

CLASS SIZE MATTERS

F.A.Q.s about Class Size:

What NYC Parents Need to Know

www.classsizematters.org

WHAT'S UP WITH CLASS SIZES IN NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

- Most parents know small class sizes are vital for student achievement and success.
- In fact, for the past 5 years in a row parents have voted "smaller class size" their [#1 priority](#) in the DOE Learning Environment Surveys.¹
- In exchange for more than a billion dollars in additional state "Contract for Excellence" funds, NYC promised to reduce average class sizes in all grades over [5 years](#) starting in 2007.²

WHAT ARE NYC CLASS SIZES SUPPOSED TO BE?

The following class size averages were supposed to be achieved through the Contracts for Excellence (C4E) law by the fall of 2011.³

Grades	C4E Class Size Goals by 2011
K-3rd	19.9
4th-8th	22.9
9th-12th (core classes only)	24.5

WHAT IF MY CHILD'S CLASS IS LARGER THAN THOSE GOALS?

You're not alone! Despite a state law called Contracts for Excellence (C4E) which mandates the city to reduce class sizes, NYC class sizes have increased sharply since 2007.

Check out all the evidence [here!](#)⁴

If you're child's class size is larger than this, file a complaint to the DOE and the State Education Dept. Fill out this form: (<http://goo.gl/JHwoD>) and we'll do all the work for you. Or email us at info@classsizematters.org.

WHAT ARE THE CONTRACTUAL LIMITS OF THE TEACHER'S UNION?

The UFT (United Federation of Teachers) class size [limits](#) are listed below.⁵

Grades	UFT student limit per class
Pre-K	18
K	25
1st-6th	32
Title 1 Middle	30
Non-Title 1 Middle	33
Core class H.S.	34
H.S. or M.S. PE or Music Classes	50

WHAT IF MY CHILD'S CLASS IS LARGER THAN THOSE LIMITS?

If your child's class size is larger than the teacher's union contractual limits, then talk to your teacher about filing a "grievance" with the help of their UFT chapter leader.

DON'T THEY HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO REDUCE CLASS SIZES?

They do!

- According to NY State Education Department, NYC received more than [\\$500 million](#) in C4E funds last year.⁶
- DOE has estimated it would cost only [\\$358 million](#) to achieve the average class size goals put forth in their C4E plan.⁷
- With a total education budget of more than \$21 billion, achieving these goals would cost less than 2% of their overall budget.
- Meanwhile the city spends nearly one billion dollars on subsidizing charter schools while class sizes in public schools increase.

For information on how to get involved, please see other side



¹ <http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/tools/survey/default.htm>

² http://law.onecle.com/new-york/education/EDN0211-D_211-D.html

³ http://eservices.nysed.gov/c4e-public/reports/2007/NYC/Other/NYCDOE%20CSR%205YR_11%208%2007_FINAL.doc

⁴ <http://www.classsizematters.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/C4E-for-citywide-final.ppt>

⁵ <http://www.uft.org/faqs/what-are-class-size-limits-my-grade>

⁶ http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtsserv/C4E/11-12_C4E/doc/C4E_2011-12-MOE_Post.XLS

⁷ http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtsserv/C4E/doc/nyc_class_size_reduction_plan/2009_2010/SED_Response_11232009.pdf

How can I get involved?

www.classsizematters.org

“What else can I do?”

FILL OUT OUR 2-MINUTE SURVEY

Class Size Matters is asking parents, teachers, students and administrators about their schools' class sizes this year.

- Access our survey here (<http://goo.gl/UuZKI>).

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Call or write the Mayor, the DOE, your City Council members and your legislators today!

- Mayor Bloomberg: mbloomberg@cityhall.nyc.gov
- NY State Education Commissioner John King: JKing@mail.nysed.gov
- Governor Cuomo: <http://www.governor.ny.gov/contact/GovernorContactForm.php>
- For your elected representatives: http://www.lwvnyc.org/TRY_find.html
- Check here to get contact information for others: <http://www.classsizematters.org/contact-education-officials/>

JOIN CLASS SIZE MATTERS

Help support our organization! Send us a contribution, sign up for our newsletter, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter.

- Make a tax-deductible donation by clicking the [donation button](#) on our website, www.classsizematters.org, or by sending a check to this address.¹
- To subscribe to our electronic newsletter, send an email to classsizematters-subscribe@yahoo.com
- Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/classsizematters](https://www.facebook.com/classsizematters)
- Follow us on Twitter at [@classsizematters](https://twitter.com/classsizematters) and [@leoniehaimson](https://twitter.com/leoniehaimson)

Help us fight for smaller classes!

1

Fill out our parent survey

2

File a formal C4E complaint

3

Talk to your child's teacher

4

Sign up with Class Size Matters

5

Contact your local electeds

6

Tell other parents

Class Size Matters

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¹ http://www.nycharities.org/donate/c_donate.asp?CharityCode=1757