

MARYLAND TO GET \$17.5 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, Maryland will receive \$17.5 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For Maryland's largest school districts, that means:

MARYLAND	
BALTIMORE CITY PUB SCH S	\$5,680,736
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY PU	2,188,502
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC	1,724,337
BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC	1,698,574
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUB	1,032,362
HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SC	548,570
BOARD OF ED, WASHINGTON	463,642
FREDERICK COUNTY BOARD O	443,224
HOWARD COUNTY PUB SCHLS	411,936
BOARD OF EDUC, ALLEGANY	409,829
WICOMICO COUNTY BOARD OF	378,295
BOARD OF EDUC, CHARLES C	353,340
SAINT MARYS COUNTY PUBLI	332,685
BOARD OF ED OF CECIL COU	289,971
CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SC	288,657
CALVERT COUNTY PUBLIC SC	193,555
BOARD OF EDUC, GARRETT C	185,141
BOARD OF ED, WORCESTER C	167,966
DORCHESTER COUNTY BOARD	164,745
CAROLINE COUNTY BOARD OF	129,056

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