



## 2009 Class Size Average and Pupil Ratios Report

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### Contents

- Section 1: Class Size Average
- Section 2: Pupil-Teacher and Pupil-Adult Ratios
- Appendix

### Background

- This report presents three calculations: class size average, pupil-teacher ratio and pupil-adult ratio
- Class size average measures the number of students in a class
- Pupil ratios measures the proportion of students (pupils) to teachers or adults in a school
- Class size average and pupil ratios only include students enrolled on October 1
- Class size average and pupil ratios are reported at the school level in the Utah Performance Assessment System for Students (U-PASS) reports
- Class size average and pupil ratios are reported at the district and state level in the Superintendent's Annual Report

### Class Size Highlights

- The state class size average for all elementary grades is 24 students
- Elementary class size averages range from 21 to 25 students at the state level
- The class size average for all secondary school classes at the state level is 19 students
- Secondary class size averages range from 14 to 24 at the state level

### Student Ratio Highlights

- Both state-level pupil ratios are less than 22:1
- The state-level pupil-adult ratio is lower than the pupil-teacher ratio by more than two students



## Section 1: 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 annually in school reports which can be found online at <http://schools.utah.gov/main/DATA-STATISTICS/Accountability/Accountability-Reports.aspx>. District- and state-level data are published in the Superintendent’s Annual Report which can be found online at <http://www.schools.utah.gov/finance/other/AnnualReport/ar.htm>.

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 1<sup>st</sup> by the total number of classes in each grade. Certain non-traditional classes, such as online classes, special education classes, bilingual 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 21 to 25 students per course (see Figure 1). The state class size average for elementary classes is 24 students per class.

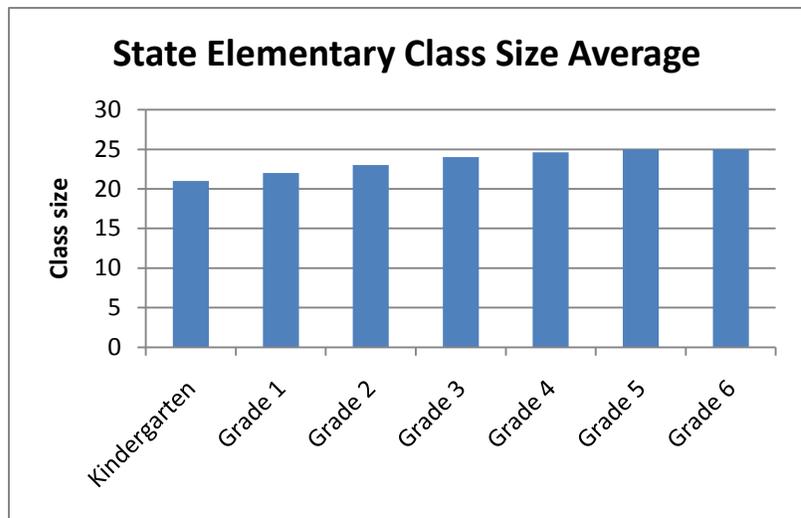
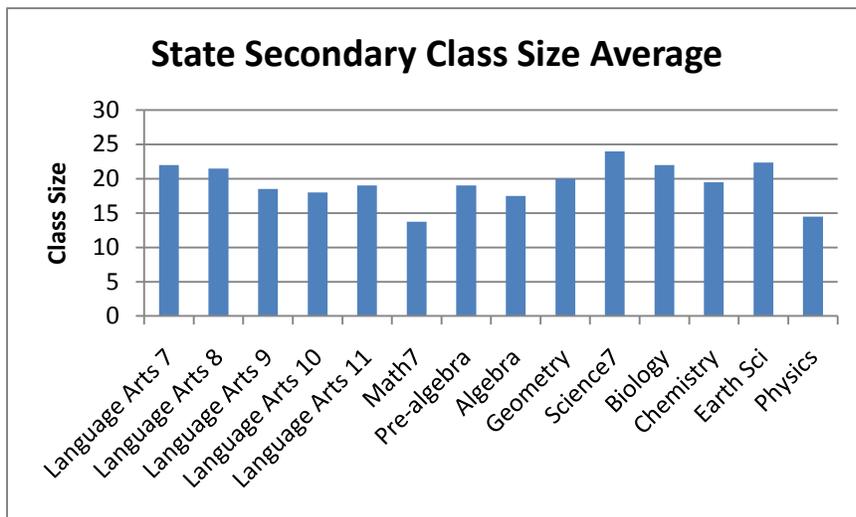


Figure 1: State Elementary Class Size



In secondary courses at the state level, language arts, science, and math courses range from an average of 14 to 24 students per course (see Figure 2). The state class size average for secondary classes is 19 students per class.

Figure 2: State Secondary Class Size



## Section 2: Pupil-Teacher and Pupil-Adult Ratios

The Utah State Office of Education (USOE) calculates pupil-teacher and pupil-adult ratios for each school by dividing the total number of students enrolled in the school on October 1<sup>st</sup> by the total number of teacher or adult 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. An “adult” is any person assigned at the school as a “teacher,” a guidance counselor, a librarian and media specialist, a student support service person, or a paraprofessional.

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. School-level data are published annually in school reports which can be found online at <http://schools.utah.gov/main/DATA-STATISTICS/Accountability/Accountability-Reports.aspx>. District- and state-level data are published in the Superintendent’s Annual Report which can be found online at <http://www.schools.utah.gov/finance/other/AnnualReport/ar.htm>.

The median pupil-teacher and pupil-adult ratios for the state of Utah is shown in Figure 5. The pupil-adult ratio (19:1) is lower than the pupil-teacher ratio (22:1) by two students.

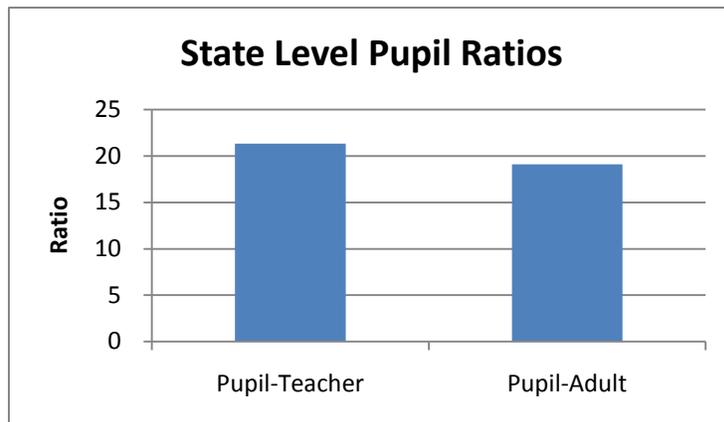


Figure 3: State Level Staff Ratios