

IOWA TO GET \$9.4 MILLION TO REDUCE CLASS SIZE

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton will urge Congress to work in a bipartisan spirit to continue his plan to reduce class size in early grades to 18 students per teacher. He will also announce that the U.S. Department of Education is releasing new guidelines to help states and local school districts use the funds they will receive this summer to begin hiring well-qualified teachers to reduce class size in early grades. As the U.S. Senate considers the Education Flexibility Act, it is more important than ever that the Murray-Kennedy amendment to continue the President's class size reduction plan is passed as well.

Studies show that smaller class sizes help teachers provide more personal attention to students and spend less time on discipline; as a result students learn more and get a stronger foundation in the basic skills. In 1998, President Clinton proposed to help local schools hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers in order to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, and make sure that every child gets a solid foundation in the basics. Last year, the President signed into law the first installment of his seven-year, \$12.4 billion proposal to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide. For the first year, \$1.2 billion was provided to help local communities hire 30,000 teachers. The funds will be available to school districts in July. Local school boards will be incorporating these funds into the budgets they are developing right now for the next school year. To give communities the certainty they need to effectively plan and phase in a seven-year reduction in class size, Congress must act now.

In July, Iowa will receive \$9.4 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For Iowa's largest school districts, that means:

IOWA	
DES MOINES INDEPENDENT C	\$853,970
DAVENPORT COMM SCHOOL DI	532,808
WATERLOO COMM SCHOOL DIS	383,042
CEDAR RAPIDS COMM SCHOOL	336,174
SIOUX CITY COMM SCHOOL D	327,140
COUNCIL BLUFFS COMM SCHO	243,803
DUBUQUE COMM SCHOOL DIST	185,749
IOWA CITY COMM SCHOOL DI	154,324
BURLINGTON COMM SCHOOL D	142,170
OTTUMWA COMM SCHOOL DIST	135,810
FORT DODGE COMM SCHOOL D	128,542
MUSCATINE COMM SCHOOL DI	122,130
CLINTON COMM SCHOOL DIST	115,008
MARSHALLTOWN COMM SCHOOL	92,088
CEDAR FALLS COMM SCHOOL	91,733
MASON CITY COMM SCHOOL D	86,474
AMES COMM SCHOOL DISTRIC	81,583
KEOKUK COMM SCHOOL DISTR	77,634
WESTERN DUBUQUE COMM SCH	77,430
WEST DES MOINES COMM SCH	68,007

The guidelines and total estimated school district allocations are available on the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/ClassSize/index.html>.