

Testimony from Michael Newhouse], Baltimore City Public Schools Teacher,

HB0085/SB0206: Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size

Official Testimony
Position: **FAVORABLE**

To the [House Ways & Means Committee / Senate Finance Committee],

My name is Michael Newhouse], and I'm a Baltimore County resident and a member of the Baltimore Teachers Union. I support [HB0085/SB0206].

This bill will repeal the prohibition on a public school employer negotiating the maximum number of students assigned to a class.

Passing this bill is essential because anyone who has ever taught middle school students will agree that the smaller class size gives teacher's more time to address social, emotional, and academic deficits. This is especially important following the year of virtual school and the socialization opportunities many of our students have missed. Less students gives more opportunities to form and nurture relationships with students. At my school, Armistead Gardens, many of the elementary classes are overcrowded and without aides.

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on [HB0085/SB0206] Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size.

Sincerely,

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Research:

- Brookings Institute 2011: "[Class Size: What Research Says and What it Means for State Policy](#)"
 - Average class size is 15.3 (based on data compiled [here](#) from National Center for Education Statistics)
 - Largest impact for class size reduction from STAR was "the positive effects of class size were largest for black students, economically disadvantaged students, and boys."
 - "It appears that very large class-size reductions, on the order of magnitude of 7-10 fewer students per class, can have meaningful long-term effects on student achievement and perhaps on non-cognitive outcomes."
- NCTQ 2019: "<https://www.nctq.org/blog/A-sizable-opportunity:-thinking-strategically-about-class-size>"
 - "Of our sample of 124 large districts (which includes the 100 largest districts in the country and the largest district in each state), we find that almost all (82 percent) put strict limits on class sizes in at least some grades."
 - See table below for top nine districts from 2019 for average sizes by grade
 - Anne Arundel County Schools: goal for lower class size limits or goals for schools with more vulnerable student populations
- STAR, Tennessee 1980s
 - Compared classes of 15 to classes of 22, randomized groups (32% reduction)
 - Elementary students outperformed by .22 over four years, or equivalent of 3 months instruction
- SSRN, NY State: [Effect of class size on teacher attrition](#)
 - A decrease in class size from 23 to 20 students, under a district-wide policy, decreases the probability that a teacher leaves a school by 4.2 percentage points.
- 2009: NY Times: Class Size Around the World:
<https://archive.nytimes.com/economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/09/11/class-size-around-the-world/>

