

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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CONTACT PERSONS:

NAME: Linda Champion

PHONE: (850) 245-0406

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 29, 2010

TO: District School Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM: Dr. Eric J. Smith

SUBJECT: 2010-11 Class Size Operating Categorical Reduction Calculations (Prior to Appeals)

Attached are the class size operating categorical reduction calculations based on the compliance summaries that were provided to you on November 30, 2010. Section 1003.03(4)(a), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires a reduction in class categorical funding for districts and charter schools that are not in compliance with the class size requirements set out in the Florida Constitution. Attachment 1 is the reduction calculation, prior to appeals, for traditional public schools, and Attachment 2 is the reduction calculation, prior to appeals, for charter schools.

Section 1003.03 (4)(c), F.S., authorizes the Commissioner to recommend to the Legislative Budget Commission by February 15, 2010, an alternate reduction amount if there is evidence that class size requirements were not met despite appropriate efforts to do so or because of an extreme emergency. Appeals have been received and documentation of each school's extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the State Board of Education on January 18, 2011.

After completion of the appeals process, there will be two reallocations of the reduction amount: 1) up to 5 percent of the Base Student Allocation, not to exceed 25 percent of the reduction, will be reallocated to districts and charter schools that are in compliance with class size requirements; and 2) the remaining balance will be reallocated to districts and charter schools that are not in

District School Superintendents
Charter School Directors
December 23, 2010
Page 2

compliance with class size requirements, but have submitted a certified plan by February 15, 2011, explaining the actions the district or charter school will take to ensure compliance by October 2011. Please note that the charter schools reduction amount is independent of the traditional public schools reduction amount and will be reallocated only to charter schools. No district or charter school shall have an amount added back that is greater than the amount reduced.

Attachment 3 is the compliance plan template that accompanied the November 30, 2010, memorandum. Completed plans should be e-mailed to Linda Champion at Linda.Champion@fldoe.org. Districts or charter schools that submit a compliance plan after February 15, 2011, will not be eligible to participate in the reallocation calculation.

If you have questions regarding the implementation of class size requirements, please call Linda Champion at (850) 245-0406.

EJS/cs

Attachment 1 - District Preliminary Reduction Calculation
Attachment 2 - Charter School Preliminary Reduction Calculation
Attachment 3 - Compliance Plan Template

cc: District Finance Officers