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CLASS SIZE REPORT

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

JANUARY 2021

CLASS SIZE DATA UNAVAILABLE IN 2019-20

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has caused many profound effects on Oregon K-12 education delivery, support, and administration. The Class Size report is a “snapshot” of the classes students were enrolled in on the first school day in May. The data gathered throughout its existence have been very stable and class size medians have not changed appreciably since its inception. Under Governor Brown’s [emergency executive orders](#), schools were closed on March 16, 2020 and remained closed to in-person instruction through the end of the 2019-20 school year. While schools continued to provide [distance learning for all](#), classes were not always held in the same manner as previously expected. Class size is also driven predominately by high school class sizes. Since May 2020 was so unusual, one could expect any data gathered to be highly unusual or perhaps inaccurate for this school year. For example, seniors at some schools were awarded their diplomas in April, 2020, so their participation in classes would have been lower than expected and may have affected median class size artificially if medians were obtained on May 1, 2020.

The Class Roster Collection is one of the most complicated and time-consuming collections conducted by ODE. While ODE honors and complies with Oregon law, during spring and summer of 2020, we canceled a number of collections, including the Class Roster Collection, which would have constituted an undue burden on districts and schools struggling under pandemic conditions. Since the median class size data are so stable, cancelling a year would not impact trend lines. Student Investment Account disbursements were intended to reduce class size over time, but would not begin until 2020-21. We did not expect to see an impact from this funding for 2019-20. Therefore the Class Size Report cannot be completed for the legislature in 2021.

CLASS SIZE REPORT BACKGROUND

Oregon law directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to report to the legislative assembly information about the total number of students in classes and the total number of licensed or registered teachers regularly assigned to students in kindergarten through grade 12 classes. This report is due February 1 of each year and covers the prior school year.

Requirements for the annual class size reports are delineated in [HB 2644 \(2013\)](#) and incorporated into Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) [329.901](#). The bill identifies the scope and content of the report, and requires the State Board of Education to define in rule some of the specific details of the report. As prescribed in the law, ODE identified the Class Roster collection as the appropriate existing data set that could be used to satisfy the requirements of the bill. Oregon Administrative Rule [581-002-0200](#) *Class Size Collection* was adopted on April 10, 2014 to define the data elements and scope of class size collection and reporting.

The full version of past reports, public data releases, and supporting documentation is available at the [ODE Class Size Report page](#). For questions regarding this report, contact Jon Wiens at jon.wiens@state.or.us or 503-947-5764.