

APPENDIX

CLASS SIZE BY TYPE OF CLASS STRUCTURE

TABLE A.1 Average Kentucky Class Size, Number of Observations, and 5% Confidence Intervals by Class Type, 2003-04					
Class Type	Class Type Description	Average KY Class Size	n	Lower CI	Upper CI
Departmentalized Instruction	Teacher instructs several classes of different students most or all of the day in one or more subjects.	24.10	8	18.53	29.66
Elementary Enrichment Class	Teacher teaches only one subject in elementary school (such as art, music, physical education, or computer skills).	37.28	26	28.93	45.63
Self-Contained Class	Teacher instructs the same group of students all or most of the day in multiple subjects.	21.16	85	20.17	22.14
Team Teaching	Teacher is one of two or more teachers, in the same class, at the same time, and are jointly responsible for teaching a single group of students.	19.13	6	13.98	24.27
"Pull-Out" Class	Teacher instructs selected students released from their regular classes in specific skills or to address specific needs (such as, gifted and talented, special education, reading, English as a Second Language).	13.64	22	6.07	21.20
Total	All Class Types	23.30	147	20.84	25.77

Source: KLTPRC analysis of Schools and Staffing Survey

The Schools and Staffing Survey provides an extensive dataset at the teacher level on a variety of education topics. It is a random sample survey, therefore many different types of teachers are surveyed that don't necessarily represent the "typical" class type that one envisions when discussing class size. For example, "pull out" classes include students with special needs that aren't representative of the average student. This matters when discussing policy implications of average class size, as most policies are aimed at ensuring that the "typical" class size for the average student is small. However, "pull-out" classes, in particular, tend to be even smaller than the recommended small class size due to the special needs of the students served in that class structure. In addition, elementary enrichment classes are not the typical classes that concern most parents and educators. These classes include music and physical education, in which some schools may actually comingle smaller classes into one large class for one hour during the day, a few times per week, to save on resources.

Table A.1 shows the different types of classes that the teachers surveyed teach and the breakdown of average class size. Unfortunately, at this level of breakdown, the sample sizes become too small to make any substantial statistical analysis, but this table indicates the distribution of the data that comprise the class size average for all class types for grades K-3. The bulk of the observations are for the "traditional" class type or the "self-contained" class in which students stay throughout the day with the same teacher who teaches multiple subjects. Although the point estimates for the remaining types are not statistically significant at the 5 percent level, they indicate that on average, departmentalized instructional classes and elementary enrichment classes tend to be larger than the typical class and that team teaching and "pull-out" classes tend to be smaller.