

VERMONT 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, Vermont will receive \$5.6 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For Vermont's largest school districts, that means:

VERMONT	
BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRI	\$302,246
RUTLAND CITY SCHOOL DIST	211,574
BENNINGTON ID SCHOOL DIS	155,910
SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTR	151,710
SAINT JOHNSBURY SCHOOL D	106,681
BRATTLEBORO SCHOOL DISTR	101,222
WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT	101,144
BARRE CITY SCHOOL DISTRI	81,437
SAINT ALBANS CITY SCHOOL	80,764
MOUNT ANTHONY UHSD 14	80,413
MONTPELIER SCHOOL DISTRI	75,804
HARTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT	73,450
BRATTLEBORO UHSD 6	71,841
MILTON ID SCHOOL DISTRIC	65,288
LYNDON SCHOOL DISTRICT	65,254
ROCKINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRI	64,817
COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRI	61,792
NEWPORT CITY SCHOOL DIST	60,462
MORRISTOWN SCHOOL DISTRI	58,353
NORTHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRI	54,421

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