

Primary Class Size in 2004-05 - FINAL REPORT

Overview

To improve learning for Ontario's youngest students, the government has made a commitment to put a cap of 20:1 on primary (JK- Grade 3) classes. As a first step the government is investing \$90M in primary class size in the 2004-05 school year. The purpose of this funding is to allow all school boards to achieve a measure of class size reduction in the primary grades in 2004-05.

Instructions

School boards are required to report about the implementation of their plans and results achieved on the *Primary Class Size Reduction Amount*. This final report is to be submitted together with the 2004-05 Elementary Average Class Size Report. This final report should be e-mailed to the following email address: **ClassSize.TeachingAssignment@edu.gov.on.ca** no later than **December 15, 2004**. These reports are to be made available to school councils and on each board's website.

Plan Date

Director of Education/
Secretary of the Board

is required to certify, by checking this box that the plan was developed according to ministry requirements. Re Memo 2004: B6, dated May 26, 2004

1 Provide rationale and highlights of changes to the board's approach in selecting categories of schools or classes chosen as priorities for the Primary Class Size Amount.

In accordance with our Board's Strategic Plan and its three Key Outcomes (Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Safe and Respectful Learning Environments, Wise Use of Resources), our priority in allocating the Primary Class Size Amount was to reduce our primary class sizes, starting with our Kindergarten program. Our Academic Superintendents conducted a review of kindergarten enrolments for 2004 and staffing was allocated to ensure that our Average Kindergarten Class Size across the system was projected to be under 20 (19.09). We then proceeded with the same process with our Primary Classes (Grades 1-3). We established certain criteria, including reducing the number of triple grades in our smaller schools and targeting specific schools where large primary classes were evident. The Primary Class Size Reduction Funding has resulted in an actual Primary Class Size average of 21.09 across our system for Grades 1-3 down from 22.49 in 2003-04.

2. Identify the categories of schools or classes chosen for implementation of the Primary Class Size Amount: (check one or both)

Schools where primary class sizes are large

Schools where primary student's achievement levels show they need extra supports

3. Provide details on the actual and committed use of funds for teachers, learning materials and classroom supplies, and temporary accommodation.

Teachers

Learning Materials and Classroom Supplies

Temporary Accommodation

Total

(Note -- that the *Primary Class Size Amount* is to be spent in 2004-05 for the purpose intended. Any unspent amount must be returned to the Ministry.)

4. Provide details on the average size of the board's elementary school classes in the primary division in the aggregate

2003-04

2004-05

(Note -- from the board's Elementary Average Class Size Report)

