

NEW YORK TO GET \$104.5 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, New York will receive \$104.5 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For New York's largest school districts, that means:

NEW YORK	
NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCH	\$61,206,561
BUFFALO CITY SD	3,019,572
ROCHESTER CITY SD	2,382,024
SYRACUSE CITY SD	1,308,242
YONKERS CITY SD	1,091,319
EAST RAMAPO CSD (SPRING	581,483
UTICA CITY SD	526,026
ALBANY CITY SD	496,475
NIAGARA FALLS CITY SD	441,513
NEWBURGH CITY SD	410,199
SCHENECTADY CITY SD	377,378
ELMIRA CITY SD	357,887
MOUNT VERNON CITY SD	346,111
BRENTWOOD UFSD	331,827
KIRYAS JOEL VILLAGE UFSD	319,100
BINGHAMTON CITY SD	315,631
WILLIAM FLOYD UFSD	304,365
TROY CITY SD	285,528
HEMPSTEAD UFSD	259,015
JAMESTOWN CITY SD	258,632

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