

### **SOUTH CAROLINA TO GET \$14.5 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, South Carolina will receive \$14.5 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For South Carolina's largest school districts, that means:

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL	\$1,307,377
GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL	930,465
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT	811,780
HORRY COUNTY SCHOOL DIST	636,449
BERKELEY COUNTY SCHOOL D	562,328
AIKEN COUNTY SCHOOL DIST	469,833
BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL D	348,067
FLORENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT	326,897
DARLINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL	326,849
WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY SCH	290,199
SPARTANBURG SCHOOL DISTR	284,585
GEORGETOWN COUNTY SCHOOL	283,166
SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT 1	277,209
SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT 0	270,620
YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT 03	246,448
PICKENS COUNTY SCHOOL DI	239,278
DORCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRI	228,586
LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL	228,145
COLLETON COUNTY SCHOOL D	222,558
ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT	212,376

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