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CONTACT PERSON:

NAME: Linda Champion

PHONE: 850-245-0406

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 23, 2014

TO: District School Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM: Commissioner Pam Stewart

SUBJECT: 2014-15 Calculations of Reductions to Class Size Operating Funds (Prior to Appeals)

Attached are the calculations of reductions to class size operating funds based on the compliance summaries that were provided to you on December 3, 2014. Section 1003.03(4)(a), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires a reduction in class size categorical funding for districts and charter schools that are not in compliance with the class size requirements established by the Florida Constitution. Attachment 1 is the reduction calculation, prior to appeals, for traditional public schools; Attachment 2 is the reduction calculation, prior to appeals, for charter schools; and Attachment 3 is the reduction calculation, prior to appeals, for district-operated schools of choice.

Section 1003.03(4)(c), F.S., authorizes the commissioner to recommend to the Legislative Budget Commission by February 15, 2015, 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.

After completion of the appeals process, up to five percent of the Base Student Allocation, not to exceed 25 percent of the reduction amount, will be reallocated to traditional public schools, charter schools and district-operated schools of choice that are in compliance with class size requirements. A school district's traditional public schools and district-operated schools of choice must be in compliance to be eligible for a reallocation in either category. The remaining balance will be restored to traditional public schools, charter schools and district-operated schools of choice that are not in compliance with class size requirements, but have submitted a certified plan by February 1, 2015, explaining the actions the school will take to ensure

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compliance by October 2015. Please note that the reduction amount for each category of schools (i.e., traditional public schools, charter schools, district-operated schools of choice) is independent of the reduction amounts for the other categories of schools and will be reallocated and restored only to that category of schools. No school shall have an amount restored that is greater than the amount reduced.

Attachment 4 is the compliance plan template that accompanied the December 3, 2014, memorandum. Completed plans should be sent to K12Verify@fldoe.org. Compliance plans for traditional public schools or district-operated schools of choice must be certified by the school board. Charter school compliance plans must be certified by the charter school's board of directors. Traditional public schools, charter schools and district-operated schools of choice that submit a compliance plan after the February 1, 2015, deadline will not be eligible to participate in the restoration calculation.

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

PS/cs

Attachment 1 – Preliminary Reduction Calculation for Traditional Public Schools
Attachment 2 – Preliminary Reduction Calculation for Charter Schools
Attachment 3 – Preliminary Reduction Calculation for District-Operated Schools of Choice
Attachment 4 – Compliance Plan Template

cc: District Finance Officers