



Chapter 6 Class-Size Reduction Program

Background

A key reform initiative for nearly two decades is Nevada's program to reduce pupil-to-teacher ratios, commonly known as the Class-Size Reduction Program (CSR). 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*). 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. By the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-2011, Nevada will have expended approximately \$1.83 billion for the direct costs of funding the CSR Program, excluding any local capital expenditures or other local costs.

Implementation of the CSR Program in the State of Nevada

The program was scheduled for implementation in several phases. The first step reduced the ratios in selected kindergartens and first grade for School Year (SY) 1990-1991. The next phase was designed to improve second grade ratios, followed by third grade reductions and broadening kindergarten assistance. The 1991 Legislature made funds available for SY 1991-1992 to reduce the ratios in first and second grades and selected kindergartens to the 16-to-1 ratio. Due to budget shortfalls late in 1991 and the continuing State fiscal needs, the third grade phase was delayed until FY 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. Until the 2005 Legislative Session, only the primary grades (K through 3) had been addressed.

Flexibility in the Pupil-to-Teacher Ratios

Based upon a pilot program in Elko County, the 2005 Legislature enacted Senate Bill 460 (Chapter 457, *Statutes of Nevada*) [NRS 388.720], which provides flexibility in implementing pupil-to-teacher ratios in grades 1 through 6 for school districts other than Clark and Washoe. Pupil-to-teacher ratios are 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. During SY 2005-2006, the Churchill, Douglas, Elko, and White Pine County School Districts were approved to carry out an alternative CSR program. Since then, the Churchill, Douglas, Elko, and Nye County School Districts have continued the alternative program.

Chapter 6

In addition to the flexibility provided to certain school districts to implement alternative pupil-to-teacher ratios in grades 1 through 6, the Legislature has authorized all school districts, subject to the approval of the State's Superintendent of Public Instruction, to operate alternative programs for reducing the ratio of pupils per teacher or to implement programs of remedial education that have been found to be effective in improving pupil achievement in grades 1, 2, and 3.

Temporary Revisions to the CSR Program (26th Special Session of the Nevada Legislature (2010))

During the 26th Special Session of the Nevada Legislature, which convened on February 23, 2010, to address the State's ongoing fiscal crisis, the Legislature passed A.B. 4 (Chapter 7, *Statutes of Nevada 2010*) which *temporarily* revises provisions governing class-size reduction to allow school districts flexibility in addressing budget shortfalls as follows:

- For SY 2010-2011, this measure authorizes a school district to increase class sizes in grades 1, 2, and 3 by no more than two pupils per teacher in each grade, to achieve pupil-to-teacher ratios of up to 18 to 1 in grades 1 and 2 and up to 21 to 1 in grade 3.
- If a school district elects to increase class sizes in this manner, all money that would have otherwise been expended by the school district to achieve the lower class sizes in grades 1 through 3 must be used to minimize the impact of budget reductions on class sizes in grades 4 through 12.
- For reporting purposes, school districts that elect to increase class sizes in grades 1 through 3 will be required to report the pupil-teacher ratios achieved for each grade level from grade 1 through grade 12.

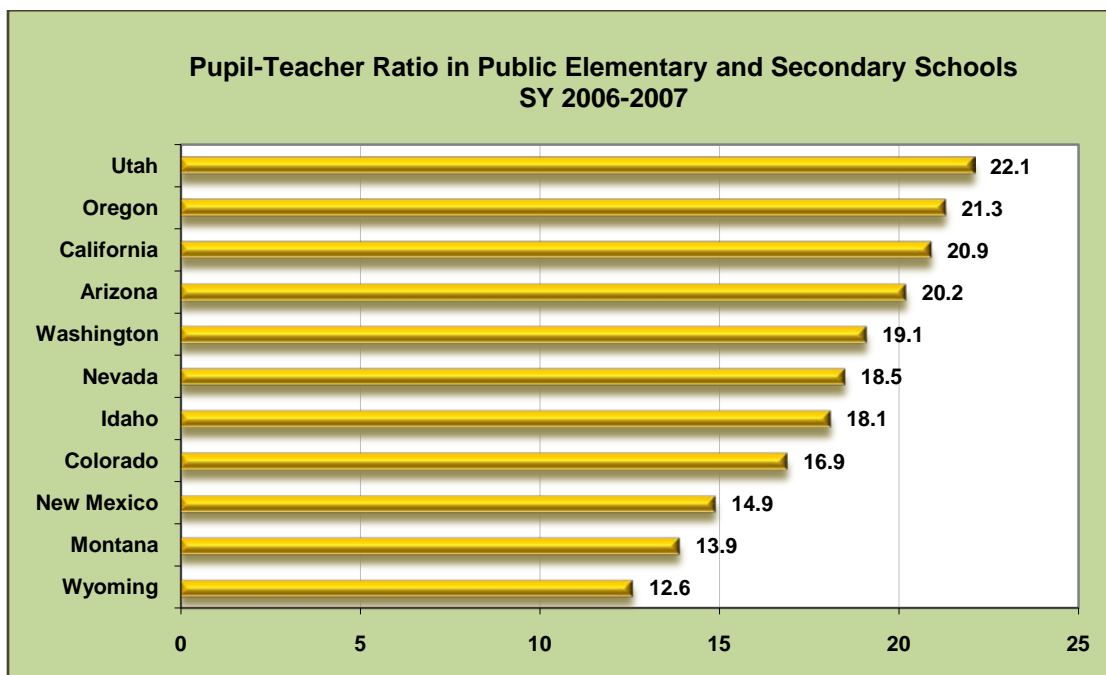
This legislation is effective on March 10, 2010, and expires by limitation on June 30, 2011.



**The average Ph.D. Thesis is nothing but a transference of bones
from one graveyard to another.**

James Frank Dobie

CSR: Pupil-to-Teacher Ratio



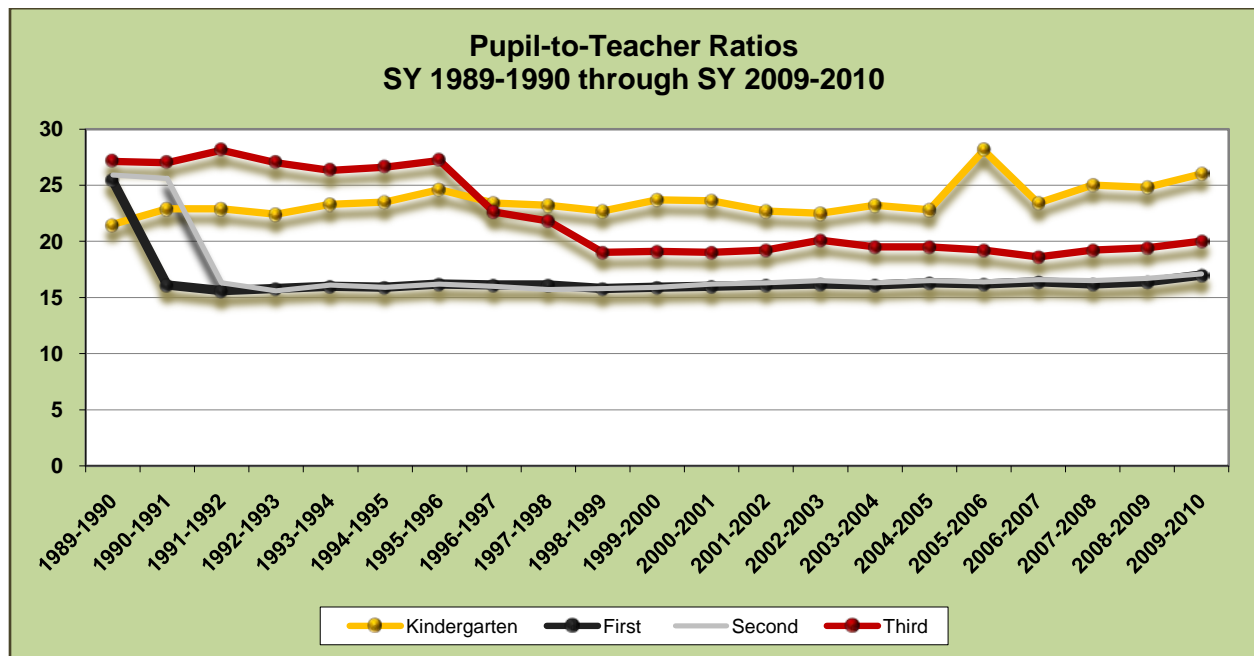
**Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools
SY 2006-2007**

	Ratio	Rank
National Average	15.5	
Wyoming	12.6	6
Montana	13.9	19
New Mexico	14.9	28
Colorado	16.9	41
Idaho	18.1	44
Nevada	18.5	45
Washington	19.1	46
Arizona	20.2	47
California	20.9	48
Oregon	21.3	49
Utah	22.1	50

Source: *State Rankings 2009-2010*, CQ Press, 2010.

CSR—Pupil-to-Teacher Ratios Grades K through 3

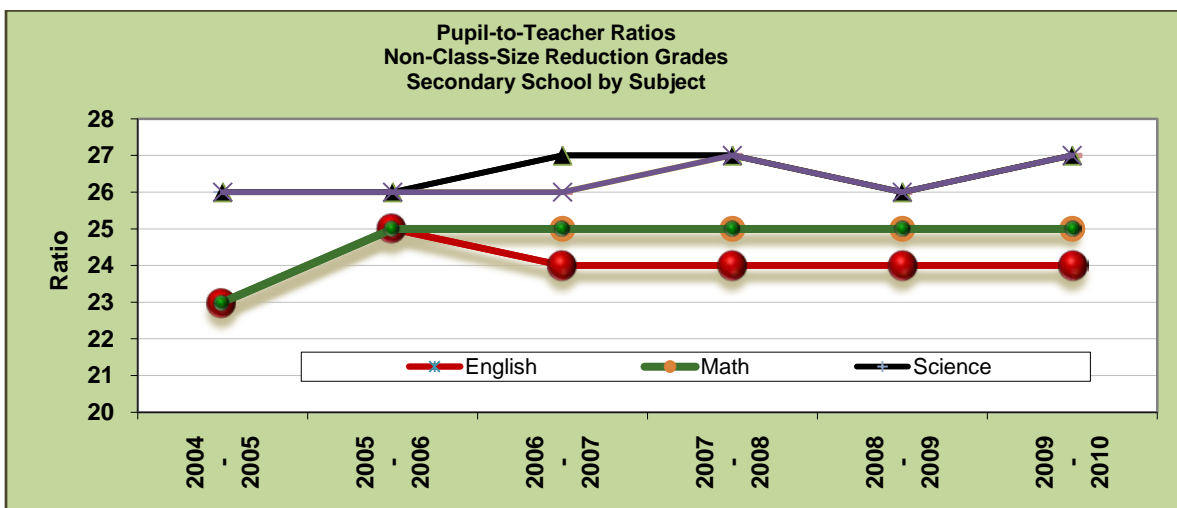
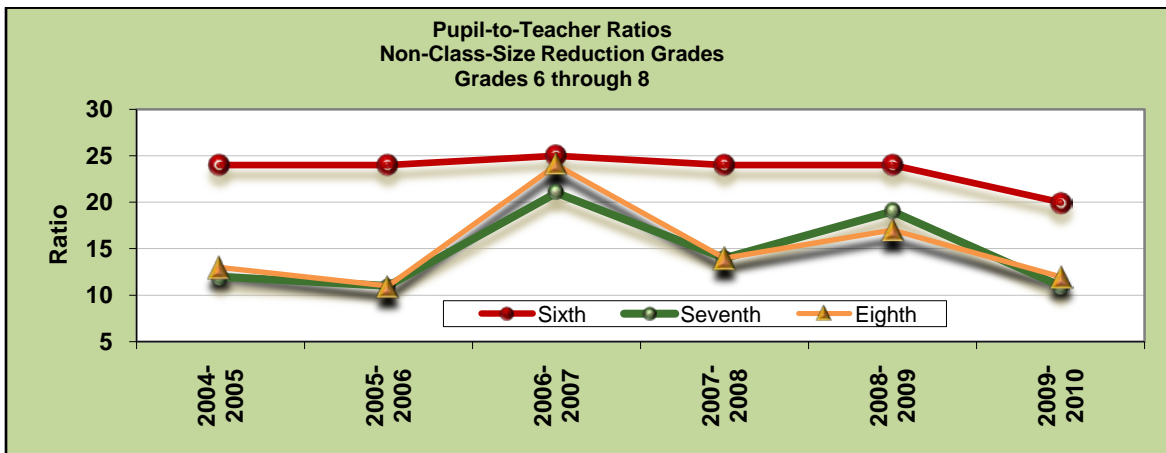
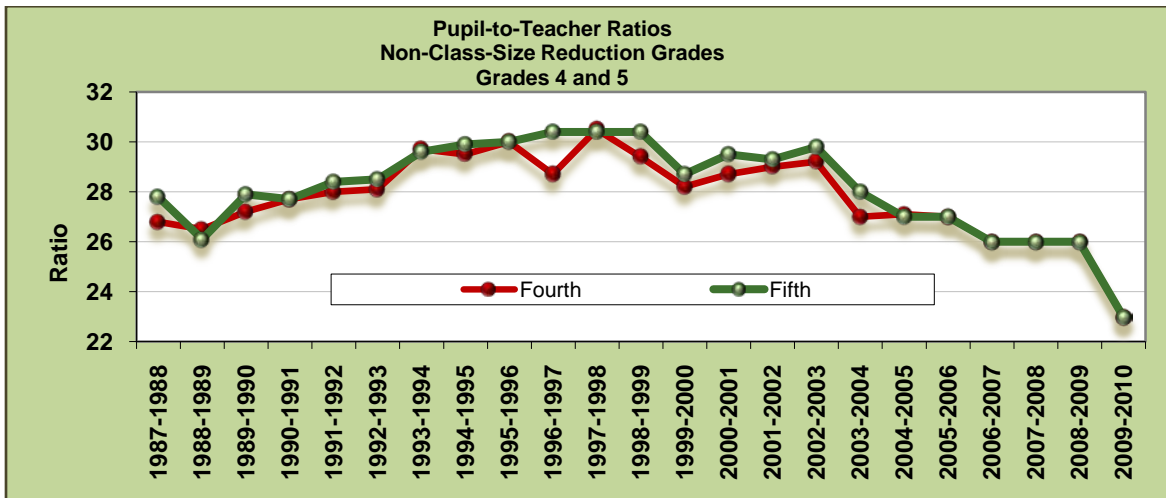
	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
1989-1990	21.5	25.4	25.9	27.1
1990-1991	22.9	16.1	25.6	27
1991-1992	22.9	15.6	16.3	28.1
1992-1993	22.4	15.8	15.6	27
1993-1994	23.3	16	16.1	26.3
1994-1995	23.5	15.9	15.9	26.6
1995-1996	24.6	16.2	16.2	27.2
1996-1997	23.4	16.1	16	22.6
1997-1998	23.2	16.1	15.7	21.8
1998-1999	22.7	15.8	15.8	19
1999-2000	23.7	15.9	15.9	19.1
2000-2001	23.6	16	16.2	19
2001-2002	22.7	16.1	16.3	19.2
2002-2003	22.5	16.2	16.5	20.1
2003-2004	23.2	16.1	16.3	19.5
2004-2005	22.8	16.3	16.5	19.5
2005-2006	28.1	16.2	16.4	19.2
2006-2007	23.4	16.4	16.6	18.6
2007-2008	25.0	16.2	16.5	19.2
2008-2009	24.8	16.4	16.7	19.4
2009-2010	26.0	17.0	17.1	20.0



Source: Department of Education (DOE), *Class-Size Reduction Report, 2009-2010*.

Note: Figures do not include those school districts that have adopted an alternate CSR program.

Non-CSR—Pupil-to-Teacher Ratios Grades 4 through 12



Source: DOE, Nevada Report Card Database: State Profile, 2010.

Alternative CSR—Pupil-to-Teacher Ratios Grades 1 through 6

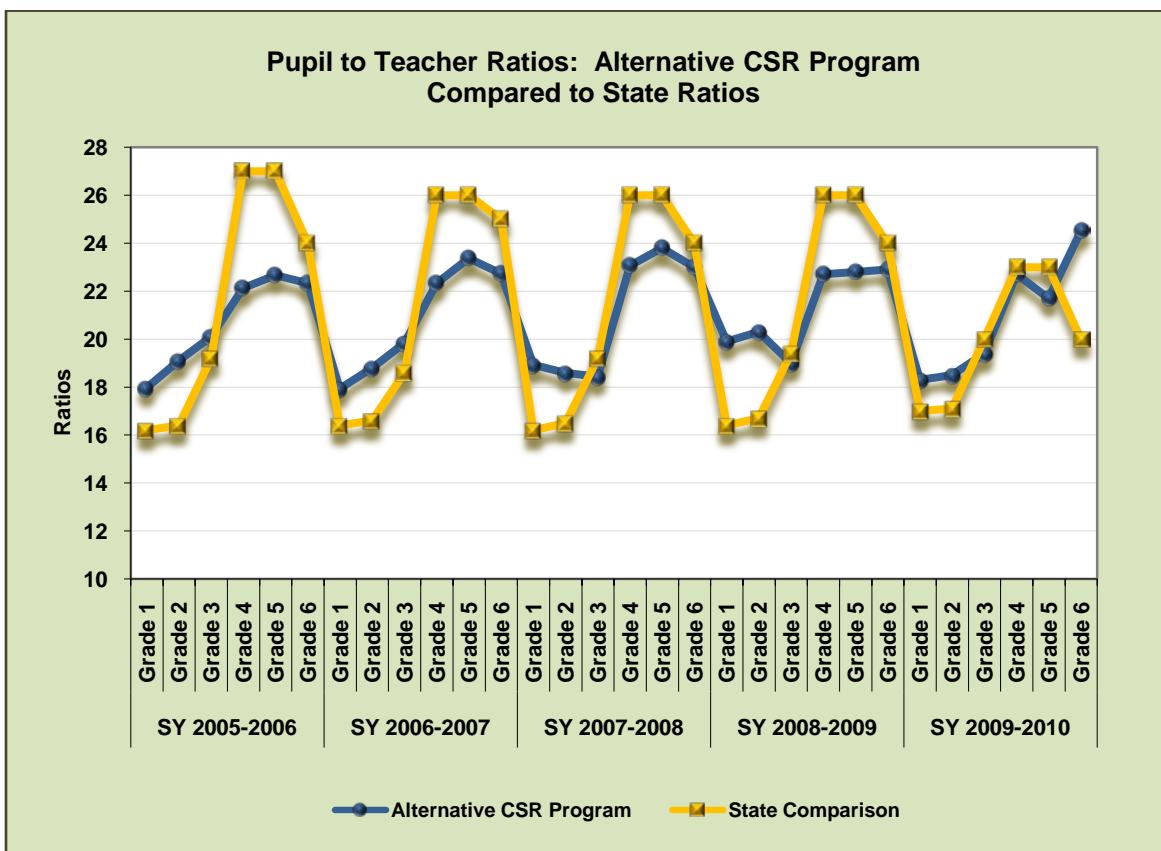
		Alternative CSR Program*	State Comparison**
SY 2005-2006	Grade 1	18.0	16.2
	Grade 2	19.1	16.4
	Grade 3	20.1	19.2
	Grade 4	22.1	27.0
	Grade 5	22.7	27.0
	Grade 6	22.3	24.0
SY 2006-2007	Grade 1	17.9	16.4
	Grade 2	18.8	16.6
	Grade 3	19.8	18.6
	Grade 4	22.3	26.0
	Grade 5	23.4	26.0
	Grade 6	22.7	25.0
SY 2007-2008	Grade 1	18.9	16.2
	Grade 2	18.6	16.5
	Grade 3	18.4	19.2
	Grade 4	23.1	26.0
	Grade 5	23.8	26.0
	Grade 6	23.0	24.0
SY 2008-2009	Grade 1	19.9	16.4
	Grade 2	20.3	16.7
	Grade 3	19.0	19.4
	Grade 4	22.7	26.0
	Grade 5	22.8	26.0
	Grade 6	22.9	24.0
SY 2009-2010	Grade 1	18.3	17.0
	Grade 2	18.5	17.1
	Grade 3	19.4	20.0
	Grade 4	22.7	23.0
	Grade 5	21.7	23.0
	Grade 6	24.5	20.0

*Alternative CSR Program: Average pupil-to-teacher ratios for the Churchill, Douglas, and Elko County School Districts. Pupil-to-teacher ratios may be up to 22:1 in grades 1 to 3 and 25:1 in grades 4 to 6.


**Statewide pupil-to-teacher ratios for CSR grades 1 through 3 and non-CSR grades 4 through 6.

Sources: DOE, *Class-Size Reduction Report, 2009-2010*, and *Nevada Report Card Database: State Profile, 2010*.

Alternative CSR—Pupil-to-Teacher Ratios Grades 1 through 6 (*continued*)



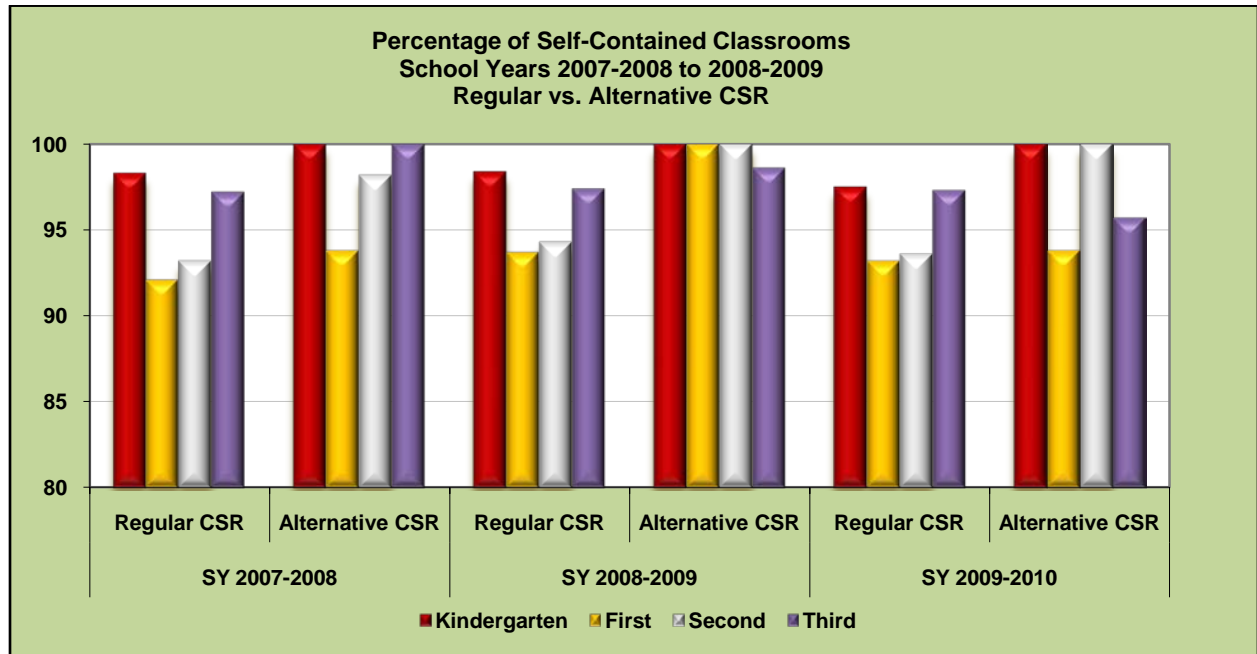
Sources: DOE, *Class-Size Reduction Report, 2009-2010*, and *Nevada Report Card Database: State Profile, 2010*.



Some men are graduated from college *cum laude*, some are graduated *summa cum laude*, and some are graduated *mirabile dictu*.

William Howard Taft

CSR—Self-Contained Classrooms



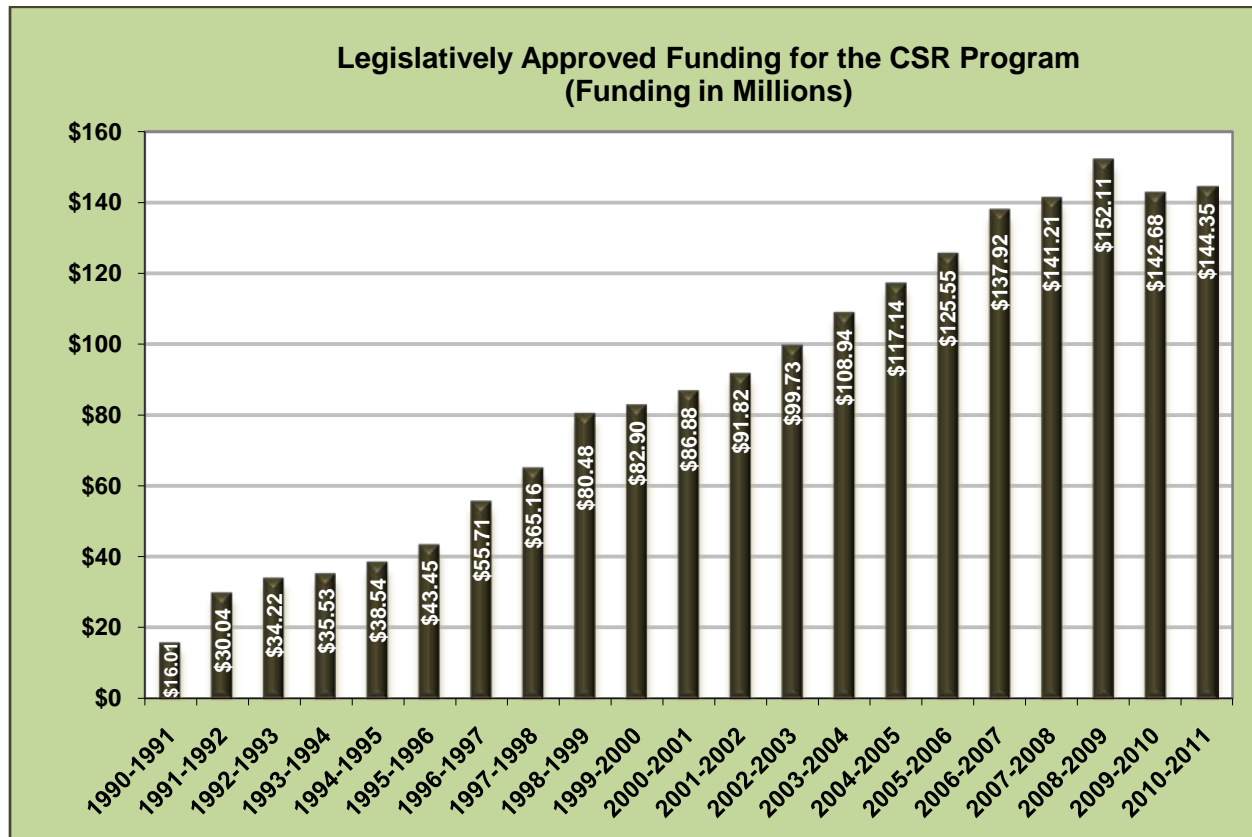
Percentage of Self-Contained Classrooms: Regular vs. Alternative CSR SY 2005-2006 to SY 2007-2008						
	SY 2007-2008		SY 2008-2009		SY 2009-2010	
	<u>Regular CSR</u>	Alternative CSR	<u>Regular CSR</u>	Alternative CSR	<u>Regular CSR</u>	Alternative CSR
Kindergarten	98.3	100	98.4	100	97.5	100
Grade 1	92.1	93.8	93.7	100	93.2	93.8
Grade 2	93.2	98.2	94.3	100	93.6	100
Grade 3	97.2	100	97.4	98.6	97.3	98.9

Source: DOE, *Class-Size Reduction Report, 2009-2010*.

Note: Self-Contained Classrooms are those where one teacher instructs students in a classroom.

CSR—Funding

By the end of FY 2010-2011, Nevada will have expended approximately \$1.83 billion for the direct costs of funding the CSR Program, excluding any local capital expenditures or other local costs.



Source: Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau. *Nevada Legislative Appropriations Report, 75th Legislature, FY 2009-2010 and FY 2010-2011.*



Spoon feeding in the long run teaches us nothing but the shape of the spoon.

Edward M. Forster

