

Title VI, Class Size Reduction Summary, 1999-2000

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Program Description

The purpose of the Title VI, Class Size Reduction Program (Title VI, Public Law 105-277) is to reduce class sizes in grades 1-3 to 18 or fewer students. The Class Size Reduction program (CSR) allocates funds for hiring additional certified teachers to increase achievement for regular and special needs students through increased personal attention. A primary goal of CSR is to provide a solid foundation for further learning by ensuring that all students learn to read independently by the third grade.

For the 1999-2000 school year, the Austin Independent School District (AISD) received approximately \$1.8 million to reduce class sizes. A minimum of eighty-two percent of these funds was required to be used for recruiting, hiring, or training certified teachers and teachers of special-needs children in grades 1-3. In addition, 15% could be used for professional development, supplies, materials, and equipment related to recruiting, hiring, or training certified teachers. However, a district-level decision was made to use 97% of the total allotment for hiring teachers to reduce class sizes and 3% for administrative costs.

District administrators determined that funding for one CSR teacher would be given to each of the 37 elementary campuses with the highest percentages of low-income students. However, two of these campuses (i.e., Allison and Ortega) did not have enough students, on the basis of 1999-2000 enrollment projections, to warrant a CSR teacher, so funding for teachers was given to 35 campuses. A second CSR teacher allocation was provided to support campuses identified as Low Performing by the Texas Education Agency during 1998-99: Blackshear, Govalle, Palm, Pecan Springs, Wooldridge. Each of these campuses was rated Acceptable for 1999-2000. Grade levels to which the teachers were assigned were based on projected student enrollment for 1999-2000.

At some of the campuses that received CSR allocations, teachers were never hired (i.e., Linder, Galindo, and St. Elmo). Similarly, although Blackshear and Govalle received funds for two CSR teachers due to their Low Performing status, only one teacher was hired at each campus. Of the Low Performing campuses, only Palm and Pecan Springs hired two teachers with CSR funds (the second teacher hired at Pecan Springs was terminated in December). Ultimately, due to lower than expected enrollment, Wooldridge was allocated funds for only one CSR teacher, despite its Low Performing status.

For the 1999-2000 school year, 32 teachers were hired through CSR: 1 Kindergarten/first grade teacher, 13 first grade teachers, 4 second grade teachers, and 14 third grade teachers (these numbers exclude a teacher who was terminated in December).

Annual Campus Report Cards

Quantitative data were collected from CSR campuses and analyzed for the evaluation of the 1999-2000 Title VI, Class Size Reduction Program. To meet the federal requirements of the grant, campus report cards in English and Spanish were produced for each CSR campus, and principals were asked to make them available to parents and community members. The campus report cards included a brief description of CSR, information on numbers and grade levels of teachers hired, and class sizes before and after CSR. This brief report includes a summary of the CSR campus report card data. Campus report cards for 1999-2000 have been posted on the web at <http://www.austin.isd.tenet.edu/admin/ope/execsummlist9900.html>.

Qualitative data regarding CSR in AISD during 1999-2000 are presented in Table 1 on the following page. Numbers of classes and class sizes refer to the grade levels to which CSR teachers were assigned only. Also, these numbers include bilingual classes, which were not impacted by CSR, and multi-age classes, which obscure changes in class size for students in particular grades.

Table 1: CSR campuses, Grade Levels to Which Teachers Were Assigned, Number of Classes, and Class Sizes for 1998-99 and 1999-2000

Campus	Grade Level	Number of Classes		Smallest Class Size		Largest Class Size		Average Class Size	
		1998-1999	1999-2000	1998-1999	1999-2000	1998-1999	1999-2000	1998-1999	1999-2000
Allan	3	3	4	*	10	*	20	*	15
Andrews	1	6	6	18	15	26	23	20	18
Barrington	2	5	6	14	14	19	20	17	17
Becker	1	3	3	17	14	19	16	18	15
Blackshear	1	4	3	7	18	25	22	16	19
Blanton	2	6	5.5	16	16	20	20	18	19
Brooke	1	3	4	19	16	20	20	19.5	18
Brown	1	5							

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