

Class Size Counts Supports HB 2174

Virginia Legislation on Core Class Size Reporting Requirements

Class Size Counts supports [HB 2174](#) which requires Virginia **middle and high schools to publish their actual core academic class sizes**. Although some middle and high schools provide this information voluntarily, other schools do not. This bill provides greater transparency so that administrators, parents, and the community can remain informed about class size problem areas and act quickly to correct problems.

What is Virginia's Position on Class Size?

Currently, Virginia public school districts are not required to provide actual class size reports for all secondary general education core academic classes (30).

Why is this a Problem?

Transparency is a critical component of good governance that allows for a strong, open civil society capable of playing a critical role in affecting positive change. Without the knowledge of **actual core academic class sizes**, Virginia public school administrators cannot implement effective measures to **improve instruction and ensure educational quality and safe learning environments**; researchers overwhelmingly conclude that class size plays a critical role in a student's ability to learn (1-22), and there are significantly higher safety risks during science labs when classes exceed 24 students (27-29).

Additionally, the VA Department of Education (DoE) needs better reporting to ensure compliance with the current law (30). HB 1377, signed by Governor McAuliffe on April 1, 2016, added reporting requirements to help enforce existing elementary class size caps. Parent notices are required to be sent home by VA public school districts for all core elementary classes which exceed the state caps. Yet, there are no reporting requirements for secondary general education.

The VA DoE has a schoolwide teacher:student ratio of 21:1 in middle and high schools, based on average daily memberships to full-time teacher positions. Without disclosure of actual core academic class sizes in secondary education, there is no way to know which schools are in compliance with existing laws. Moreover, parents and community members should have access to this kind of basic information, which should be readily available on the internet **at no cost** from each school's electronically generated student schedules.

What's the Goal?

Transparency is important. This bill is designed to provide parents and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) with basic class size information for core middle and high school classes.

What Will this Investment Yield?

Disclosure of core academic classes in all of Virginia's public secondary education classes will allow administrators to implement effective policies to improve instruction and ensure safe learning environments for its teachers and students.

Please invest in Virginia's future by supporting HB 2174.

www.classsizecounts.com; Twitter: @CSCFairfax

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