

VI. PUPIL-TO-TEACHER RATIOS

BACKGROUND

A key reform initiative for more than a decade is Nevada's program to reduce pupil-to-teacher ratios, commonly known as the Class-Size Reduction Program. Following a review of the topic by a 1988 interim legislative study, the 1989 Legislature enacted the Class-Size Reduction Act (Assembly Bill 964, Chapter 864, *Statutes of Nevada 1989*). The measure was designed to reduce the pupil-to-teacher ratio in public schools, particularly in the earliest grades where the core curriculum is taught.

The program was scheduled for implementation in several phases. The first step reduced the ratios in selected kindergartens and 1st grade for the 1990-1991 school year. The next phase was designed to improve 2nd grade ratios, followed by 3rd grade reductions and broadening kindergarten assistance. The 1991 Legislature made funds available for the 1991-1992 school year to reduce the ratios in 1st and 2nd grades and selected kindergartens to the 16 to 1 ratio. Due to budget shortfalls late in 1991 and the continuing state fiscal needs, the 3rd grade phase was delayed until Fiscal Year 1996-1997 when partial funding was provided at a 19 to 1 ratio. Those funding formulas continued throughout the subsequent biennia.

After achieving the target ratio of 15 pupils to 1 teacher in the primary grades, the original program proposed that the pupil-to-teacher ratio be reduced to 22 pupils per class in grades 4, 5, and 6, followed by a reduction to no more than 25 pupils per class in grades 7 to 12. With the exception of a pilot program in Elko County, only the primary grades (K-3) have been addressed.

In 2005, Assembly Bill 575 continued to address Class-Size Reduction. The bill appropriated approximately \$125.6 million in 2005-2006, and \$137.9 million in 2006-2007 for continued support of the program. The measure specifies that the funds will pay the salaries and benefits for teachers hired to reduce pupil-teacher ratios. These funds will provide for at least 2,107 teachers in the first year of the biennium and 2,197 teachers in the second year. The measure continues the flexibility previously allowed for the use of funding for 1st through 3rd grades. This flexibility allows school districts to carry out alternative programs for reducing the ratio of pupils per teacher, or to implement remedial programs that have been found to be effective in improving pupil achievement.

PUPIL-TO-TEACHER RATIOS

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The 2005 Legislature also enacted Senate Bill 460 (Chapter 457, *Statutes of Nevada*) which provided flexibility in implementing pupil-teacher ratios in grades 1 through 6 for school districts other than Clark and Washoe. Pupil-teacher ratios would be limited to not more than 22 to 1 in grades 1 through 3, and not more than 25 to 1 in grades 4 through 6.



PUPIL-TO-TEACHER RATIOS

PUPIL-TEACHER RATIOS

Pupil-Teacher Ratio for Elementary, Middle, & High School Western States, SY 2003-2004

	Primary	Middle	High
Arizona	18.4	18.7	19.4
California	20.0	23.5	21.8
Colorado	16.3	16.2	15.5
Idaho	18.2	18.1	16.1
Montana	12.5	12.8	11.1
National Average	15.9	15.8	15.4
Nevada	16.3	19.2	17.7
New Mexico	14.3	14.5	14.1
Oregon	20.4	20.7	20.4
Utah	22.1	21.6	19.4
Washington	18.6	19.8	20.5
Wyoming	12.5	13.0	10.9



Pupil-teacher ratio lower than in Nevada

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics Common Core of Data Database in Education State Rankings 2006-2007, Morgan Quitno 2006.



PUPIL-TO-TEACHER RATIOS

STATEWIDE PUPIL-TEACHER RATIOS

Statewide Pupil-Teacher Ratios Fiscal Years 1998 - 2007																	
Grade	FY 1998-1999	FY 1999-2000	Change from 1999 to 2000	FY 2000-2001	Change from 2000 to 2001	FY 2001-2002	Change from 2001 to 2002	FY 2002-2003	Change from 2002 to 2003	FY 2003-2004	Change from 2003 to 2004	FY 2004-2005	Change from 2004 to 2005	FY 2005-2006	Change from 2005 to 2006	FY 2006-2007	Change from 2006 to 2007
Kindergarten	22.7	23.7	1.0	23.6	-0.1	22.7	-0.9	22.5	-0.2	23.2	0.7	22.8	-0.4	28.1	5.3	23.4	-4.7
1st Grade	15.8	15.9	0.1	16.0	0.1	16.1	0.1	16.2	0.1	16.1	-0.1	16.3	0.2	16.2	-0.1	16.4	0.2
2nd Grade	15.8	15.9	0.1	16.2	0.3	16.3	0.1	16.5	0.2	16.3	-0.2	16.5	0.2	16.4	-0.1	16.6	0.2
3rd Grade	19.0	19.1	0.1	19.0	-0.1	19.2	0.2	20.1	0.9	19.5	-0.6	19.5	0.0	19.2	-0.3	18.6	-0.6

Pupil-Teacher Ratios for School Year 2006-2007 By Grade, Nevada and School Districts				
School District	Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
Carson City	20.0	15.7	15.4	18.0
Churchill*				
Clark	25.1	16.6	16.8	19.5
Douglas*				
Elko*				
Esmeralda	1.7	2.3	3.0	1.7
Eureka	8.0	5.5	7.0	12.0
Humboldt	9.1	14.5	13.4	18.0
Lander	17.3	16.0	16.3	25.0
Lincoln	5.6	15.4	14.2	18.0
Lyon	19.9	16.2	16.3	18.4
Mineral	21.0	16.3	12.3	15.7
Nye	13.1	17.2	18.7	19.6
Pershing	10.7	12.3	20.0	17.3
Storey	12.5	17.0	20.0	19.0
Washoe	23.4	15.6	15.9	15.3
White Pine	14.3	19.0	17.8	19.8
STATE	23.4	16.4	16.6	18.6

NRS 388.700 requires that pupil-teacher ratios not exceed the levels for which school districts receive Legislative funding. These are: 16 to 1 for Kindergarten through 2nd grade and 19 to 1 for 3rd grade

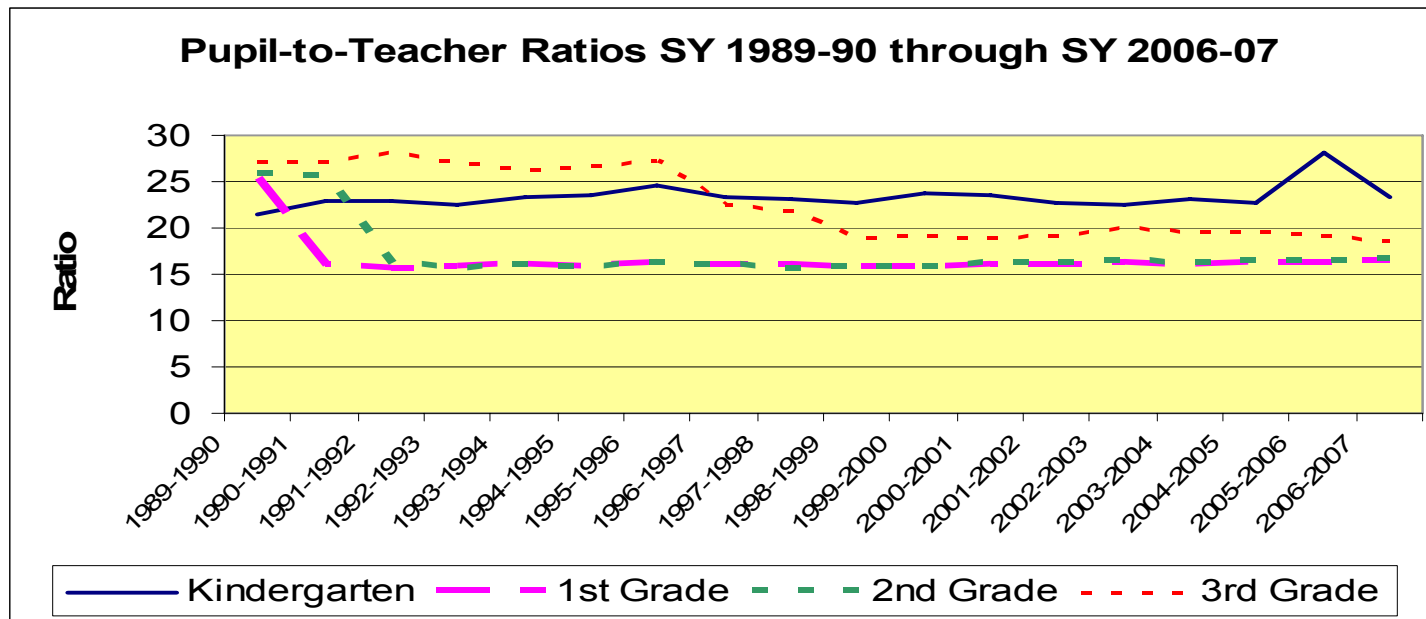
Source: 2006 Variance Report, Nevada Department of Education.

*Churchill, Douglas and Elko County School Districts implemented alternate CSR programs in accordance with NRS 388.720.

PUPIL-TO-TEACHER RATIOS

CSR—RATIOS GRADES K-3

Grade	1989-1990	1990-1991	1991-1992	1992-1993	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Kindergarten	21.5	22.9	22.9	22.4	23.3	23.5	24.6	23.4	23.2	22.7	23.7	23.6	22.7	22.5	23.2	22.8	28.1	23.4
1st Grade	25.4	16.1	15.6	15.8	16.0	15.9	16.2	16.1	16.1	15.8	15.9	16.0	16.1	16.2	16.1	16.3	16.2	16.4
2nd Grade	25.9	25.6	16.3	15.6	16.1	15.9	16.2	16.0	15.7	15.8	15.9	16.2	16.3	16.5	16.3	16.5	16.4	16.6
3rd Grade	27.1	27.0	28.1	27.0	26.3	26.6	27.2	22.6	21.8	19.0	19.1	19.0	19.2	20.1	19.5	19.5	19.2	18.6



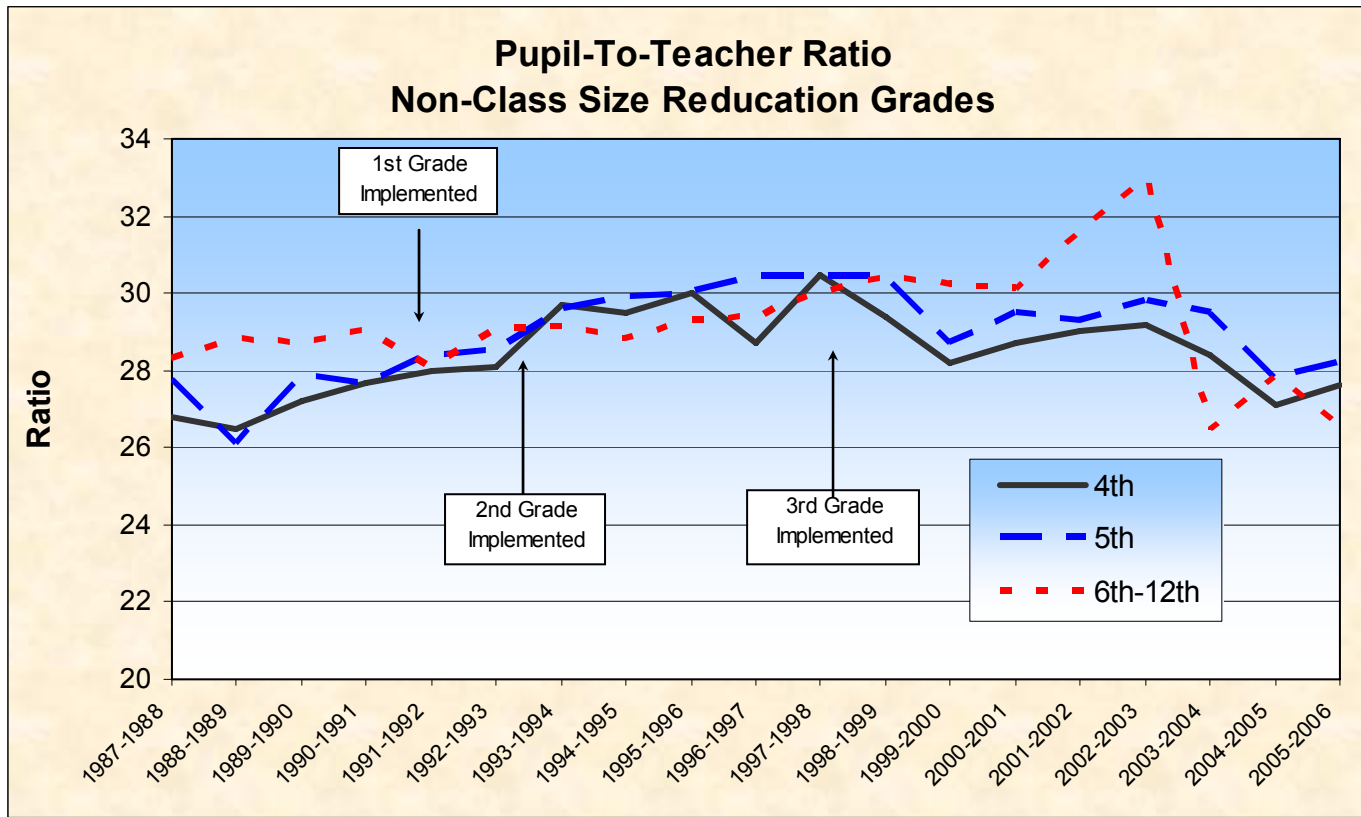
Source: 2006 Variance Report, Nevada Department of Education.

Note: Figures do not include those school districts that have adopted an alternate class-size reduction program. The CSR Program was established in SY 1990-91. Starting in SY 1999-2000, school districts were allowed to establish an alternative class-size reduction plan in accordance with NRS 388.720, which requires a pupil-teacher ration of 22:1 in grades 1-3 and 25:1 in grades 4-6.

PUPIL-TO-TEACHER RATIOS

CSR—RATIOS GRADES 4-12

	1987-1988	1988-1989	1989-1990	1990-1991	1991-1992	1992-1993	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
4th	26.8	26.5	27.2	27.7	28	28.1	29.7	29.5	30	28.7	30.5	29.4	28.2	28.7	29	29.2	28.4	27.1	27.6
5th	27.8	26.1	27.9	27.7	28.4	28.5	29.6	29.9	30	30.4	30.4	30.4	28.7	29.5	29.3	29.8	29.5	27.8	28.2
6th-12th	28.3	28.8	28.7	29	28.1	29	29.1	28.8	29.3	29.4	30	30.4	30.2	30.1	31.6	33	26.5	27.9	26.6



Source: Nevada Department of Education, February 2007.

PUPIL-TO-TEACHER RATIOS

Number of Class-Size Reduction Teachers (FTE) Hired for SY 2005-2006 and SY 2006-2007 by Grade, for Nevada and School Districts								
School District	Kindergarten		1 st Grade		2 nd Grade		3 rd Grade	
	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07
Carson City	2.0	1.5	21.5	21.5	12.5	15.0	9.5	10.0
Churchill*								
Clark	11.0	11.0	592.0	618.0	616.0	620.0	412.0	414.0
Douglas*								
Elko*								
Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eureka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humboldt	0	0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	5.0
Lander	0.25	0.25	1.5	2.0	1.0	1.0	0.25	0.25
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyon	0.5		10.0	12.0	10.5	12.0	8.5	9.0
Mineral	1.0	0.5	0	0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Nye	1.0	1.0	7.5	6.5	7.0	9.0	5.0	5.25
Pershing	0.25	0.25	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Storey	0	0	2.0	2.0	0	0	1.0	1.0
Washoe	5.0	5.0	110.5	118.0	108.5	105.0	72.5	65.5
White Pine*		0.5		0.5		2.0		1.0
STATE	21.0	20.0	751.0	787.5	762.5	771.0	514.75	512.0

* Note: Figures for those schools districts that have adopted an alternate class-size reduction program are listed below:

	Kindergarten		1st Grade		2nd Grade		3rd Grade		4th Grade	
	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07
Churchill	1	n/a	7.5	8.25	7	11	3	13	0	0
Douglas	0.5	n/a	6	6	4	3	5	3	2	5
Elko	4	n/a	13	9	7	9	9	9	9	9.5
White Pine	2		2.25		1		1		0	

	5th Grade		6th Grade		Total	
	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07
Churchill	0	0	0	0	18.5	32.25
Douglas	5	5	4	4	26.5	26
Elko	9	9.5	2	8.5	53	54.5
White Pine	0		0		6.25	

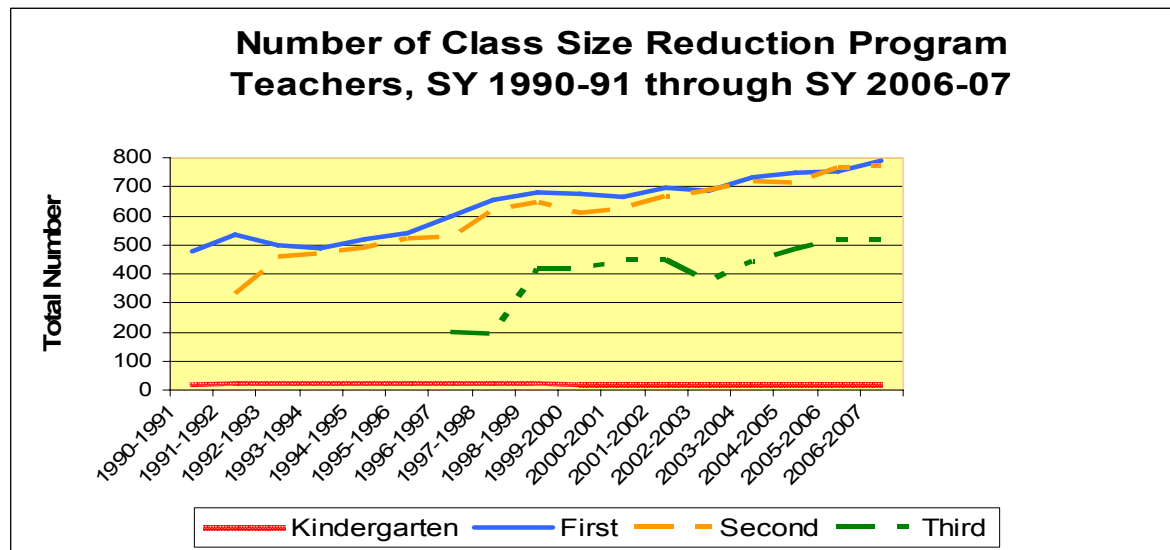
Source: 2006 Variance Report, Nevada Department of Education.

PUPIL-TO-TEACHER RATIOS

CSR TEACHERS

**NUMBER OF CSR PROGRAM TEACHERS HIRED
BY GRADE, BY SCHOOL YEAR (1990-91 TO 2006-07)**

	1990-1991	1991-1992	1992-1993	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Kindergarten	23	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	22.5	22.5	21.8	21.5	21.8	21.5	21	20
1st	476	535	499	490	522	540	599	653	681	677	663	697	686	731	751	751	788
2nd		333	459	468	489	517	525	616	645	607	625	665	687	719	713	763	771
3rd							195	194	415	414	449	445	375	443	485	515	512

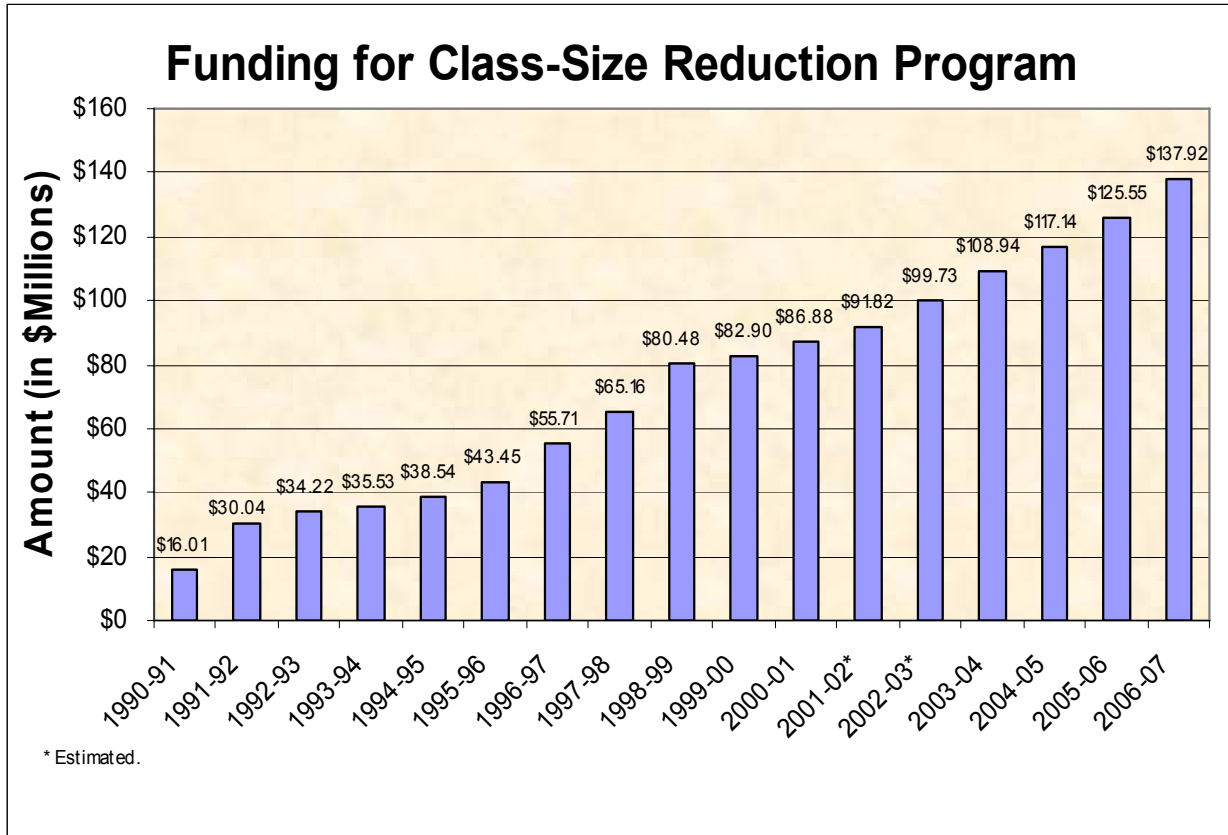


Source: 2006 Variance Report, Nevada Department of Education.

Note: The actual funding allocation for Nevada’s CSR Program is calculated by projecting student growth, figuring in the number of teachers that districts would have hired to keep pace with that growth under the old ratios, then calculating the number of additional teachers needed to reduce the pupil-to-teacher ratio to the funded level (currently funded at 16:1 for grades 1 and 2 and 19:1 for grade 3). The appropriation for CSR typically specifies by grade the number of teachers to be hired. The measure also specifies the amount of the appropriation by grade based upon the estimated number of teachers multiplied by the actual average of new hire salaries and benefits.

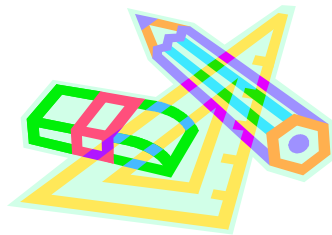
PUPIL-TO-TEACHER RATIOS

CSR EXPENDITURES



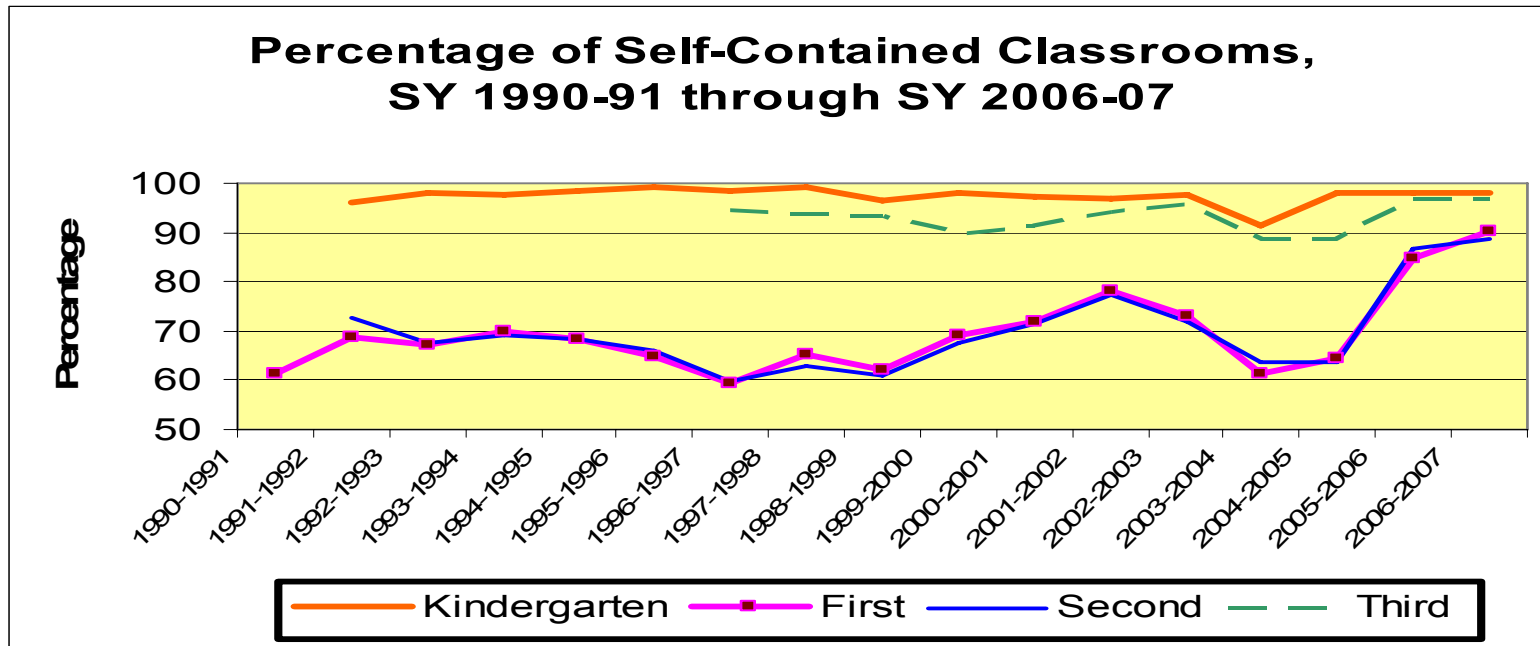
Source: Nevada Department of Education, Administrative and Fiscal Services, January 2007.

Note: By the end of the 2006-2007 Fiscal Year, Nevada will have expended approximately \$1.25 billion for the direct costs of funding the CSR Program, excluding any local capital expenditures or other local costs.



PUPIL-TO-TEACHER RATIOS

CSR—CLASSROOM CONFIGURATION



The table below lists the percentage of “self-contained” Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade classrooms, where one teacher is alone in the room with the students.

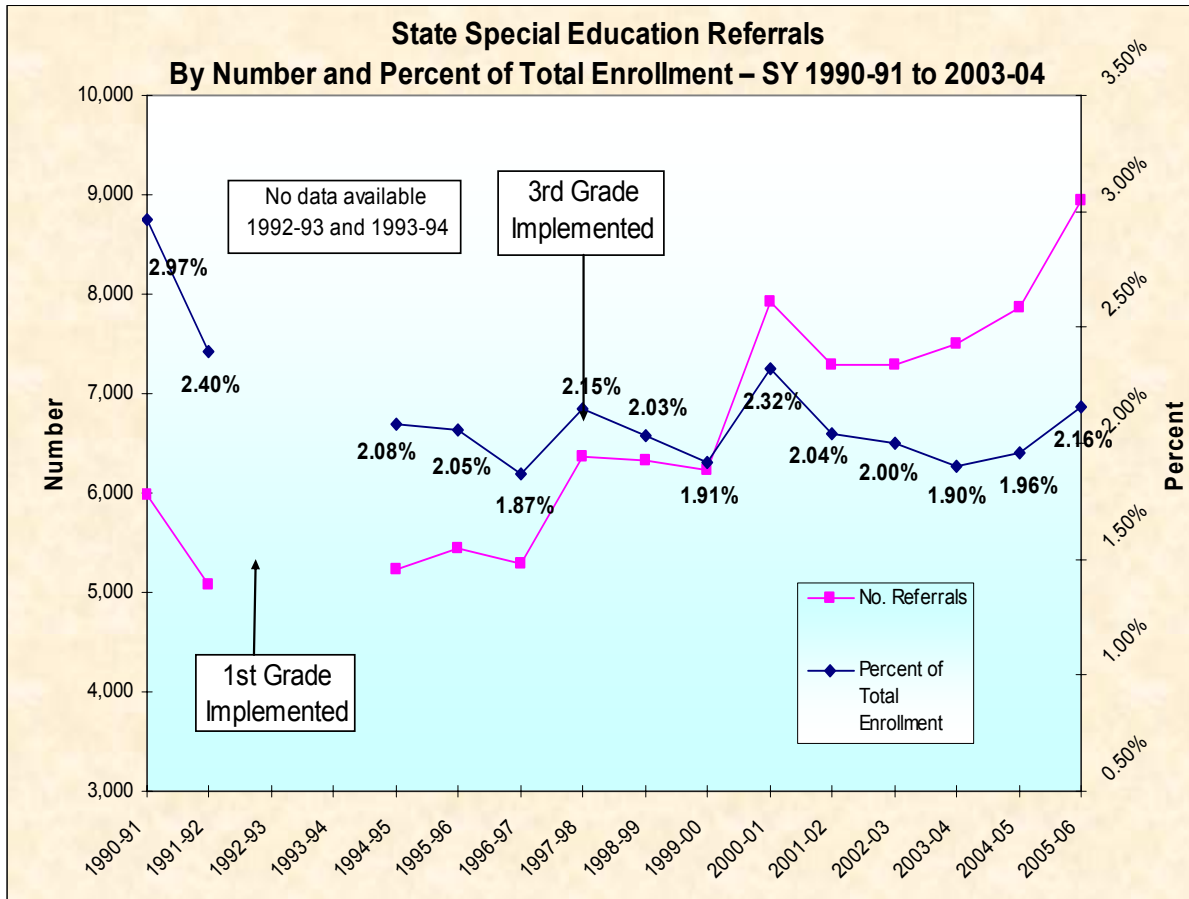
	1990-1991	1991-1992	1992-1993	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Kindergarten		96.1	98	97.7	98.5	99.1	98.5	99.1	96.5	97.9	97.2	96.8	97.5	91.3	97.9	98.2	98.2
1st	61.5	68.7	67.3	70	68.2	64.7	59.4	65.2	62.2	69.1	72	78	72.9	61.3	64.3	84.8	90.2
2nd		72.6	67.4	69	68.4	66.2	59.6	62.8	60.8	67.5	71.6	77.3	71.8	63.6	63.6	86.6	88.6
3rd							94.5	93.8	93.3	90	91.5	94	95.7	88.7	88.8	96.9	96.7

Source: 2006 Variance Report, Nevada Department of Education.

PUPIL-TO-TEACHER RATIOS

CSR—SPECIAL EDUCATION REFERRALS

The following table displays the total statewide special education referrals for all ages and grades.



Source: Nevada Department of Education, Office of Special Education, January 2007.

Note: The data are not separated by grade or by whether the pupil was part of a federal program to identify children with disabilities beginning at ages 3 and 4.

