

PENNSYLVANIA TO GET \$51.0 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, Pennsylvania will receive \$51.0 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For Pennsylvania's largest school districts, that means:

PENNSYLVANIA	
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	\$12,809,675
PITTSBURGH SD	2,265,378
ERIE CITY SD	778,778
READING SD	692,063
ALLENTOWN CITY SD	548,331
HARRISBURG CITY SD	546,932
CHESTER-UPLAND SD	500,180
LANCASTER SD	495,848
BETHLEHEM AREA SD	391,815
SCRANTON SD	390,201
ALTOONA AREA SD	372,730
YORK CITY SD	350,968
CONNELLSVILLE AREA SD	290,842
WILLIAMSPORT AREA SD	272,921
COATESVILLE AREA SD	272,340
UPPER DARBY SD	259,809
BUTLER AREA SD	254,009
HAZLETON AREA SD	242,735
WILKES-BARRE AREA SD	240,611
WOODLAND HILLS SD	238,819

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