

### **RHODE ISLAND TO GET \$5.6 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, Rhode Island will receive \$5.6 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For Rhode Island's largest school districts, that means:

RHODE ISLAND	
PROVIDENCE SCH DIST	\$2,096,058
PAWTUCKET SCH DIST	437,248
WOONSOCKET SCH DIST	345,280
CRANSTON SCH DIST	285,236
WARWICK SCH DIST	278,345
CENTRAL FALLS SCH DIST	231,425
EAST PROVIDENCE SCH DIST	184,433
NEWPORT SCH DIST	169,849
WEST WARWICK SCH DIST	148,855
BRISTOL-WARREN REG DIST	119,595
COVENTRY SCH DIST	107,895
JOHNSTON SCH DIST	95,028
NORTH KINGSTOWN SCH DIST	87,991
WESTERLY SCH DIST	86,194
SOUTH KINGSTOWN SCH DIST	85,783
CHARIHO REG DIST	83,934
NORTH PROVIDENCE SCH DIS	79,490
CUMBERLAND SCH DIST	76,245
LINCOLN SCH DIST	73,864
BURRILLVILLE SCH DIST	65,226

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