

Title VI, Class Size Reduction Summary, 1999-2000

Author:
Holly Koehler, Evaluation Analyst

Program Description

The purpose of the Title VI, Class Size Reduction Program (Title VI, Public Law 105-277) is to reduce class sizes in grades 1-3 to 18 or fewer students. The Class Size Reduction program (CSR) allocates funds for hiring additional certified teachers to increase achievement for regular and special needs students through increased personal attention. A primary goal of CSR is to provide a solid foundation for further learning by ensuring that all students learn to read independently by the third grade.

For the 1999-2000 school year, the Austin Independent School District (AISD) received approximately \$1.8 million to reduce class sizes. A minimum of eighty-two percent of these funds was required to be used for recruiting, hiring, or training certified teachers and teachers of special-needs children in grades 1-3. In addition, 15% could be used for professional development, supplies, materials, and equipment related to recruiting, hiring, or training certified teachers. However, a district-level decision was made to use 97% of the total allotment for hiring teachers to reduce class sizes and 3% for administrative costs.

District administrators determined that funding for one CSR teacher would be given to each of the 37 elementary campuses with the highest percentages of low-income students. However, two of these campuses (i.e., Allison and Ortega) did not have enough students, on the basis of 1999-2000 enrollment projections, to warrant a CSR teacher, so funding for teachers was given to 35 campuses. A second CSR teacher allocation was provided to support campuses identified as Low Performing by the Texas Education Agency during 1998-99: Blackshear, Govalle, Palm, Pecan Springs, Wooldridge. Each of these campuses was rated Acceptable for 1999-2000. Grade levels to which the teachers were assigned were based on projected student enrollment for 1999-2000.

At some of the campuses that received CSR allocations, teachers were never hired (i.e., Linder, Galindo, and St. Elmo). Similarly, although Blackshear and Govalle received funds for two CSR teachers due to their Low Performing status, only one teacher was hired at each campus. Of the Low Performing campuses, only Palm and Pecan Springs hired two teachers with CSR funds (the second teacher hired at Pecan Springs was terminated in December). Ultimately, due to lower than expected enrollment, Wooldridge was allocated funds for only one CSR teacher, despite its Low Performing status.

For the 1999-2000 school year, 32 teachers were hired through CSR: 1 Kindergarten/first grade teacher, 13 first grade teachers, 4 second grade teachers, and 14 third grade teachers (these numbers exclude a teacher who was terminated in December).

Annual Campus Report Cards

Quantitative data were collected from CSR campuses and analyzed for the evaluation of the 1999-2000 Title VI, Class Size Reduction Program. To meet the federal requirements of the grant, campus report cards in English and Spanish were produced for each CSR campus, and principals were asked to make them available to parents and community members. The campus report cards included a brief description of CSR, information on numbers and grade levels of teachers hired, and class sizes before and after CSR. This brief report includes a summary of the CSR campus report card data. Campus report cards for 1999-2000 have been posted on the web at <http://www.austin.isd.tenet.edu/admin/ope/execsummlist9900.html>.

Qualitative data regarding CSR in AISD during 1999-2000 are presented in Table 1 on the following page. Numbers of classes and class sizes refer to the grade levels to which CSR teachers were assigned only. Also, these numbers include bilingual classes, which were not impacted by CSR, and multi-age classes, which obscure changes in class size for students in particular grades.

For 1999-2000, 32 teachers were hired for \$823,244 of CSR funds; \$28,738 was used for instructional related services. To assess the effects of CSR in its first year, numbers of classes and class sizes for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were compared. On average across AISD campuses receiving CSR funds in 1999-2000, there were **4.9** classes in the grade levels to which CSR teachers were assigned in 1998-99 (i.e., before CSR) and **5.4** classes in 1999-2000 (i.e., after CSR). While each campus received an extra teacher, enrollment declined on some campuses, reducing the overall number of classes. On average, the smallest class in 1998-99 had **16** students; the smallest class in 1999-2000 had **14** students. On average, the largest class in 1998-99 had **21** students; the largest class in 1999-2000 had **19** students. The average class size in 1998-99 was **18** students; the average class size in 1999-2000 was **17** students.

Table 1: CSR campuses, Grade Levels to Which Teachers Were Assigned, Number of Classes, and Class Sizes for 1998-99 and 1999-2000

Campus	Grade Level	Number of Classes		Smallest Class Size		Largest Class Size		Average Class Size	
		1998-1999	1999-2000	1998-1999	1999-2000	1998-1999	1999-2000	1998-1999	1999-2000
Allan	3	3	4	*	10	*	20	*	15
Andrews	1	6	6	18	15	26	23	20	18
Barrington	2	5	6	14	14	19	20	17	17
Becker	1	3	3	17	14	19	16	18	15
Blackshear	1	4	3	7	18	25	22	16	19
Blanton	2	6	5.5	16	16	20	20	18	19
Brooke	1	3	4	19	16	20	20	19.5	18
Brown	1	5	5	15	17	18	19	17	18
Campbell	1	4	5	17	16	19	19	18	17
Cook	3	7	7	17	14	22	23	18	17
Dawson	3	4	4	17	12	17	15	17	13
Govalle	2	4	5	17	14	20	17	19	16
Hart	3	4	6	16	14	18	17	17	16
Houston	1	10	8	17	14	21	21	19	16
Jordan	3	4	5	21	16	25	27	23	20
Langford	1	7	7	17	16	20	20	18	18
Metz	K/1	3	5	16	15	17	20	16	18
Norman	1	4	5	19	11	22	21	21	15
Oak Springs	3	3	4	13	8	18	17	15	14
Palm	1	6	6	17	18	19	21	18	20
Palm	3	6	6	18	15	20	20	19	18
Pecan Springs	3	4	5	21	12	22	16	21	15
Ridgetop	2	3	3	17	12	20	17	19	14
Rodriguez	3	n/a	7	n/a	13	n/a	17	n/a	15
Sanchez	3	4	5	17	14	20	17	19	15
Sims	3	2	3	12	13	15	16	14	14
Walnut Creek	1	7	8	20	18	24	22	22	20
Widen	3	9	7	18	12	24	19	21	16
Winn	2	5	6	16	6	23	17	19	12
Wooldridge	3	7	8	16	13	22	22	21	20
Wooten	1	6	6	15	13	21	20	18	17
Zavala	3	4	5	10	13	21	20	15	16
Average		4.9	5.4	16	14	21	19	18	17

*An asterisk indicates missing data.

**"N/a" indicates the campus was not open.

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Division of Accountability and Information Systems

Joy McLarty, Ph.D.

Department of Accountability

Maria Whitsett, Ph.D.

Office of Program Evaluation

Holly Williams, Ph.D.

Author

Holly Koehler, Ph.D.

Board of Trustees

Kathy Rider, President
Doyle Valdez, Vice President
Loretta Edelen, Secretary

Johna Edwards
Olga Garza
Rudy Montoya

Ingrid Taylor
Ave Wahrmond
Patricia Whiteside

Superintendent of Schools

Pascal D. Forgione, Jr., Ph.D.

Publication Number 99.16
March 2001