2010 Class Size Average and Pupil Ratios Report

Class Size Average

Class size averages are calculated by grade for kindergarten to sixth grade and by subject for grades seven through twelve at the school, district, and state level. School-level data are published in the appendix of this report. District- and state-level data are published in the Superintendent's Annual Report which can be found online at http://schools.utah.gov/data/Superintendent-s-Annual-Report/AR-2009-2010/Class-size-district-FY10.aspx .

Utah Legislation (53A-3-602.5) requires annual reporting of class size average by grade for kindergarten to sixth grade and by subject for grades seven through twelve. To fulfill this requirement, the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) calculates class size averages by dividing the total number of students enrolled in each grade on October 1st by the total number of classes in each grade. Certain non-traditional classes, such as online classes, special education classes, youth in custody classes, and English as Second Language (ESL) classes, are not included.

The following charts show class size averages by grade and course for the state of Utah. State-level class size averages gradually rise from kindergarten to sixth grade and range from 22 to 26 students per course (see Figure 1). The state class size average for elementary classes is 24 students per class. In secondary courses at the state level, language arts, science, and math courses range from an average of 23 to 31 students per course (see Figure 2). The state class size average for secondary classes is 29 students per class.

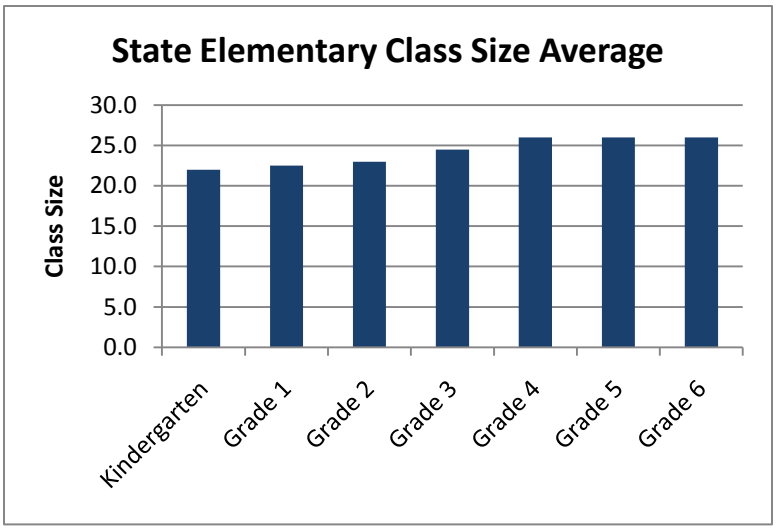

Figure 1: State Elementary Class Size

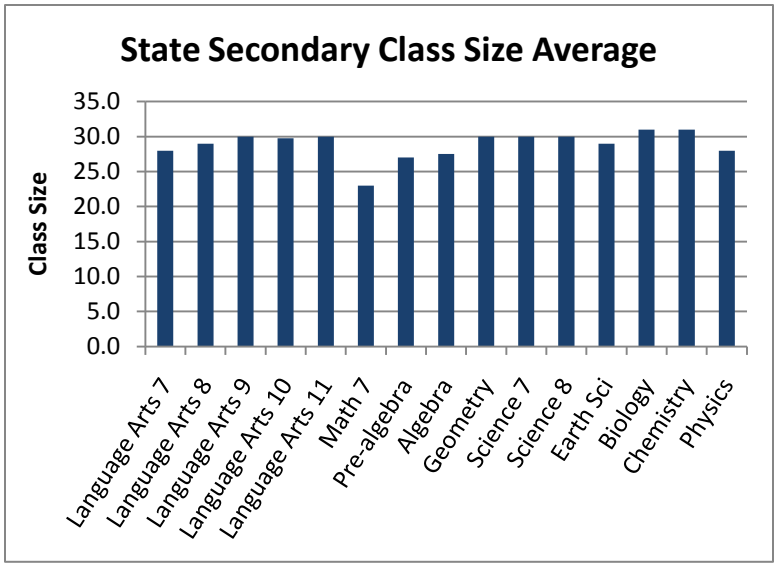

Figure 2: State Secondary Class Size

To see the exact numbers for each course, refer to http://schools.utah.gov/data/Educational-Data/Class-Size-Staff-Ratios/Class-size-school-level.aspx .

Note: Due to legislative and state audits, the class size calculation was updated in 2010. One of the changes was including additional course data to help identify a single class. Since this additional data had not been collected prior to 2010, longitudinal comparisons of class size are inappropriate. Other calculation differences stem from legislative guidelines implemented in 2010.

Class Size Analyses

Figures 3 and 4 show the class size difference between schools that passed their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report and schools that failed. An independent-samples t-test was conducted to compare the differences for both elementary courses and secondary courses. Class size outliers—greater than 40 or less than 5—were excluded. There was a significant difference in scores for elementary schools that passed (*Mean*=21.2, *SD*=6.6) and schools that failed [*Mean*=24.2, *SD*=3.8; $t(1542)=-9.4$, $p<.001$], as shown in Figure 3.

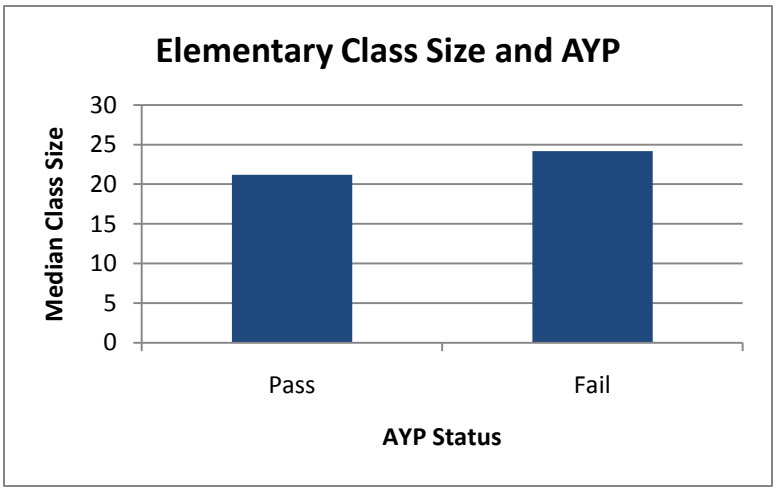

Figure 3: State Elementary Class Size Analyses

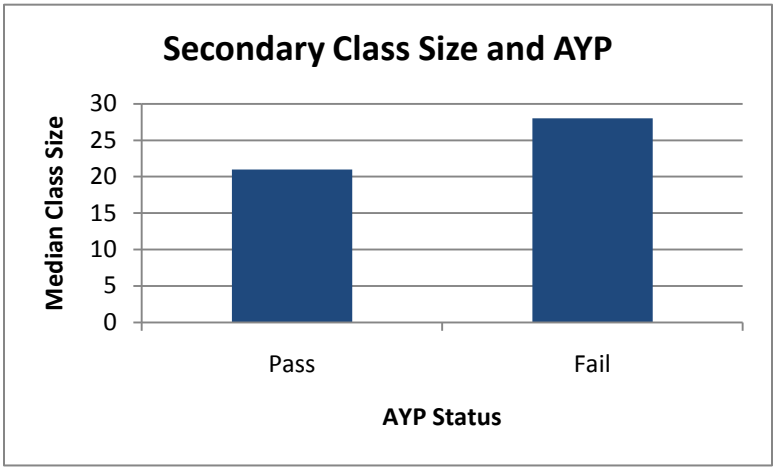

Figure 4: State Secondary Class Size Analyses

Figure 4 shows the difference in class size between secondary schools that passed or failed AYP. Schools that passed AYP had a significantly smaller class sizes (*Mean*=21.0, *SD*=8.3) than schools that failed AYP [*Mean*=28.0, *SD*=6.1; $t(1086)=-15.4$, $p<.001$].

Similar analyses were conducted for schools with large minority or economically disadvantaged student populations. The same trend (smaller class sizes in schools that passed AYP; larger class sizes in schools that failed AYP) continued.

Pupil-Teacher Ratio

The Utah State Office of Education (USOE) calculates pupil-teacher ratios for each school by dividing the total number of students enrolled in the school on October 1st by the total number of teacher full-time equivalents (FTEs) assigned to the school. A "teacher" is any person assigned at the school as a regular classroom teacher (excluding preschool teachers), a special education teacher, or a school-based specialist. Staff ratios for the district- and state-level are calculated by taking the median ratio of every school in the district and the median ratio of every school in the state. District- and state-level data are published in the Superintendent's Annual Report which can be found online at http://schools.utah.gov/data/Superintendent-s-Annual-Report/AR-2009-2010/Staff-Ratios-FY10.aspx .

The median pupil-teacher ratio for the state of Utah is 21 to 1.