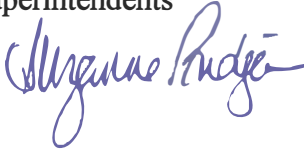




Andy Tuck, *Chair*  
Marva Johnson, *Vice Chair*  
*Members*  
Monesia Brown  
Ben Gibson  
Tom Grady  
Ryan Petty  
Joe York

**CONTACT PERSON:**  
**NAME:** Josh Bemis  
**PHONE:** 850-245-0405

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District School Superintendents  
**FROM:** Suzanne Pridgeon   
**DATE:** February 5, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** **2020-21 School Class Sizes and Funding**

Compliance with class size reduction requirements for the 2020-21 fiscal year is calculated at the classroom level for traditional public schools, as required by section 1003.03(1), Florida Statutes (F.S.); at the school level for charter schools, as required by s. 1002.33(16)(b)3., F.S.; and at the school level for district-operated schools of choice, as required by s. 1002.31(5), F.S. The attached lists include districts with traditional public schools, charter schools and district-operated schools of choice that are not in compliance with class size requirements based upon class size information submitted for the October 2020 full-time equivalent (FTE) student membership survey updated through December 15, 2020.

Statewide, 509 out of 15,829 traditional public school classrooms, 13 out of 670 charter schools, and 28 out of 2,911 district-operated schools of choice are not in compliance with the constitutional requirement to maintain class sizes of no more than 18 students in kindergarten through grade 3, 22 students in grades 4 through 8, and 25 students in grades 9 through 12. As indicated in a December 17, 2020, memorandum to district school superintendents, the deadline for submitting appeals was January 11, 2021, and the review of appeals is currently underway.

**Compliance Plan**

Section 1003.03(4)(e), F.S., requires each district and charter school out of compliance with class size requirements to submit a plan to the Commissioner of Education that describes the specific actions that will be taken to fully comply with class size reduction requirements by October 2021. A compliance plan for a traditional public school or district-operated school of choice must be certified by the school board. A charter school's compliance plan must be certified by the charter school's board of directors. Please use Attachment 4 as a template to submit a brief summary of each school's plan to meet class size requirements for the 2021 October FTE student survey. Completed plans should be sent by February 19, 2021, to [K12Verify@fldoe.org](mailto:K12Verify@fldoe.org)

Suzanne Pridgeon  
Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations

### **Funding Adjustments**

Section III.a., of DOE Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-06, states that Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding will not be reduced based on the July and October 2020 FTE student membership surveys for districts with an approved reopening plan. Because all school districts have an approved plan, class size categorical funding for the 2020-21 fiscal year will remain as calculated in the 2020-21 FEFP Second Calculation. Therefore, the funding adjustment for noncompliance with class size requirements, as outlined in s. 1003.03(4), F.S., will not be administered.

### **Timeline for Class Size Compliance**

- December 17, 2020 – Memorandum outlining the class size compliance process and timeline for appeals.
- January 11, 2021 – Deadline for notification of appeals and submission of appeals and supporting documentation.
- January 22, 2021 – Commissioner notifies districts of the October 2020 class sizes and compliance plan requirement.
- January 2021 – Review of appeals.
- February 19, 2021 – Submission of class size compliance plans for districts and charter schools.

If you have questions regarding the implementation of class size requirements, please call Josh Bemis at 850-245-0405 or by email at [Josh.Bemis@fldoe.org](mailto:Josh.Bemis@fldoe.org).

SP/ja

Attachment 1 -- Traditional Public Schools Class Size Compliance

Attachment 2 – Charter Schools Class Size Compliance

Attachment 3 – District-Operated Schools of Choice Class Size Compliance

Attachment 4 – Compliance Plan Template

cc: District Finance Officers  
District Charter School Directors  
District Management Information Systems Directors  
Mark Eggers, Assistant Deputy Commissioner  
Li Liu, Senior Educational Program Director  
Judy Lenczyk, FTE/CS Manager  
Josh Bemis, Educational Policy Director