



# 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 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. By the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-2009, Nevada will have expended approximately \$1.55 billion for the direct costs of funding the CSR Program, excluding any local capital expenditures or other local costs.

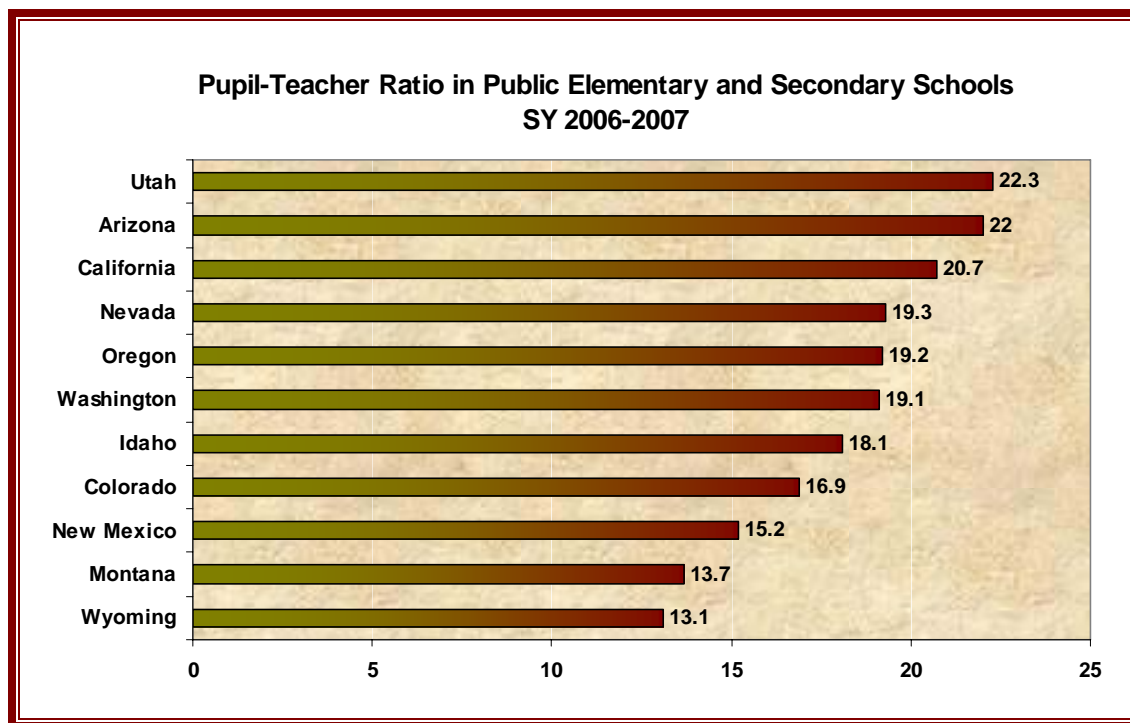
The program was scheduled for implementation in several phases. The first step reduced the ratios in selected kindergartens and first grade for School Year (SY) 1990-1991. The next phase was designed to improve second grade ratios, followed by third grade reductions and broadening kindergarten assistance. 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.

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

Since the 1999 Legislative Session, the Legislature has authorized 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.

## CSR: Pupil-to-Teacher Ratio

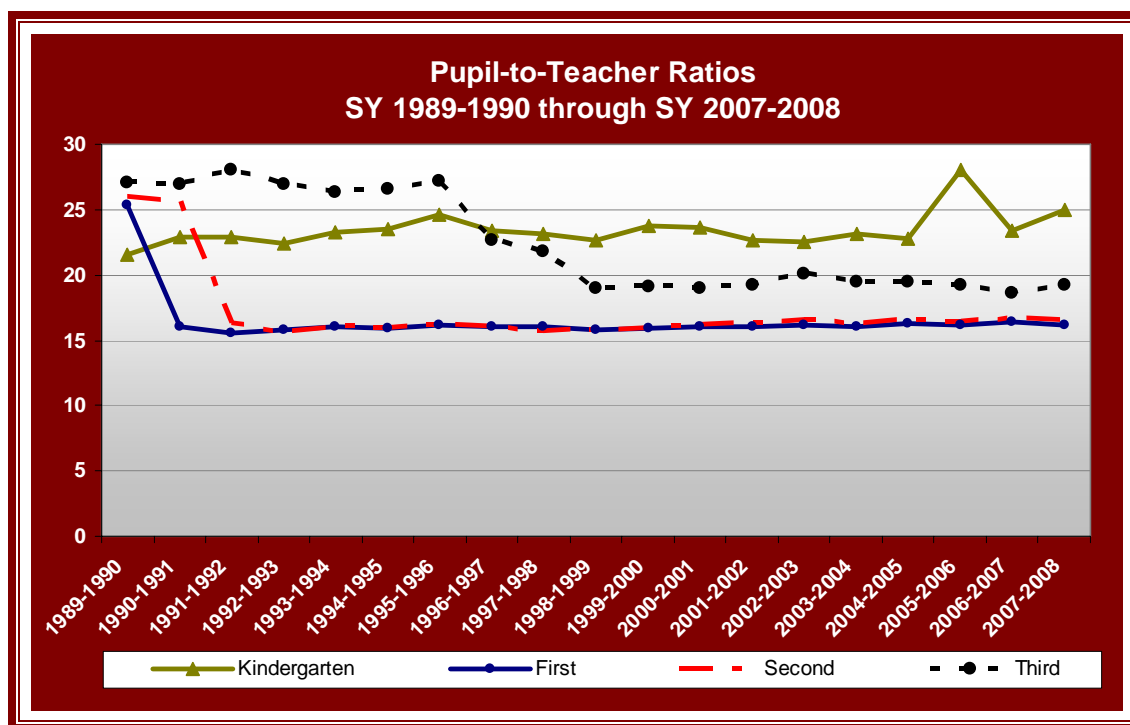


Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools: SY 2006-2007		
	Ratio	Rank
<b>National Average</b>	<b>15.4</b>	
Wyoming	13.1	8
Montana	13.7	17
New Mexico	15.2	31
Colorado	16.9	42
Idaho	18.1	44
Washington	19.1	45
Oregon	19.2	46
<b>Nevada</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>47</b>
California	20.7	48
Arizona	22	49
Utah	22.3	50

**Source:** *State Rankings 2008*, CQ Press, 2008.

## 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
<b>1990-1991</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>27</b>
1991-1992	22.9	15.6	16.3	28.1
<b>1992-1993</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>27</b>
1993-1994	23.3	16	16.1	26.3
<b>1994-1995</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>26.6</b>
1995-1996	24.6	16.2	16.2	27.2
<b>1996-1997</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22.6</b>
1997-1998	23.2	16.1	15.7	21.8
<b>1998-1999</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>19</b>
1999-2000	23.7	15.9	15.9	19.1
<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>19</b>
2001-2002	22.7	16.1	16.3	19.2
<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>20.1</b>
2003-2004	23.2	16.1	16.3	19.5
<b>2004-2005</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>19.5</b>
2005-2006	28.1	16.2	16.4	19.2
<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
2007-2008	25	16.2	16.5	19.2

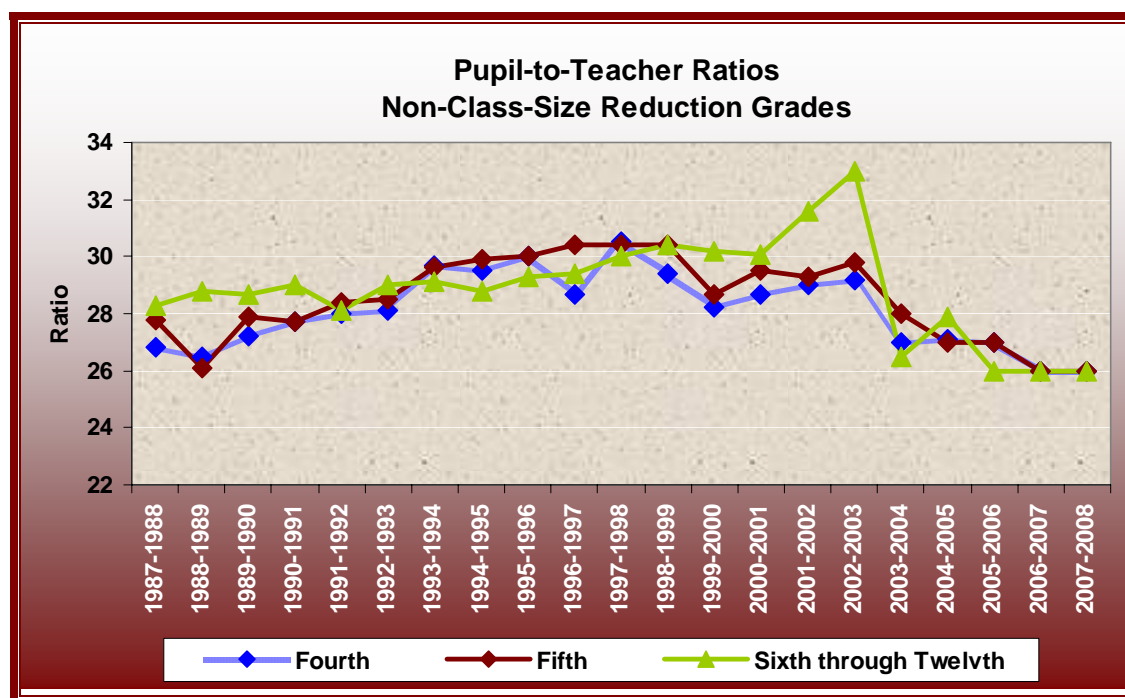


**Source:** Nevada's Department of Education, *Class-Size Reduction Report, 2007-2008*.

**Note:** Figures do not include those school districts that have adopted an alternate class-size reduction program.

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

	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6-12
1989-1990	27	28	29
<b>1990-1991</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
1991-1992	28	28	28
<b>1992-1993</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>
1993-1994	30	30	29
<b>1994-1995</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>
1995-1996	30	30	29
<b>1996-1997</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>
1997-1998	31	30	30
<b>1998-1999</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
1999-2000	28	29	30
<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
2001-2002	29	29	32
<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>33</b>
2003-2004	27	28	27
<b>2004-2005</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
2005-2006	27	27	26
<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>
2007-2008	26	26	26



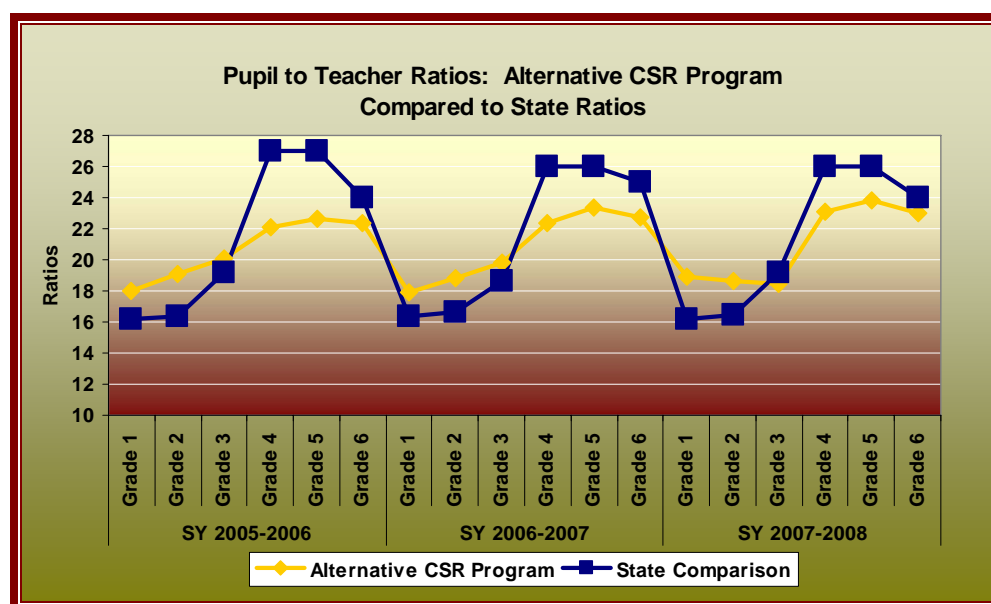
**Source:** Nevada's Department of Education, *Nevada Report Card Database: State Profile*, 2008.

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

		Alternative CSR Program*	State Comparison**
SY 2005-2006	Grade 1	18	16.2
	Grade 2	19.1	16.4
	Grade 3	20.1	19.2
	Grade 4	22.1	27
	Grade 5	22.7	27
	Grade 6	22.3	24
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
	Grade 5	23.4	26
	Grade 6	22.7	25
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
	Grade 5	23.8	26
	Grade 6	23	24

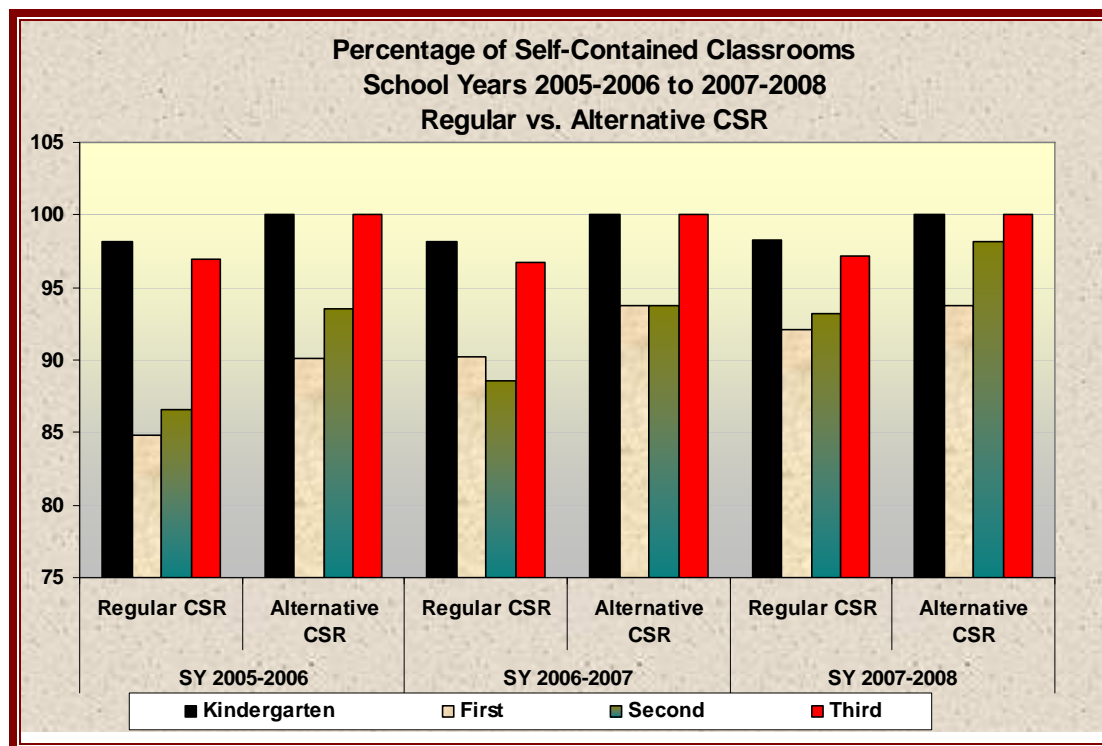
\*Alternative CSR Program: Average pupil-to-teacher ratios for Churchill, Douglas, and Elko County School Districts. Pupil-to-teacher ratios may be up to 22:1 in grades 1 to 3 and 25:1 in grades 4 to 6.

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



**Sources:** Nevada's Department of Education, *Class-Size Reduction Report, 2007-2008*, and *Nevada Report Card Database: State Profile, 2008*.

## CSR—Self-Contained Classrooms



Percentage of Self-Contained Classrooms: Regular vs. Alternative CSR School Year 2005-2006 to School Year 2007-2008						
	SY 2005-2006		SY 2006-2007		SY 2007-2008	
	Regular CSR	Alternative CSR	Regular CSR	Alternative CSR	Regular CSR	Alternative CSR
Kindergarten	98.2	100	98.2	100	98.3	100
Grade 1	84.8	90.1	90.2	93.8	92.1	93.8
Grade 2	86.6	93.5	88.6	93.8	93.2	98.2
Grade 3	96.9	100	96.7	100	97.2	100

**Source:** Nevada's Department of Education, *Class-Size Reduction Report, 2007-2008*.

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

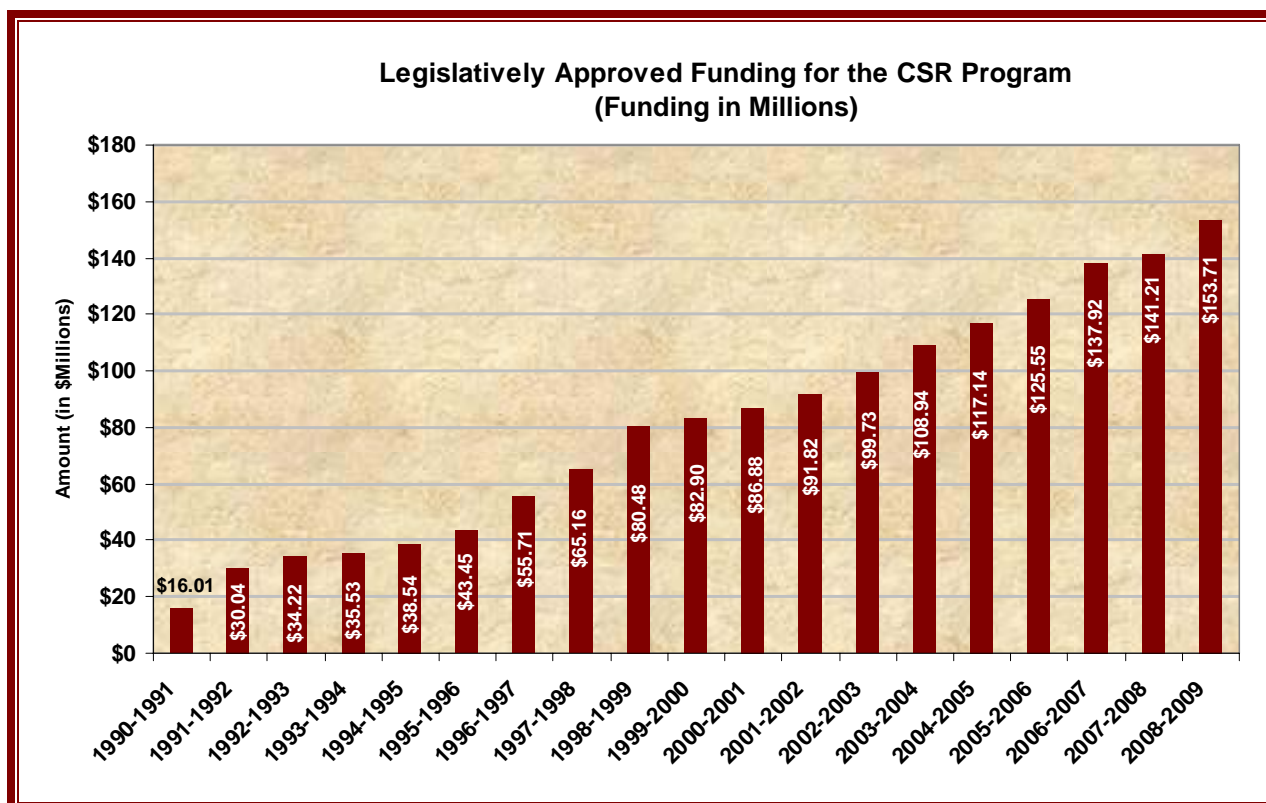


**“I like to watch movies during school, but especially after school in a theater.”**

Nevada Ninth Grade Student

## CSR—Funding

By the end of FY 2008-2009, Nevada will have expended approximately \$1.55 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, 74th Legislature, FY 2007-2008.*



**“I want to be an interior designer. I am good at it  
and I have a lot of ideas.”**

Nevada Eighth Grade Student

