

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1496
Ways and Means

(Delegate Marriott)

Education - Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners - Annual Report on
Class Size

This bill requires the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to determine the average class size for each grade in each school under its jurisdiction beginning with the 2006-2007 school year. Class sizes must be calculated as of September 30 of each school year and must be reported by December 1 of the school year.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners could report class size information with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Baltimore City Public School System and other local school systems in Maryland are not required to publish class sizes. However, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners advises that class size data for Baltimore City schools are made available throughout the annual budgeting process.

Background: Although it is not reported at the school level, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) tracks and reports the number of instructional staff in each school system per 1,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) students. This data is shown in **Exhibit 1**. Statewide, there were 65.4 instructional staff per 1,000 FTE students in the

2004-2005 school year. Baltimore City had 61.7 instructional staff per 1,000 FTE students, the fourth-lowest total in the State.

Exhibit 1
Instructional Staff Per 1,000 Students
2004-2005 School Year

<u>School System</u>	<u>Instructional Staff</u>	<u>School System</u>	<u>Instructional Staff</u>
Allegany	72.8	Harford	60.8
Anne Arundel	64.1	Howard	71.9
Baltimore City	61.7	Kent	66.1
Baltimore	70.7	Montgomery	67.2
Calvert	62.7	Prince George's	61.2
Caroline	67.4	Queen Anne's	64.1
Carroll	63.6	St. Mary's	63.3
Cecil	66.1	Somerset	71.3
Charles	59.6	Talbot	66.2
Dorchester	68.0	Washington	65.7
Frederick	64.4	Wicomico	72.6
Garrett	77.3	Worcester	82.2
	State	65.4	

Source: Maryland State Department of Education

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, Department of Legislative Services

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