



Parents 4 Teachers Analysis of CPS class size 2018-2019

Parents 4 Teachers (P4T) analyzed class size data for the 2018 - 2019 school year provided to us by CPS on Dec. 21, 2018. We compared the 2018 class sizes for each class in CPS to the guidelines in the CTU/CPS collective bargaining agreement to determine the extent to which those unenforceable and unreasonably high guidelines are being met by the district. Those guidelines call for no more than 28 students in grades K – 3 and no more than 31 students in grades 4 – 6.

But since the district's guidelines are set at excessive levels, we also compared the data to what we believe is a more just and educationally sound standard—the class size average at the University of Chicago Lab School, the school the mayor's children attended. That school's guidelines call for elementary classes of between 23 – 24 students.

We found:

- **1,007 classrooms** in grades K – 8 are in excess of the guidelines called for in the CTU contract.
- **4,454 classrooms** in grades K- 8 are in excess of the average class size at the U of C Lab School.
- **13 elementary school classrooms** have 40 or more students, including a **Kindergarten class with 44 children**.

Reducing class size is one of most effective ways to improve student achievement. In fact, according to the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education, it is one of only four evidence-based reforms that do so. But CPS refuses to even address the issue with parents and educators and, thanks to school closings, student-based budgeting and other wrong-headed policies, class size is ballooning across the district.

In many other Illinois school districts, class size is capped in the collective bargaining agreement and when classes exceed the guidelines a grievance can be filed under the contract. In CPS, the guidelines are just that, guidelines. They are not enforceable. And Illinois is one of just 14 states that don't have class size limits.

CTU and CPS are currently negotiating a new contract and the union is calling for enforceable class size limits of between 23 and 24 students for elementary school. We wholeheartedly endorse that proposal as critical for improving the learning conditions for students and teaching conditions for our educators.

CPS Class Size grades K – 8 Compared to Avg. Class Size* at U of C Lab School

Grade Level	Total Classrooms	Classrooms Over Lab School Limit	% classrooms Over Lab School Limit
K	879	372	42%
1	855	420	49%
2	877	439	50%
3	903	494	55%
4	859	561	65%
5	860	584	68%
6	886	628	71%
7	772	504	65%
8	769	543	71%
Grand Total	7,660	4,545	59%

** Average class size at University of Chicago Lab School is 23 – 24, depending on grade. This analysis uses 24 as the point of comparison. Data provided by CPS on Dec. 21, 2018.*

CPS Class Size Compared to CTU Contract Guidelines

Grade Level	Total Classrooms	Classrooms Over Contract Limit	% Classrooms Over Contract Limit
K	879	70	9%
1	855	77	8%
2	877	74	13%
3	903	115	16%
4	859	137	17%
5	860	149	17%
6	886	148	16%
7	772	123	15%
8	769	114	8%
Grand Total	7,660	1,007	13%

** CTU/CPS contract guidelines recommend no more than 28 students in a class for grades K – 3 and 31 students in Grades 3 – 8. Data provided by CPS Dec. 21, 2018.*

CPS Classrooms with 40 or more students

School	Grade Level	Class size
Josiah Pickard Elementary School	K	44
John Harvard Elementary School of Excellence	4	43
Everett McKinley Dirksen Elementary School	7	42
John C Dore Elementary School	8	42
Virgil Grissom Elementary School	8	42
Francis M McKay Elementary School	7	41
John C Dore Elementary School	8	41
Perkins Bass Elementary School	5	41
Virgil Grissom Elementary School	5	41
Daniel S Wentworth Elementary School	K	40
Robert Fulton Elementary School	6	40
Ronald Brown Elementary Community Academy	7	40
Virgil Grissom Elementary School	7	40

** Data represents a snapshot of class size as of the date the data was provided by CPS.*