

# STATE OF NEW YORK

10615

## IN SENATE

June 1, 2026

Introduced by Sen. LIU -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to contracts for excellence in a city school district in a city having a population of one million or more inhabitants

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subparagraph (i) and clauses (A) and (B) of subparagraph  
2 (ii) of paragraph b of subdivision 2 of section 211-d of the education  
3 law, subparagraph (i) as amended by section 2 of part A of chapter 57 of  
4 the laws of 2008, clause (A) of subparagraph (ii) as amended by chapter  
5 86 of the laws of 2023, and clause (B) of subparagraph (ii) as amended  
6 by chapter 556 of the laws of 2022, are amended to read as follows:

7 (i) The contract shall specify the new or expanded programs for which  
8 additional amounts of such total foundation aid[~~7~~] or grant shall be  
9 used and shall affirm that such programs shall predominately benefit  
10 students with the greatest educational needs including, but not limited  
11 to, those students with limited English proficiency, students in poverty  
12 and students with disabilities.

13 (A) In a city school district in a city having a population of one  
14 million or more inhabitants such contract shall also include a plan,  
15 which shall be developed in collaboration with the collective bargaining  
16 units representing teachers and the principals beginning in September  
17 two thousand twenty-two and signed off on by the chancellor and the  
18 presidents of each bargaining unit, to reduce actual class sizes, begin-  
19 ning September two thousand twenty-three and to be achieved by September  
20 two thousand [~~twenty-eight~~] thirty for all classes, with the exception  
21 of physical education and performing groups, as follows: (1) kindergar-  
22 ten-third grade to have no more than twenty students per class; (2)  
23 fourth-eighth grade to have no more than twenty-three students per  
24 class; and (3) high school to have no more than twenty-five students per  
25 class. Physical education and performing groups shall have no more than  
26 forty students per class at all levels. [~~Each year~~] For each of the  
27 first three years of the plan, an additional twenty percent of the

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 classrooms in the city school district, excluding special education  
2 classes, shall be in compliance with the class size targets, and for  
3 each of the following four years, an additional ten percent of the  
4 classrooms in the city school district, excluding special education  
5 classes, shall be in compliance with the class size targets such that  
6 the city school district is in full compliance by two thousand [~~twenty-~~  
7 ~~eight~~] thirty and all classes should maintain the target class size. The  
8 class size reduction plan shall prioritize schools serving populations  
9 with higher poverty levels.

10 (B) The class size reduction plan shall include any exemptions to the  
11 class size targets. These exemptions shall be limited to: (1) space; (2)  
12 over-enrolled students; (3) license area shortages; and (4) severe  
13 economic distress. Any such exemptions shall be approved by the chancel-  
14 lor and the presidents of the collective bargaining units representing  
15 the teachers and the principals as part of the class size reduction  
16 plan. Should the chancellor and the presidents of the collective  
17 bargaining units representing the teachers and the principals be unable  
18 to reach agreement on the exemptions after thirty days, the issue shall  
19 be determined by an arbitrator. In addition, any exemption based on  
20 available space shall include a reference to the capital budget to  
21 demonstrate that the budget is aligned with resolving the exemption  
22 status. Exempted classes, for the years in which they are exempt, and  
23 special education classes shall not count toward the [~~twenty-percent~~]  
24 applicable target percentage.

25 § 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.