

## State K-3 Policies

### What are the teacher-to-student ratio requirements and class size maximums for grades K-3?

September 2020

At least 28 states have statutes or regulations outlining teacher-to student ratios, ranging from a 1-15 ratio to a 1-25 ratio, with some states providing districts with oversight. An additional 10 states outline maximum class size, with the maximum class size for kindergarten of 33 students. Several states combine these in statute or regulation. Five states include laws that dictate funding must be used to lower teacher-to-student ratios when funds are available. Fourteen states and Washington, D.C., have no statutes or regulations regarding this issue.

The following information was gathered from state statutes and regulations only.

To view other data points, click [here](#).

STATE ▲	WHAT ARE THE TEACHER-TO-STUDENT RATIO REQUIREMENTS AND CLASS SIZE MAXIMUMS FOR GRADES K-3?	CITATION
Alabama	1:18 for grades K-3.	Ala. Admin. Code 290-5-1-01
Alaska	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Arizona	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Arkansas	1:20 or 1:22, with instructional aide, for kindergarten. No more than 1:23 average for grades 1-3.	Code Ark. R. 005.28.5-3.00

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California	K: average class size not to exceed 31; no class larger than 33 Grades 1-3: average class size not to exceed 30 students; no class size larger than 32	Cal. Educ. Code § 41376 Cal. Educ. Code § 41378 Cal. Educ. Code § 54525
Colorado	Not specified in statute or regulations.	
Connecticut	Not specified in statute or regulations.  Grant funding available to reduce K-3 class sizes to 1:18.	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-265f
Delaware	1:22 for grades K-3.	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 1705A
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Florida	1:18 for grades K-3	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1003.03
Georgia	1:15 for K; 1:17 for grades 1-3.	Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-161
Hawaii	Optimum class size for K-3 is 1:20; maximum class size for K-2 is 1:25.	<a href="#">State Board of Education, Policy 106-2</a>
Idaho	State goals are set at 1:20 for K-3.	Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.110
Illinois	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Indiana	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Iowa	1:17 for grades K-3 for school districts receiving early intervention program funds.	Iowa Admin. Code r. 281-12.5(256)
Kansas	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Kentucky	1:24 for grades K-3.	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 157.360

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Louisiana	1:20 for grades K-3.	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 17:174
Maine	1:25 for grades K-8.	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 4502
Maryland	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Massachusetts	Average class size for kindergarten shall not exceed 25.	603 Mass. Code Regs. 8.01
Michigan	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Minnesota	Revenue must be used to reduce and maintain the district's average class size to 1:17 in grades K-3.	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 126C.12
Mississippi	Kindergarten teacher to pupil ratio determined based on appropriate accreditation standards developed by the Mississippi Commission on School Accreditation. 1:27 for grades 1-3.	Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-151-77
Missouri	Maximum is 1:25 with a goal of 1:17 for grades K-2; maximum is 1:27 with a goal of 1:20 for grade 3.	5 Mo. Code Regs. Ann. 20-100.255
Montana	1:20 for grades K-2; 1:28 for grade 3.	MT ADC 10.55.712
Nebraska	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Nevada	1:16 K-2; 1:18 for third grade.	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 388.700
New Hampshire	1:25 for K-2; 1:30 for third grade, with a goal of 20 for K-2 and 25 for third grade.	N.H. Code Admin. R. Ed 306.17
New Jersey	Class size in school districts in which 40 percent or more of the students are "at-risk", shall not exceed 21 students in grades K-3.	N.J. Admin. Code § 6A:13-3.1
New Mexico	1:15 or 2:20 with assistant for kindergarten; 1:22 average in grades one through three; 2:21 in grade one with a full-time assistant.	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-10A-20

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New York	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
North Carolina	1:18 for kindergarten; 1:16 for grade one; 1:17 for grade 2 and 3.	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-301
North Dakota	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Ohio	1:25 for grades K-3.	Ohio Admin. Code 3301-35-05
Oklahoma	1:20 or 2:29 with a full-time teacher's assistant for K-3.	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 18-113.1 Okla. Admin. Code 210:35-5-42
Oregon	Not specified in statute, rules or regulations.	
Pennsylvania	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Rhode Island	Funds from the Educational Improvement Block Grant may be used to reduce the teacher to student ratio to 1:15 for pre-kindergarten through grade 3.	R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-5-31
South Carolina	Average 1:21 based on average daily enrollment in reading and mathematics class in grades K-3. Maximum 1:30 for grades K-3.	S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-205
South Dakota	Teacher ratios are set based on school district fall enrollment. There are not specific provisions for K-3 teacher-to-student ratios.	S.D. Codified Laws § 13-13-10.1
Tennessee	1:25 maximum for grades K-3. 1:20 goal for grades K-3.	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104
Texas	1:20 average with a maximum of 1:22 in grade K-4.	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 25.111 Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 25.112
Utah	Not specified in statute or regulation.	

STATE ▲	WHAT ARE THE TEACHER-TO-STUDENT RATIO REQUIREMENTS AND CLASS SIZE MAXIMUMS FOR GRADES K-3?	CITATION
Vermont	Classes in grades K-3, when taken together, shall average fewer than 20 students per teacher.	7-1 Vt. Code R. § 2:2121
Virginia	1:24 or 2:29 with a teacher's aide in kindergarten; 1:24 with no class larger than 30 students in grades 1 through 3. Funds are made available to reduce class size for schools with high or moderate concentrations of at-risk students.	Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-253.13:2 Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-199.1
Washington	1:17 for an average class size in grade K-3.	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.150.260
West Virginia	1:20 for kindergarten, 1:25 grades 1-6.	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-18a
Wisconsin	Locally determined. Districts that are receiving funding for K-3 are required to reduce class size to no more than 1:18 or 2:30 with 2 regular classroom teachers.	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.43
Wyoming	Goal of an average class size of no more than 1:16 for grades K-3.	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-9-101