

CHAPTER 638

(Senate Bill 990)

AN ACT concerning

Education – Reporting Requirement – Class Size

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to develop a uniform data collection method to track a certain number of certain students in a classroom teacher's class by the beginning of a certain academic year; requiring a certain data collection method to reflect a certain number of certain students in a certain class as of a certain date; requiring each county board of education to implement a certain data collection method and report the results of this data collection to the Department on or before a certain date; requiring the Department to report to the General Assembly regarding certain data on or before a certain date; defining a certain term; and generally relating to a uniform data collection method to determine the number of students who participate in a classroom teacher's class.

BY adding to

Article – Education
Section 7–119
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, All children deserve an opportunity to learn with consideration given to each child's learning style; and

WHEREAS, Children learn best in learning environments that allow the teacher to provide for individualization of the instructional program and quick attention to each child's problems and needs; and

WHEREAS, Research has shown the strong correlation between small class size and increased student achievement, particularly among minority students; and

WHEREAS, Class size data is collected on a random basis, if at all, and most often is recorded as pupil–teacher ratios rather than as actual class size; and

WHEREAS, Accurate and consistent class size data is essential; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7-119.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “CLASSROOM TEACHER” MEANS A TEACHER WHO IS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE STUDENTS IN THAT CLASS.

(2) “CLASSROOM TEACHER” DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- (I) CURRICULUM SPECIALISTS;**
- (II) GUIDANCE COUNSELORS;**
- (III) LIBRARIANS;**
- (IV) MEDIA SPECIALISTS;**
- (V) INSTRUCTIONAL AIDES;**
- (VI) ATTENDANCE PERSONNEL;**
- (VII) HEALTH SERVICES PERSONNEL;**
- (VIII) PSYCHOLOGISTS;**
- (IX) SOCIAL WORKERS;**
- (X) CLERICAL PERSONNEL;**
- (XI) COMMUNITY COLLEGE STAFF; OR**

(XII) ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL WHOSE JOB DOES NOT REQUIRE SKILL IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND WHO IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY INSTRUCTION OF THE SAME GROUP OF STUDENTS.

(B) (1) BY THE BEGINNING OF THE 2012-2013 ACADEMIC YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A UNIFORM DATA COLLECTION METHOD TO TRACK THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO REGULARLY PARTICIPATE IN A CLASSROOM TEACHER’S CLASS.

(2) THE UNIFORM DATA COLLECTION METHOD DEVELOPED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL REFLECT THE NUMBER OF

STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN A CLASSROOM TEACHER'S CLASS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30 OF EACH YEAR.

(C) BEGINNING WITH THE 2012–2013 ACADEMIC YEAR, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL:

(1) IMPLEMENT THE UNIFORM DATA COLLECTION METHOD DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION; AND

(2) REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE DATA COLLECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR.

(D) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 31 OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE DATA OBTAINED UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(2) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2009.

Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2009.