	22.4	22.2	21.5	21.4	21.3	20.9	21.8
4	25.5	24.6	24.3	24	23.9	23.5	23.4
5	27	26.4	26.2	25.5	25	24.1	24.2
6	27.6	27.1	26.7	26.4	26	25.6	25.6
7	28.2	28.3	28	27.3	27.2	26.4	26.5
8	27.9	28.1	28	27.3	27.2	26.8	26.9
9-12				26.2	25.6	26.1*	26.2/25.6*

FY09 MS
Academic**
Class Size

25.2

* Starting in FY08, HS average class size methodology is not comparable to historical class data. In FY09, changes to CTT reporting further shifted methodology – apples to apples calculation (i.e. including 950 CTT half classes) would have yielded a class size of 25.6

**Class size information for Middle School academic courses available for the first time in FY09

Class Size – Priority Schools

Change in GE/CTT/G&T Class Size 07-8 to 08-09 (Students/Class)

		Elementary	K-8 Schools	Middle	6-12 Schools	High Schools*
Class size reduction coaching	Added Yr 2	-0.1	-0.4	-0.3	-0.6	-1.3
	Added Yr 1	-0.1	0.8	0.3	-0.5	-0.1
SED 75		N/A	N/A	0.3	-0.2	-0.3
Schools with top 25% Class Size in 07-08		0	0.1	-0.2	-0.4	-0.8

* HS calculations adjust for the revised CTT calculations included in this class size report

Changes in Reporting Methodology

Change

Result of Change

Middle School Class Size Metric

Traditionally, class size information in middle schools has been the ATS official class, which typically represents the students' homeroom. With this report, the DOE introduces data on class size in English, Math, Social Studies and Science. Previously reported ATS official class information is also reported.

- Average academic courses in middle school is 25.2 students, significantly lower than the average homeroom size of 26.3. The DOE intends to continue to report both sets of class information for middle schools.

High School CTT Reporting

Based on a sampling of high school data, many high schools code 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 assumed to be one class.

- This analysis is flagged in all hs reports with "matched sections" and "assumed CTT". All told, this analysis removed 950 sections from the high school analysis, 2.1% of the total classes as they were reported last year. To compare to previous years high school analysis, which embedded these classes, prior year high school statistics should be adjusted.

Non attending students

Per the register cleaning and auditing process, the data in this report reflect the official DOE register, with non-attending students removed. This is a change from the preliminary report, which was based on a snapshot of the register on 10/31/2008, and which included non-attending students.

- The final official register was slightly lower at every grade level. The difference was most significant at the high school level, where non-attending student accounted for between 0.3 and 0.5 students per class

K-3, 4-8, 9-12 Reports

Given the processing demands and desiring greater clarity in class size reporting, the DOE has not produced the "aggregate reports" for this reporting cycle.

- Analysts interested in aggregations by any grade combination can use the detailed reports, adding sections and register to produce any desired grouping of grades and programs

Reports Available Online

The following reports are available on the DOE website:

- 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
- School Level Summary and Teacher Report: average class size by program type, the number of teachers, the pupil-to-teacher ratio, and use of Contract for Excellence funding to support teachers for class size reduction and Collaborative Team Teaching.
- 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 (English, Social Studies, Math, and Science).
- 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

Next Steps

- Continue to evaluate class size and pupil-to-teacher ratio changes in 2008-2009, including exceptional cases
- Launch support for 2009-2010 school year, to assist schools as they work to reduce class sizes—especially in schools where classes remain large
- Adjust Five Year Class Size Reduction Plan, including adjusting targets and programmatic support to reflect the worsening economic climate