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MEMORANDUM

TO: Felicia Ortiz, President
Nevada State Board of Education

FROM: Heidi Haartz, Deputy Superintendent for Student Investment

DATE: October 30, 2022

SUBJECT: Report to the State Board of Education: Programs for Class Size Reduction in Fiscal Year 2023

Introduction

Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 388.700 outlines requirements intended for the reduction of student to teacher ratios for kindergarten through third grade through the development of annual Class Size Reduction (CSR) plans developed at the district level, and various quarterly, annual, and biennial reporting requirements; charter schools are excluded from these requirements. NRS 388.720 requires that school districts, together with the recognized associations representing licensed educational personnel, to develop a plan to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio within the limits of available financial support and submit that plan to the State Board. The Nevada Department of Education provided the template for this report on June 14, 2022, with an ultimate submission deadline of August 15, 2022.

The fiscal year 2023 (FY23) Annual CSR Report was completed by school districts to include identification of their class size reduction plan, their projected district-level class size ratios by grade, their anticipated number of variances by grade, narrative related to the district plan to reduce class size ratios, and certification of the plan by both the superintendent of the district and the relevant education association. The district plan included two prompts: the first, to describe the district's goals to meet class size ratios to include timelines and plans for progress monitoring; and the second, the anticipated use of funds through the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan or state/federal grant funds to support class size reduction.

On a quarterly basis, school districts are required to report the average daily enrollment of pupils and the number of licensed teachers designated to teach on a full-time basis in classes where core curriculum is taught, broken down by school, grade level, and classroom configuration. Per NRS 388.700, only licensed personnel teaching core curriculum classes may be counted for the class size ratio calculation; teachers of art, music, physical education, special education, librarians, and specialists may not be included for calculation purposes.

Each school that exceeds their target pupil-teacher ratio must request a variance for the next quarter of the school year, which the Nevada State Board of Education may approve for good cause. Good cause may include, but is not limited to, facility limitations, difficulty hiring, or funding limitations. Each variance must include the justification for the variance and a plan of action specific to that school to reduce the class size ratio, per

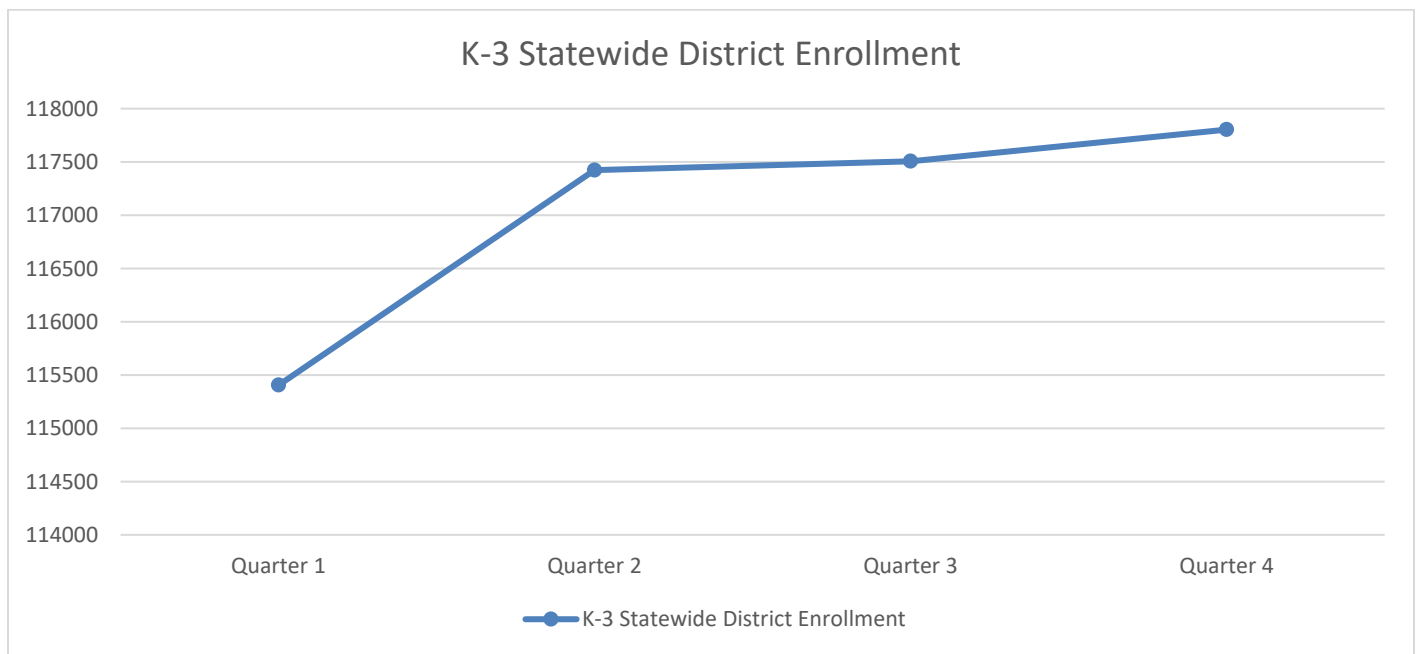
Assembly Bill 204 (2019).

Class size ratios under the regular and alternative plan are as follows:

Regular Plan			
<i>As prescribed in NRS 388.700(1)</i>			
Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
16:1	16:1	16:1	18:1
Alternative Plan			
<i>As prescribed in NRS 388.720(2)</i>			
<i>Available for counties with populations less than 100,000</i>			
<i>Fifth-sixth grades within elementary schools only</i>			
Kindergarten	First-Third Grades	Fourth Grade	Fifth-Sixth Grades
16:1	22:1	25:1	25:1

Enrollment

According to the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) average daily enrollment (ADE) reports, enrollment across all grades statewide increased from 472,680 students in Q1 to 474,790 students in Q4. Approximately 30% of this enrollment is for grades kindergarten through third. Of the K-3 enrollment across the state, 85% of that enrollment is in district schools, with 15% in charter schools. The below graph charts the growth in each quarter for K-3 district enrollment.



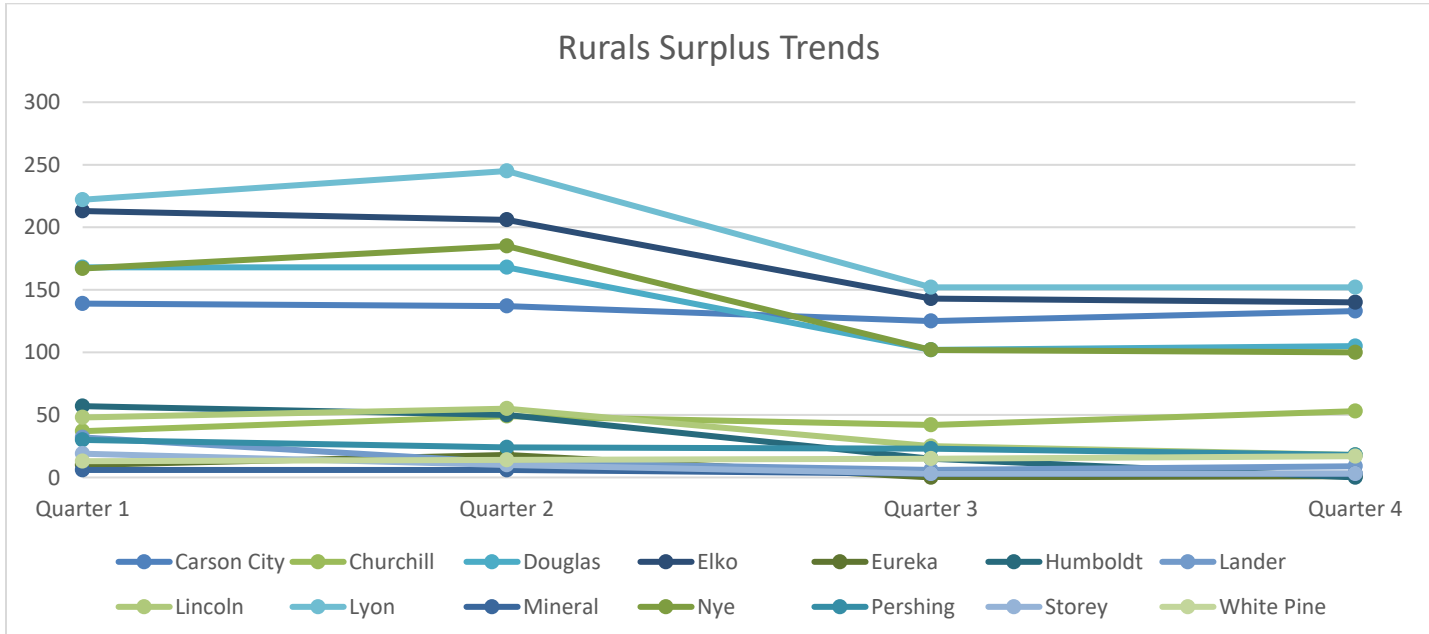
Districts on alternative plans also submit enrollment and educator counts for grades 4-6, however, only if those grades are within an elementary school. Because this data is not statewide, nor inclusive of all grades 4-6 within a given district, the averages are **not** meaningful reflections of ratios or the barriers to target ratios across the state. For context, 23% of statewide enrollment is for grades 4-6, approximately 108,045 students. Of the 4-6 enrollment across the state, district enrollment again makes up 85%, with 15% in charter schools. Of the 91,371 students enrolled in district schools in Q4, only 6,375 were reported for class size reduction purposes, only 7% of district enrollment and 6% of statewide enrollment.

Students and Class Sizes

Assembly Bill 266 (2021) introduced a new reporting requirement for districts in that board of trustees must determine and report the number of job vacancies in their district based on the number of licensed teachers needed to achieve the recommended ratios of pupils per licensed teacher. Long-term substitutes, while eligible

for class size reduction reporting, may not be counted for AB 266 reporting. Throughout FY22 reporting, NDE provided a count of “CSR Ratio Surplus” for each district. These numbers represented, by school and grade, the approximate number of students that would be without a classroom if the recommended class size ratio was treated as a cap. Reporting a kindergarten ratio of 21:1 in a school did not contextualize the circumstance for the grade, school, or district. A ratio of 21:1 indicates five students over the ratio; however, it matters whether there are two kindergarten classrooms in the school (a total of ten students exceeding the ratio) or ten classrooms, leaving 50 students – easily three additional classrooms in a single school – over the recommended ratio. These numbers were ultimately reported in aggregate in the quarterly report and were an undervaluation of the students impacted by class size ratios. Because the numbers were reported in aggregate, if there were 10 kindergarteners in elementary school Y, but elementary school X had room to take three kindergarteners, only 7 kindergarteners were reported in excess of the ratio. While this methodology may be possible for some districts under a variance system, swapping students across schools is not a feasible strategy. The numbers reported throughout the FY22 quarterly reports are the most conservative estimate of students impacted by class size ratios, given aggregate calculations and the permissibility of long-term substitutes to qualify under the student to teacher ratio.

Based on this data, the below chart demonstrates class size reduction efforts successfully implemented by rural districts. While the enrollment trends on page two clearly identify an increase in enrollment in quarters two through four, the majority of districts were able to reduce their total number of students impacted by class size ratios by quarter four. Lyon CSD moved from a floor of 245 students impacted in Quarter 2 to 152 in Quarter 4, despite a K-6 enrollment growth from 4,615 students in Q2 to 4,663 students in Q4. In total, Lyon CSD found classrooms within target ratios for 141 students between Q2 and Q4.

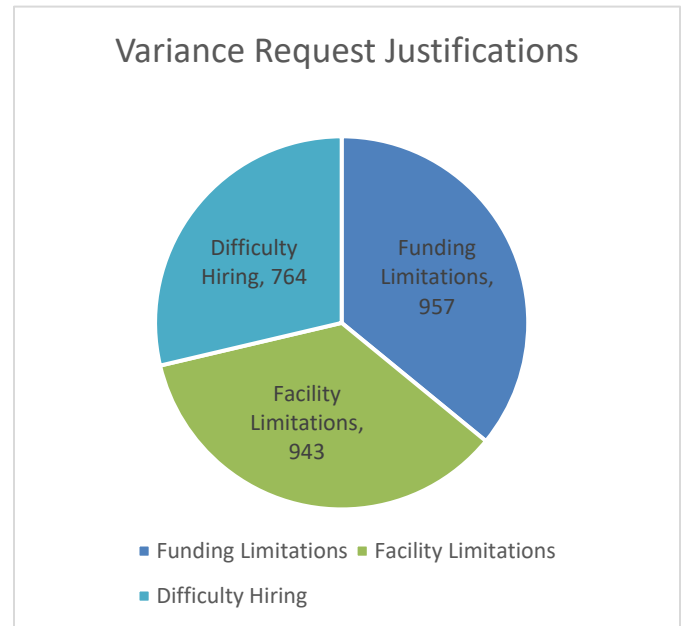


Many districts experienced similar gains, despite reporting funding limitations, and more specifically, consistent issues with facility limitations – notably, no rooms to hold classes and no funds to expand school buildings – and recruitment and retention efforts, whether that meant funds to pay teachers or larger struggles with the educator pipeline and teacher shortage.

While district accomplishments should be highlighted, it is crucial to highlight that in FY22 there were an average of 19,216 students impacted by class sizes. This is equivalent to K-12 enrollment for Carson City, Churchill, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Mineral, Pershing, Storey, and White Pine combined.

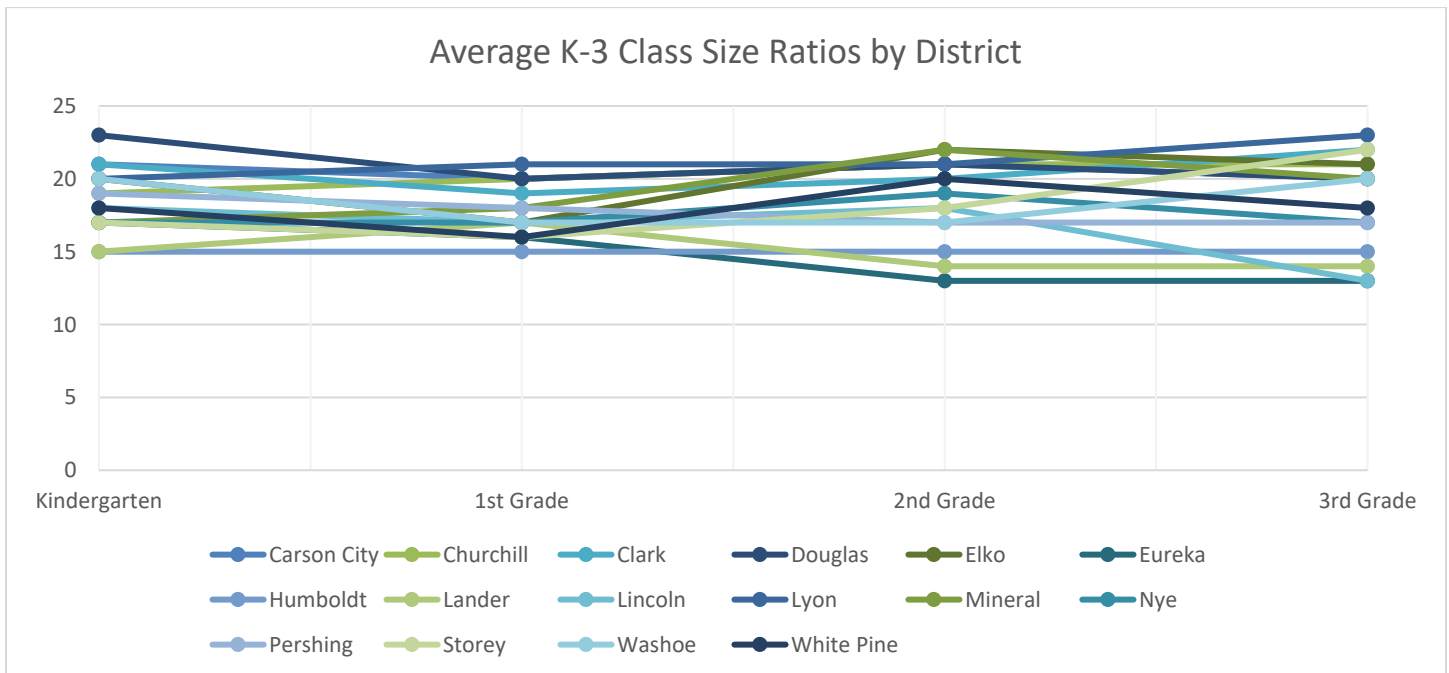
Variance Requests

Statewide, kindergarten and fourth grade were the only grades with consistent growth in variance requests; all other grades saw variance decreases following Q2. Districts may report one or more reasons for their variance request including: facility limitations, difficulty hiring, funding limitations, or other. 99% of all variance requests cited funding limitations, most often describing insufficient funds to build classrooms, hire competitively, and/or generally expand programs, linking closely with cited issues of difficulty hiring and facility limitations. 97% of variance requests cited difficulty hiring, reflective of the increase in teacher shortages due to retirement, attrition, and decreases in recruitment and retention. 81% of variance justification cited facility limitations, which typically reflect a lack of space to provide physical classrooms. The single case of “other cause” cited unexpected enrollment growth. Each variance may select multiple causes for the variance, and for many all three are selected. The chart indicates the average number of variances across all four quarters that cited a given cause.



Class Size Ratios

The below chart illustrates the average FY22 class size ratios for each grade within each district, barring Esmeralda, as their ratios are outside the mean. It is clear that first grade has the greatest consistency across the state, with a range of six: Humboldt with a ratio of 15:1 and Lyon with a ratio of 21:1. However, third grade has a range of ten, with Eureka and Lincoln having a third-grade ratio of 13:1 and Lyon with 23:1. Second grade has a range of nine, with Eureka at 13:1 and Mineral at 22:1. Kindergarten – the only grade represented with the same target ratio for all districts of 16:1, has a range of eight, with Lander and Humboldt at 15:1 and Douglas at 23:1.



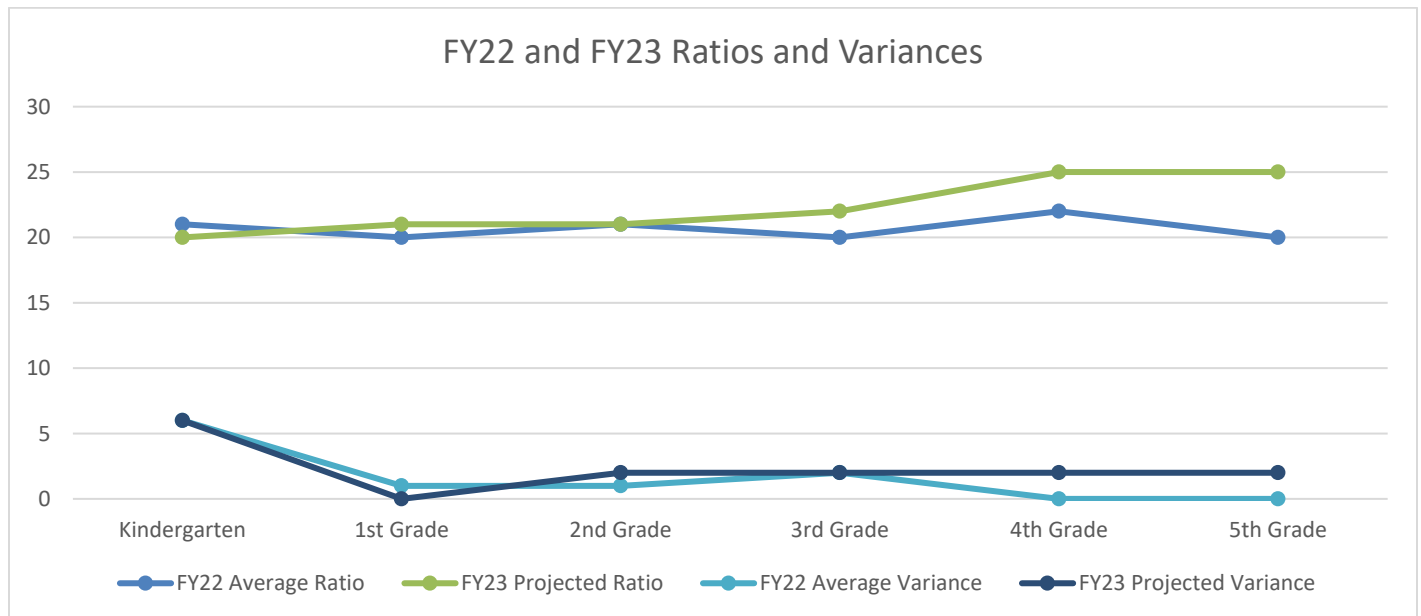
The statewide calculations for average class size ratios are difficult to assess, as differing target ratios, population densities, and reporting schools within the data set create distinct contexts that may not be encapsulated in a single number. Since districts are required to report for all K-3 classrooms, average statewide

class size ratios were calculated for grades Kindergarten through third using a weighted average based on the representative district’s population per the quarterly average daily enrollment report. This number has been averaged again across each quarter to determine an estimate for the 2022-23 school year average class size ratio, rounded to whole numbers.

Weighted Statewide Average Class Ratios			
K	1	2	3
21	19	19	21

Carson City School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Carson City School District (Carson City SD) applied for an alternative calendar beginning August 15, 2022 and ending June 1, 2023. Throughout FY22, Carson City SD had an average student enrollment of 7,303, making them eligible to apply for an alternative class size reduction program for FY23.



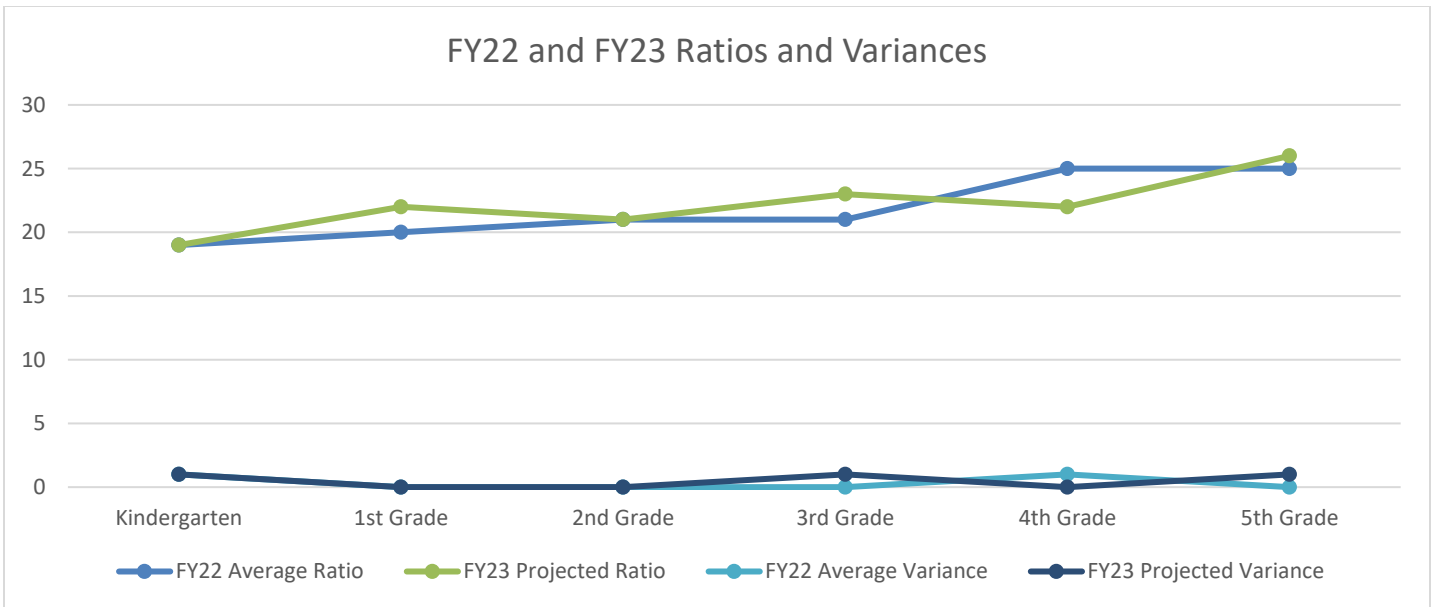
In general, Carson City SD projects growth in grades 3-5, while remaining stable in K-2 ratios and variances, including continued variance requests for Kindergarten in every elementary school in the district, with an average ratio of 20:1. On average, Carson City SD had approximately 134 students – primarily Kindergarteners – that would not have a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio. This is more than 8 classrooms, that as cited in their variance justifications, Carson City SD does not have the facilities to provide or the educators to staff.

Carson City SD has six elementary schools that teach Kindergarten through 5th grade; all have a star rating of 3, 4, or 5. On average, there is a 70% free-and-reduced price lunch population, and approximately 13% of students are English learners. On average, outside of Kindergarten, only two schools consistently request variances.

In their CSR Application, Carson City SD reported their plan to hire enough teachers to accommodate projected enrollments and meet class size ratios. However, they cited funding limitations that impact the ability to accommodate enrollment growth, including current hold harmless provisions, and continued difficulty in filling elementary school positions. Specifically, if a grade is only slightly above the class size ratio, hiring a new teacher is often difficult to justify.

Churchill County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Churchill County School District (Churchill CSD) applied for an alternative calendar beginning August 15, 2022 and ending May 26, 2023. Throughout FY22, Churchill CSD had an average student enrollment of 3,250, making them eligible to apply for an alternative class size reduction program for FY23.



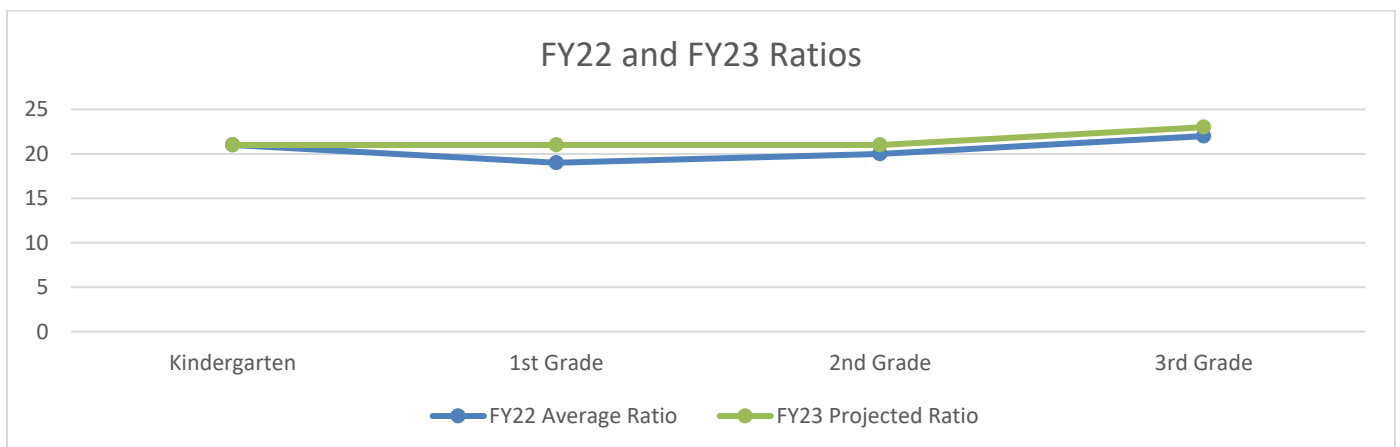
Churchill CSD projects growth in first, third, and fifth grade ratios, remaining stable in Kindergarten and second while dropping significantly in fourth. Their projected variances remain stable in Kindergarten, first, and second, increasing in third and fifth. On average, Churchill CSD had 45 students – primarily Kindergarteners – that would not have a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio, equating to nearly three classrooms. Due to the nature of Churchill’s infrastructure, all of these Kindergarteners and their corresponding classroom needs are in the same elementary school. Churchill CSD cited facilities limitations and difficulty hiring throughout FY22.

Churchill CSD has three elementary schools; each school teaches two grades (K-1, 2-3, and 4-5). These schools are 100% FRL, and have an approximate 17% enrollment of English learners. These elementary schools do not have star ratings.

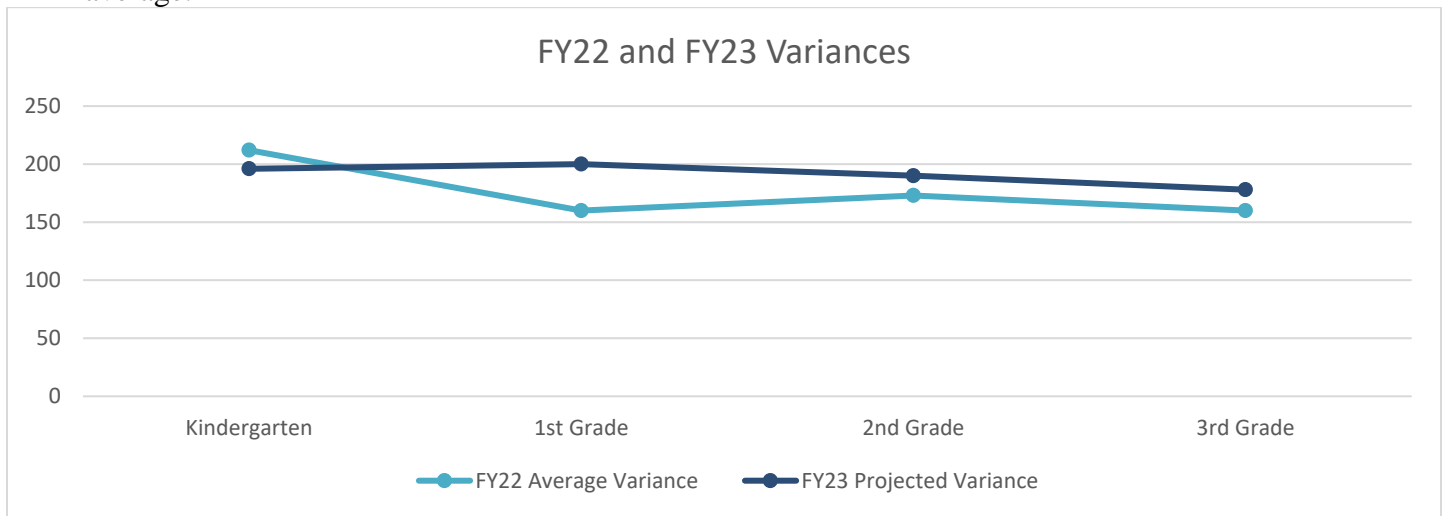
Churchill CSD reported continued efforts through grant applications and funding plans to hire additional educators and reduce class size ratios. However, they struggle with recruitment and retention. Churchill CSD monitors the effects of their class sizes through Nevada Report Card data and their NWEA MAP assessments.

Clark County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Clark County School District (CCSD) applied for a traditional calendar beginning August 8, 2022 and ending May 23, 2023. Throughout FY22, CCSD had an average student enrollment of 301,827, requiring them to apply for a regular class size reduction program for FY23.



In general, CCSD projects stable ratios for Kindergarten, with a sizeable jump in first grade ratios from a FY22 average of 19:1 to a projected ratio in FY23 of 21:1, and some growth in second and third grades. The projected variances copy this expected growth, barring Kindergarten variances which have a projected decrease from the FY22 average.



On average, CCSD had 16,279 K-3 students that would not have a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio. This is approximately 809 K-2 classrooms at a ratio of 16:1, and 210 3rd grade classrooms at a ratio of 18:1 for a total of 1,019 classrooms. Pursuant to their variance justifications, CCSD struggles with teacher recruitment and retention, adequate funding, and facility limitations.

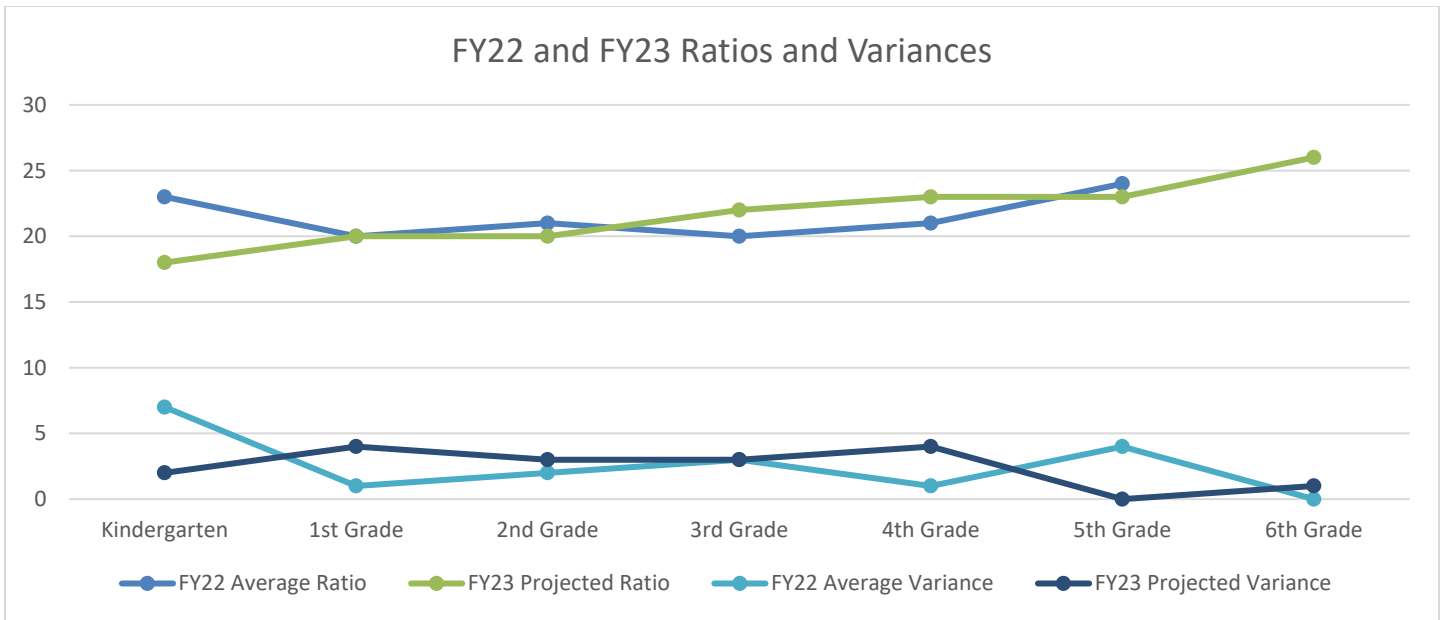
CCSD has 232 elementary schools that teach K-3. On average, CCSD has a 99% FRL rate, with 12% of its K-3 population having English learner designation. 117 of those schools has a one- or two-star rating, approximately half of all CCSD elementary schools. On average, 97% of these schools request at least one variance.

For CCSD, schools complete an analysis of each school’s projected staffing plan in February; funding allocations are then designed with CSR ratios in mind. If additional funding is needed, schools may submit a strategic budget additional funding request form. In August, schools receive their actual student enrollment, with schools submitting final plans with staffing, budgets, and a final analysis of each school’s projected staffing plan in September for final adjustments to allocations. In January, a complete CSR analysis is completed to determine what schools and grades need additional units to maintain class size requirements. At any time, a school may request additional funding via a strategic budget additional funding request form.

In FY22, CCSD maintained funding for CSR comparable to FY21 through the base per-pupil allocation under the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP). Federal Title I appropriations supported approximately 120 teachers, while At-Risk and English learner weighted appropriations under the PCFP supported another 120 teachers split evenly across each category. In FY23, CCSD anticipates continuing this level of support for CSR, with the addition of funding from the Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant. However, CCSD noted that they remain unable to meet target CSR ratios due to limited resources: CCSD would need approximately \$90 million to hire 1,000 additional teachers and further funding to expand infrastructure and build corresponding classrooms.

Douglas County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Douglas County School District (Douglas CSD) applied for an alternative calendar beginning August 22, 2022 and ending June 15, 2023. Throughout FY22, Douglas CSD had an average student enrollment of 5,281, making them eligible to apply for an alternative class size reduction program for FY23.



Douglas CSD projects growth in third, fourth, and sixth grade ratios, while anticipating a significant drop in Kindergarten ratios from 23:1 to 18:1, whilst remaining stable with a 20:1 ratio in first grade. However, they do anticipate an increase in first and fourth grade variance requests. On average, Douglas CSD had 136 students – primarily Kindergarteners and fifth graders– that would not have a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio. This equates to approximately six Kindergarten classrooms and at least one upper-grade elementary classroom. Douglas CSD cited funding limitations for all variances throughout FY22. Douglas CSD has eight elementary schools that teach grades K-5. On average, Douglas CSD has a 14% enrollment rate of English learners at these schools, and a 35% rate for FRL. Each of these schools have a 3- or 4-star rating.

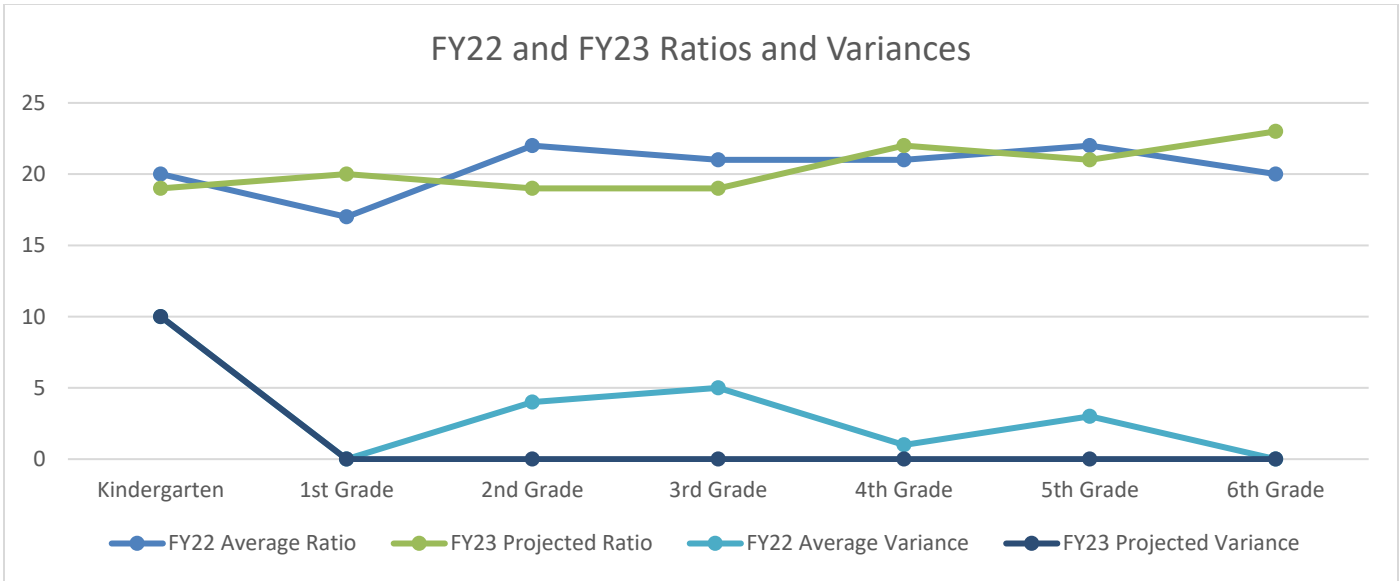
Douglas CSD reported that they prioritize staffing in their lowest performing schools before progressing through schools with increased performance. Douglas is also working to reduce the need for variances and multi-grade classrooms when fiscally feasible. Additional efforts include a minimum part-time assistant principal and learning strategists assigned to all elementary schools; a full-time assistant principal and reading teachers at each Title I school; 4.5-hour kindergarten paraeducators in all kindergarten classrooms; and the continuation of art, music, and physical education specials at all elementary schools.

Elko County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Elko County School District (Elko CSD) applied for both an alternative calendar and a traditional calendar for various schools beginning August 29, 2022 and ending June 9, 2023. Throughout FY22, Elko CSD had an average student enrollment of 9,641, making them eligible to apply for an alternative class size reduction program for FY23.

Elko CSD projects growth in first, fourth, and sixth grade ratios, with significant decreases in second and third and a minor decrease in kindergarten. Their projected variances remain stable in kindergarten but are flat for first through sixth. Elko CSD noted that projected variances were based on the number of open teaching positions yet to be filled at the time of submission (33 vacant positions). On average, Elko CSD had 176 students – primarily Kindergarteners and third graders– that would not have a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio, equating to approximately eight kindergarten classrooms and two higher-level elementary classrooms. Elko CSD cited facilities limitation, difficulty hiring, and funding limitation throughout FY22.

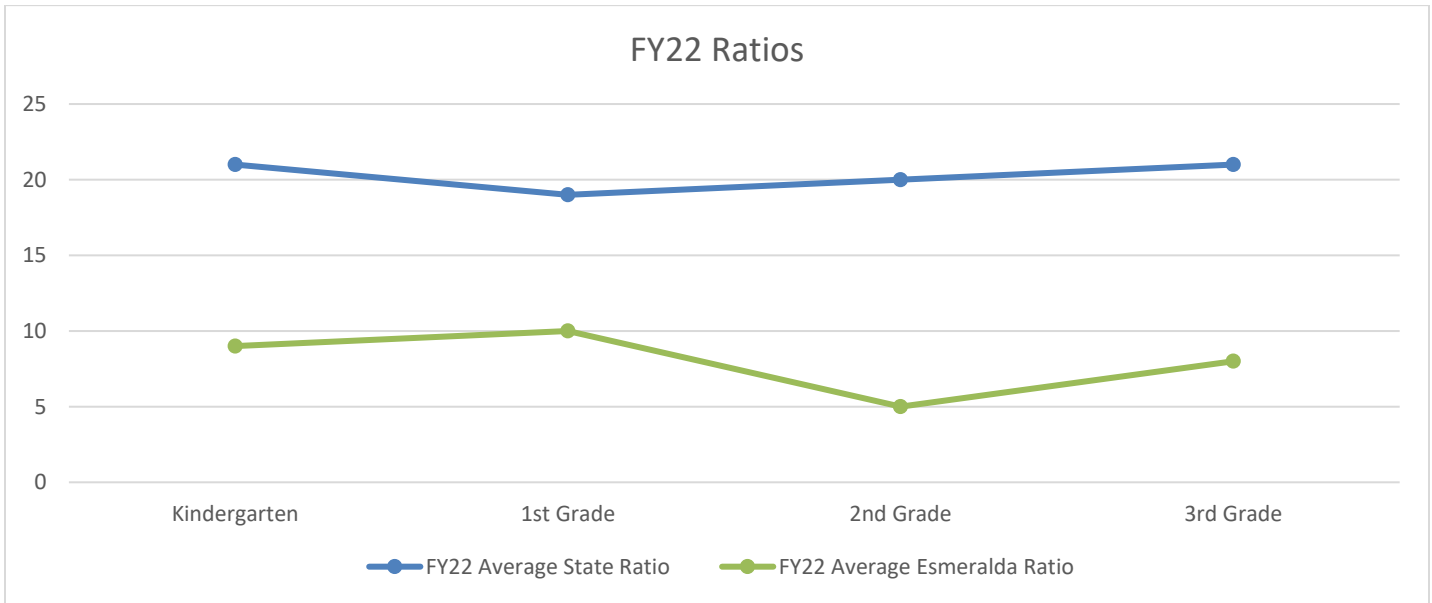
Elko CSD has twelve elementary schools: four are K-6, four that are K-5, and four that are K-4. Approximately half of all students are FRL-eligible, and Elko CSD has a 9% enrollment rate for English learners. Six of these elementary schools have a 1- or 2-star rating.



Elko CSD reported various efforts to meet CSR ratios, including recruitment efforts at educator career fairs in Utah, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana and revised policies related to alternative route to licensure (ARL) candidates, as well as methodologies to account for ratios, including monitoring students attending non-attendance zone schools and the use of enrollment to project teaching allocations.

Esmeralda County School District

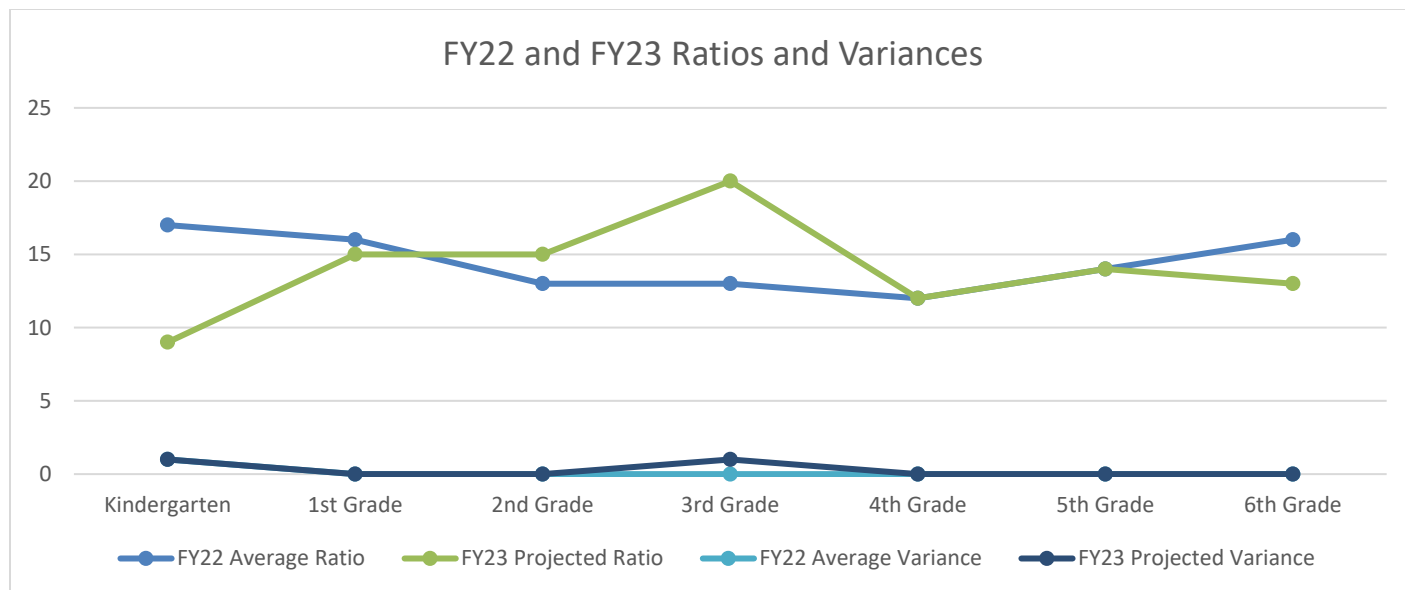
For the 2022-23 school year, Esmeralda County School District (Esmeralda CSD) applied for an alternative calendar beginning August 15, 2022 and ending May 24, 2023. Throughout FY22, Esmeralda CSD had an average student enrollment of 81 students. While Esmeralda CSD is eligible for an alternative class size reduction program, Esmeralda has historically opted into the regular CSR program due to their low enrollment and ratios.



Esmeralda CSD has three elementary schools: two K-3 and one K-6. These schools are 100% FRL, and have an approximate 5% enrollment of English learners. While Dyer Elementary is a 1-star school, the remaining elementary schools are not rated. Esmeralda CSD submitted documentation citing no need to reduce class size ratios or variances for the district.

Eureka County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Eureka County School District (Eureka CSD) applied for an alternative calendar beginning August 29, 2022 and ending June 8, 2023. Throughout FY22, Eureka CSD had an average student enrollment of 330, making them eligible to apply for an alternative class size reduction program for FY23.



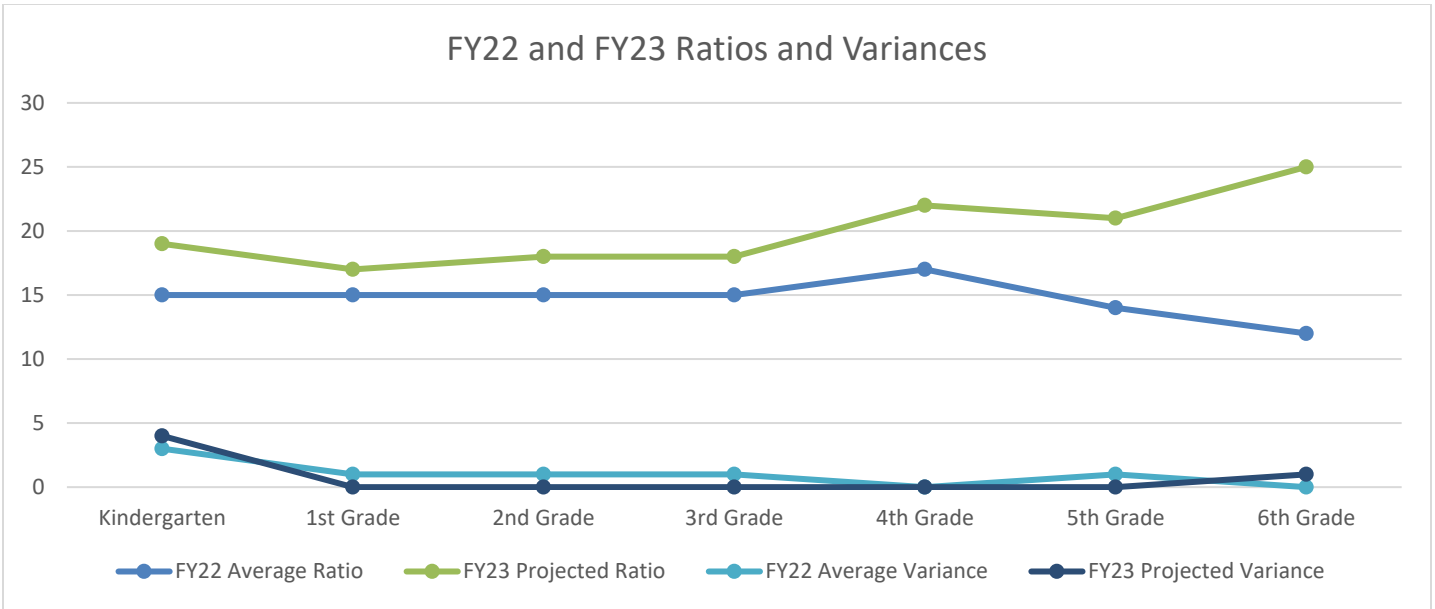
Eureka CSD projects significant growth in third grade, a drop in kindergarten, and minimal adjustments in first, second, and sixth. Similarly, they expect the need for a third-grade variance and continued variances for kindergarten. On average, Eureka CSD had only 7 students that would not have had a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio. Eureka CSD cited unexpected enrollment growth for their variance justifications throughout FY22. Eureka CSD has two K-6 elementary schools with 2- and 3-star ratings respectively, averaging a rate of 25% FRL and 17% English learners. Eureka CSD reported that they would continue to monitor enrollment to determine staffing allocations, but did not anticipate the need to subsidize CSR efforts with targeted funding.

Humboldt County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Humboldt County School District (Humboldt CSD) applied for an alternative calendar beginning August 22, 2022 and ending June 8, 2023. Throughout FY22, Humboldt CSD had an average student enrollment of 3,246, making them eligible to apply for an alternative class size reduction program for FY23.

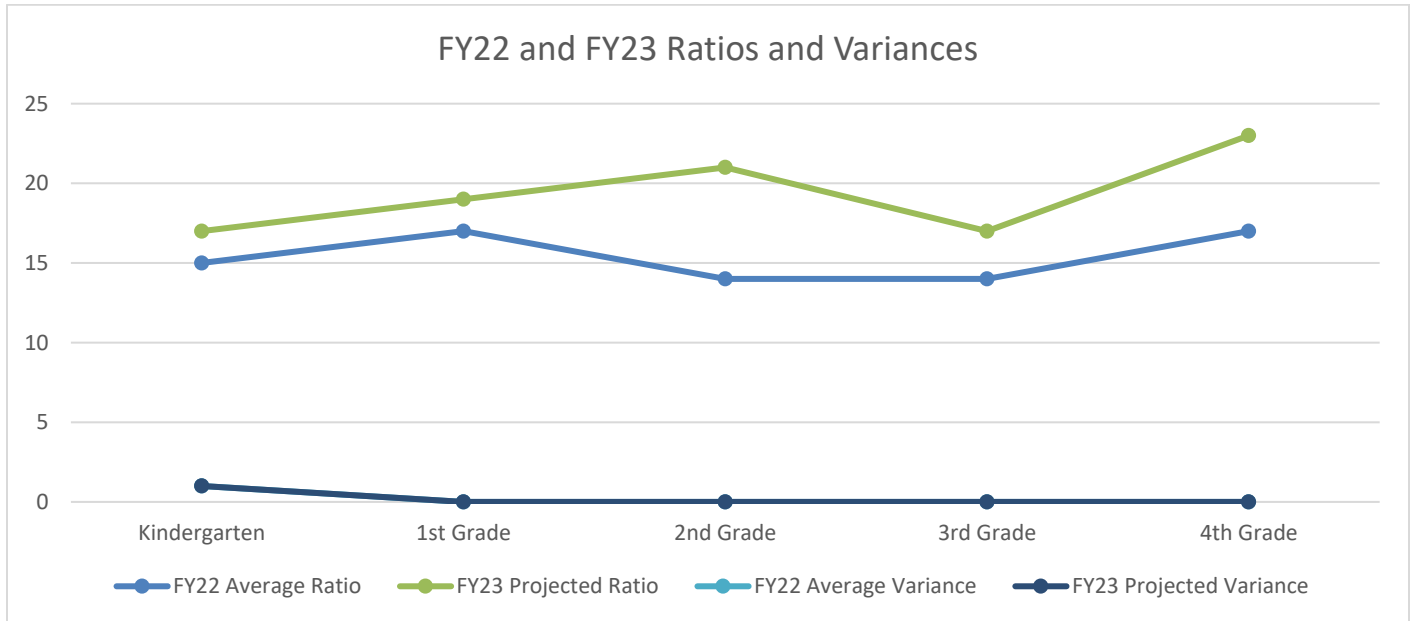
Humboldt CSD projects growth across all grades, with a significant increase in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. However, variances are expected to remain relatively stable. On average, Humboldt CSD had 30 students across all grades that would not have a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio. Humboldt CSD cited funding limitations throughout FY22. Humboldt CSD has eight elementary schools: five K-6 and three K-3. These schools have an average FRL rate of 83% with approximately 18% of students designated English learners. Two schools are rated 1- or 2-stars, and two schools are not rated.

Humboldt CSD reported continued efforts for all classes, apart from kindergarten, to reach under target CSR ratios; more specifically their goal is for classes to be staffed with high-quality and fully licensed personnel, with a targeted focus on low-performing schools. However, Humboldt is struggling with recruitment and retention efforts. Humboldt CSD further cited significant financial limitations due to hold harmless provisions and inflation. They indicated that barring further investment in education, the district may be unable to fund educators to reach CSR ratios in forthcoming school years.



Lander County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Lander County School District (Lander CSD) applied for an alternative calendar beginning August 24, 2022 and ending June 6, 2023. Throughout FY22, Lander CSD had an average student enrollment of 988, making them eligible to apply for an alternative class size reduction program for FY23.

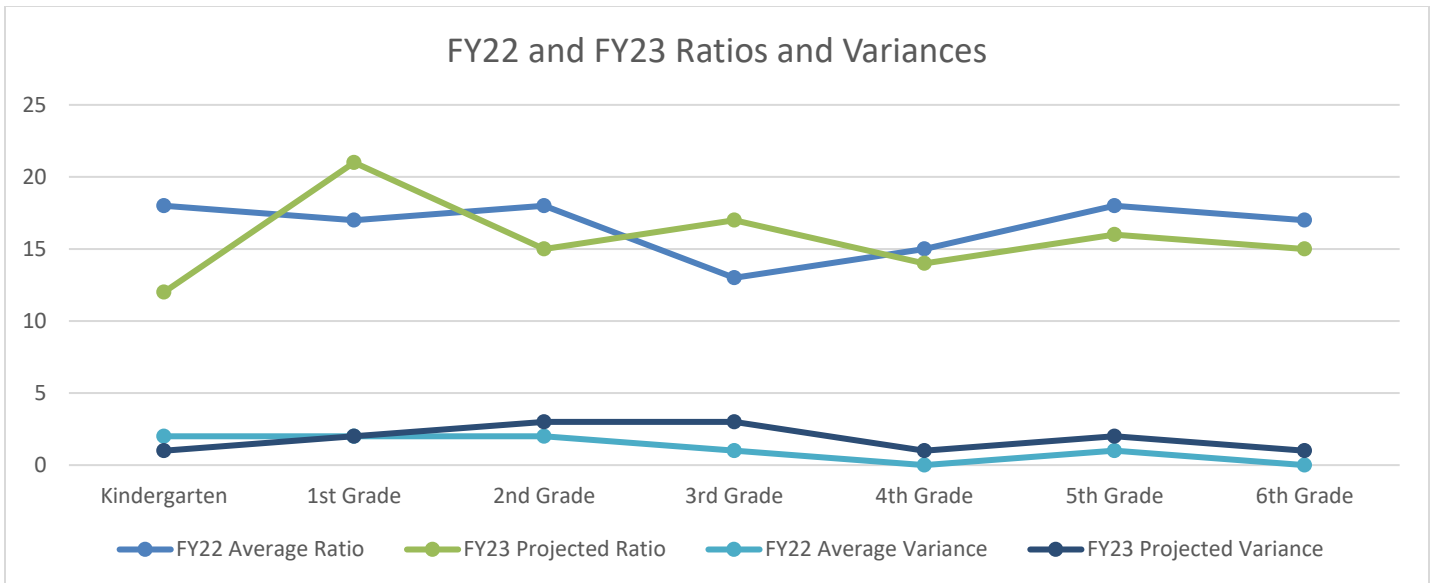


Lander CSD projects growth across all grades, with the largest growth projected in second and fourth grade. However, variances are projected to remain stable and relatively flat. On average, Lander CSD had 15 students – primarily Kindergarteners – that would not have a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio. Lander CSD cited funding limitations, facilities limitations, and difficulty hiring throughout FY22. Lander CSD has two K-4 elementary schools; these schools are approximately 41% FRL, with 6% of students designated English learners at Battle Mountain Elementary, a 2-star school. The one-room schoolhouse in Austin is not rated. Lander CSD reported that they would continue to monitor enrollment to determine staffing allocations and prioritize small class sizes.

Lincoln County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Lincoln County School District (Lincoln CSD) applied for an alternative calendar

beginning August 16, 2022 and ending May 26, 2023. Throughout FY22, Lincoln CSD had an average student enrollment of 866, making them eligible to apply for an alternative class size reduction program for FY23; however, Lincoln CSD elected to report under a regular class size reduction program for K-3 with elective reporting for 4-6 under alternative plan ratios.



Lincoln CSD projects growth in first and third grade ratios, with a significant reduction in kindergarten and minor fluctuations in all other grades. Similarly, they project growth in variances across all grades barring kindergarten, which is projected for a minor reduction, and first grade, which remains stable. On average, Lincoln CSD had 37 students across K-4 that would not have a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio. Lincoln CSD cited funding limitations, facilities limitations, and difficulty hiring throughout FY22. Lincoln CSD has four K-6 elementary schools, averaging a 42% FRL rate and 11% English learner rate. All four schools have a 3- or 4-star rating.

Lincoln CSD reported building limitations of one classroom per grade and the use of paraprofessionals to support instruction in grades over the ratio. Where possible, if a class size over the ratio becomes large enough, the class will be split into two rooms and an additional educator hired.

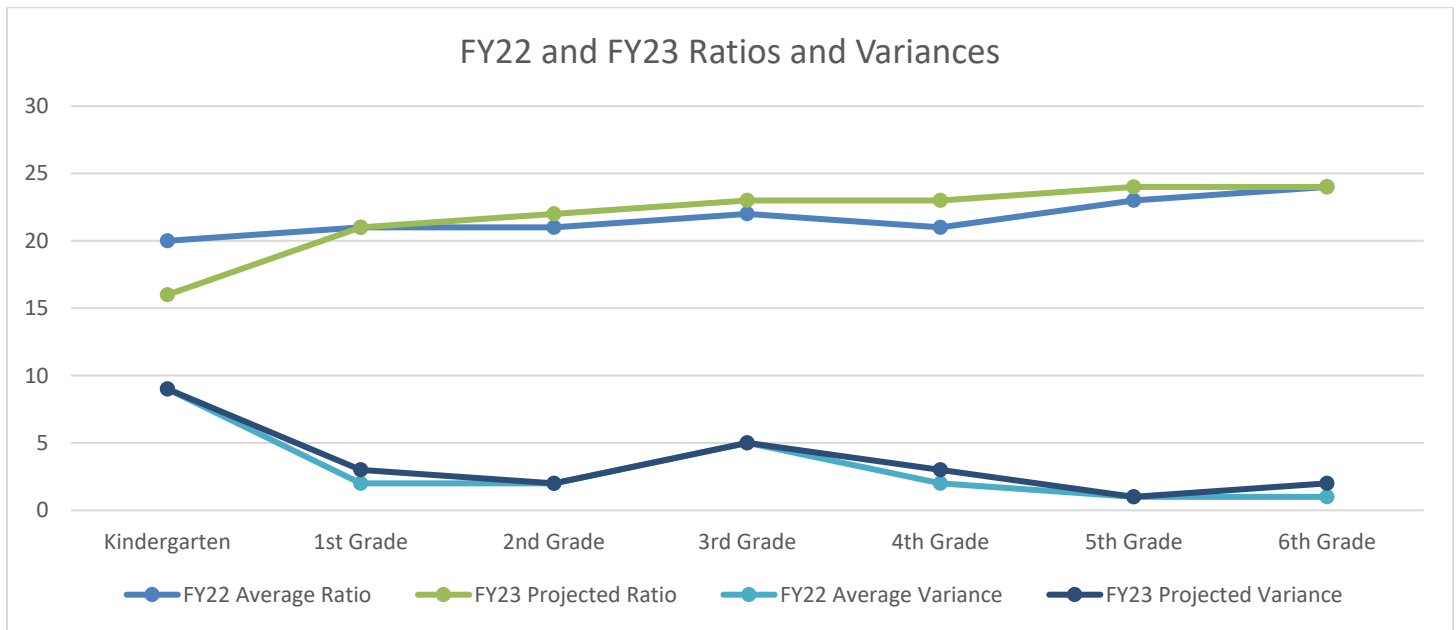
Lyon County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Lyon County School District (Lyon CSD) applied for an alternative calendar beginning August 17, 2022 and ending June 2, 2023. Throughout FY22, Lyon CSD had an average student enrollment of 8,896, making them eligible to apply for an alternative class size reduction program for FY23.

Lyon CSD projects minimal growth across second through fifth grade, with the largest increase in fourth grade. Similarly, they project variances to remain relatively stable, with minor increases in first, fourth, and sixth grades. On average, Lyon CSD had 193 students – primarily Kindergarteners and third graders– that would not have a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio, equating to at least eight kindergarten classrooms and two third grade classrooms. Lyon CSD cited funding limitations, facilities limitations, and difficulty hiring throughout FY22. Lyon CSD has nine elementary schools; four K-6 and five K-4. On average, these schools have a 12% enrollment of English learners and a 47% FRL rate. Six of these schools have a 1- or 2-star rating.

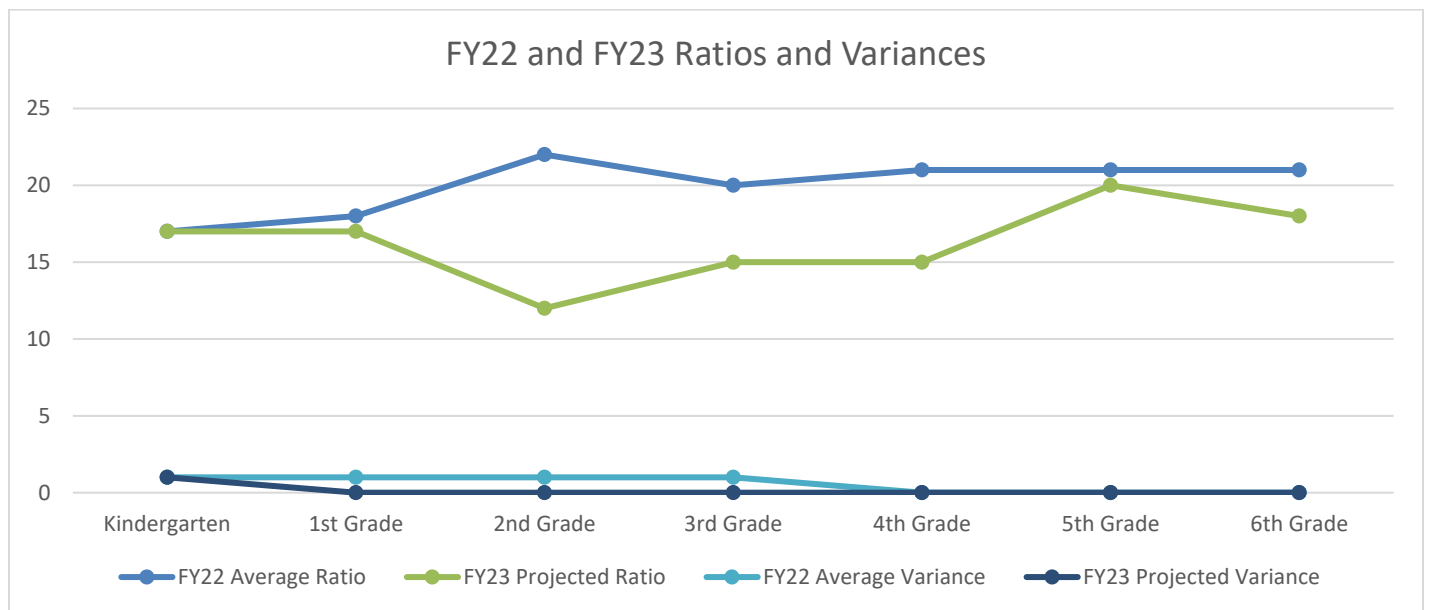
Lyon CSD reported a goal to align class sizes to the regular plan class size ratios. Lyon allocates PCFP funding to reduce K-6 class sizes, with federal grant funds targeted in Title I schools and toward supporting teacher leaders in retention efforts. Lyon reviews average daily enrollment on a quarterly basis and analyzes ratios to determine adjustments to allocations across schools or grade levels; allocations for the 2022-23 school year

begin in April of 2022 based on student enrollment, school location, NSPF ratings, and recruitment and retention efforts. Enrollment and student count data is then regularly monitored for adjustment and forecasting purposes.



Mineral County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Mineral County School District (Mineral CSD) applied for an alternative calendar beginning August 22, 2022 and ending June 7, 2023. Throughout FY22, Mineral CSD had an average student enrollment of 566, making them eligible to apply for an alternative class size reduction program for FY23; however, Mineral CSD elected to report under a regular class size reduction program for K-3 with elective reporting for 4-6 under alternative plan ratios.

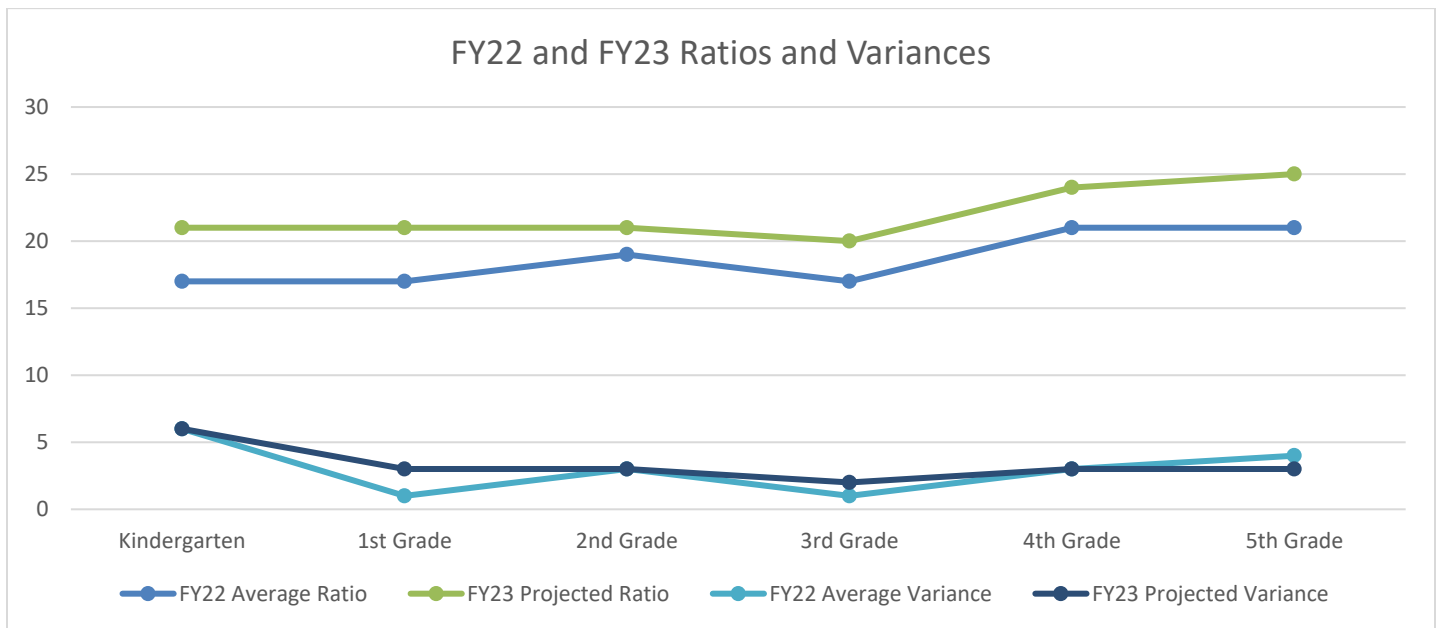


Mineral CSD projects a reduction across all grades, barring kindergarten, with their greatest reductions in second, third, and fourth grades. Similarly, they project a decrease in variances across these grades, with the remaining grades remaining stable.

On average, Mineral CSD had 5 students that would not have a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio. Mineral cited facilities limitations and difficulty hiring throughout FY22. Mineral CSD has two K-6 elementary schools, both with 100% FRL and an enrollment of approximately 11% English learners. Each school is 1-star and 4-stars respectively. Mineral CSD reported that they hired four teachers through the J-1 Visa program, and developed and implemented a new teacher recruiting program, including a Grow-Your-Own plan that offers incentives for current employees to work towards attaining a degree in education and subsequent licensure.

Nye County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Nye County School District (Nye CSD) applied for both an alternative and traditional calendar across schools beginning August 9, 2022 and ending May 18, 2023. Throughout FY22, Nye CSD had an average student enrollment of 5,461, making them eligible to apply for an alternative class size reduction program for FY23.

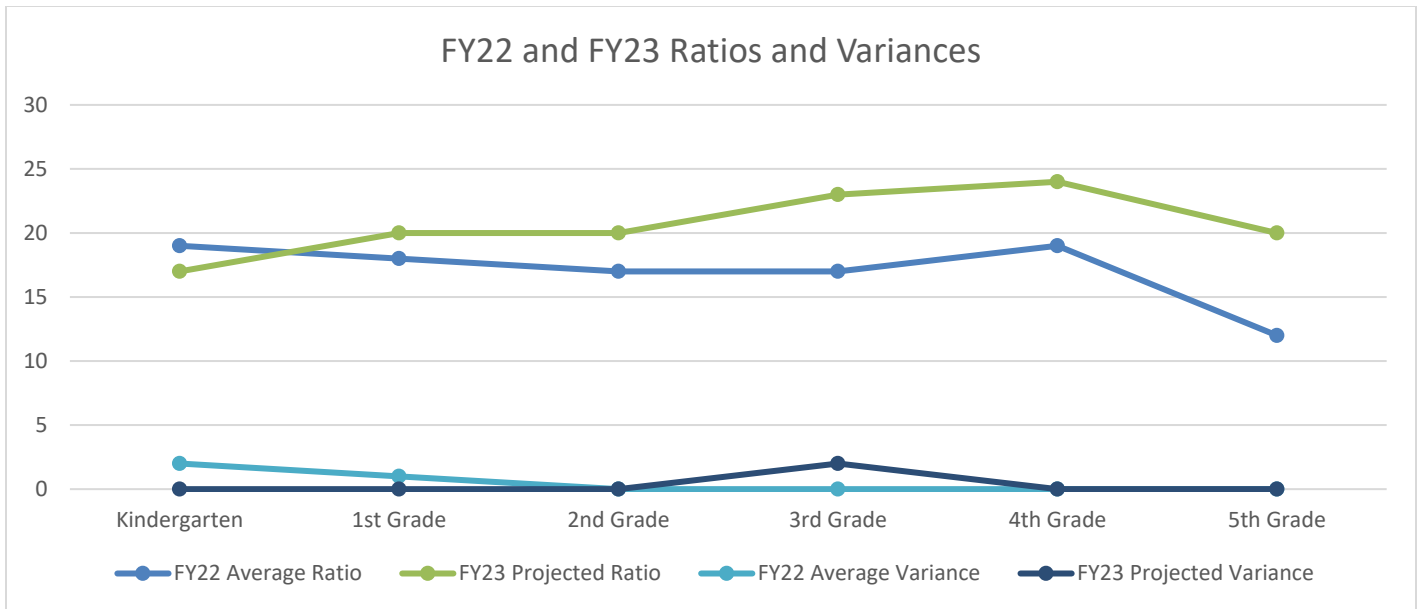


Nye CSD projects growth across all grade ratios, with corresponding increases in variances barring those for kindergarten, second, and fourth grade. On average, Nye CSD had 139 students that would not have a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio, across at least six classrooms of Kindergarteners and two classes of fourth and fifth graders. Nye CSD cited funding limitations and difficulty hiring throughout FY22. Nye CSD has ten K-5 elementary schools; all but one of these schools is 100% FRL, and six are 1- or 2-star schools.

Nye CSD reported monthly monitoring of average daily enrollment to monitor district ratios. When ratios increase, additional teacher allocations are requested from their Board. However, Nye consistently struggles with recruitment and retention and is currently experiencing a consistent 2% growth in enrollment. Paraprofessionals are utilized to support managing large class sizes in excess of the ratio.

Pershing County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Pershing County School District (Pershing CSD) applied for an alternative calendar beginning August 22, 2022 and ending May 31, 2023. Throughout FY22, Pershing CSD had an average student enrollment of 660, making them eligible to apply for an alternative class size reduction program for FY23.

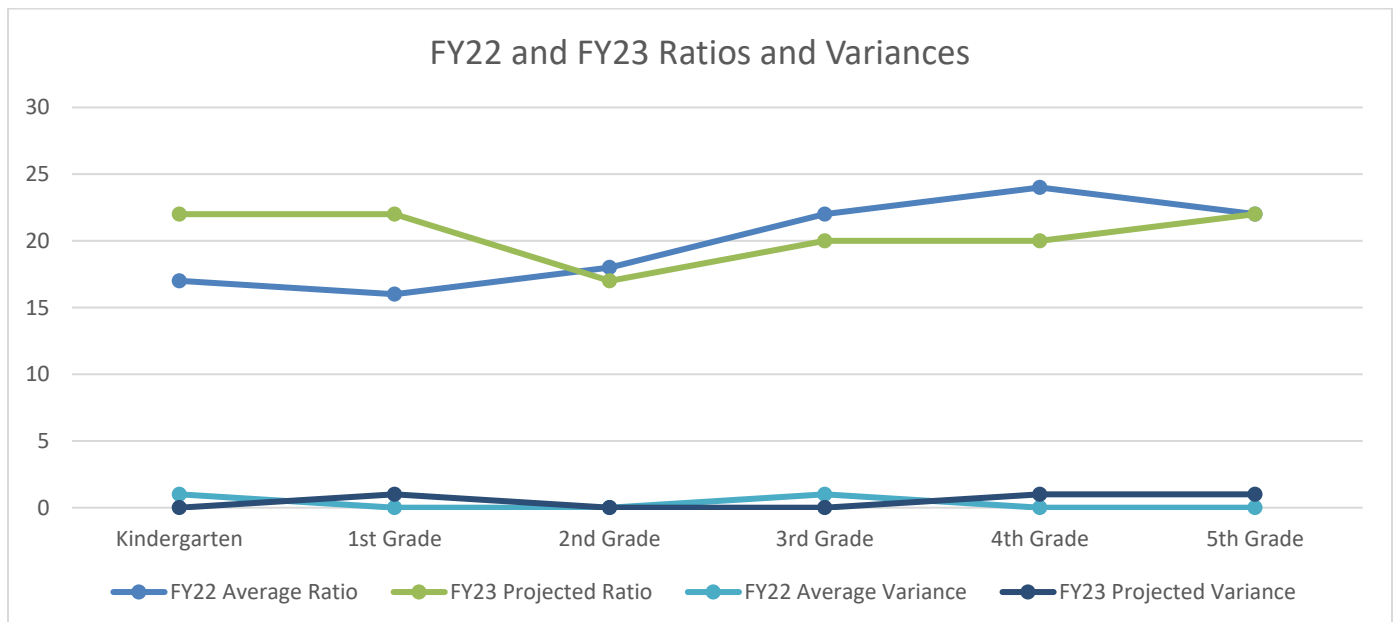


Pershing CSD projects growth across all grades, barring a reduction in kindergarten, with the largest increase in third and fourth grades. Variances are projected to remain flat, barring an increase in third grade variances. On average, Pershing CSD had 24 students – split largely between kindergarten and first grade. Pershing CSD cited funding limitations throughout FY22. Pershing has two elementary schools; one is rated 2-stars and has a 12% English learner rate and 100% FRL, while the other remains unrated, reports no English learners, and has an FRL rate of 29%.

Pershing CSD reported that due to funding limitations, they do not plan to add any additional classrooms to offset class size ratios. Paraprofessionals will be used to support class management, and regular progress monitoring will be conducted to review enrollment increases and changing circumstances.

Storey County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Storey County School District (Storey CSD) applied for an alternative calendar beginning August 15, 2022 and ending May 26, 2023. Throughout FY22, Storey CSD had an average student enrollment of 434, making them eligible to apply for an alternative class size reduction program for FY23.



Storey CSD projects growth in kindergarten and first grade ratios, with decreases in second through fifth grades. Variances are expected to increase in first, fourth, and fifth grades. On average, Storey CSD had 9 students across kindergarten and third that would not have a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio. Storey CSD cited funding limitations throughout FY22. Storey CSD has two elementary schools; each school teaches K-5, has an average English learner enrollment of 12%, has a 3- or 4-star rating, and averages a 63% FRL rate. Storey CSD reported continued monitoring efforts but noted that due to budget cuts they are not able to hire the two or more educators they would need to meet class size ratios but have added regional professional development specialist who supports students in the classroom.

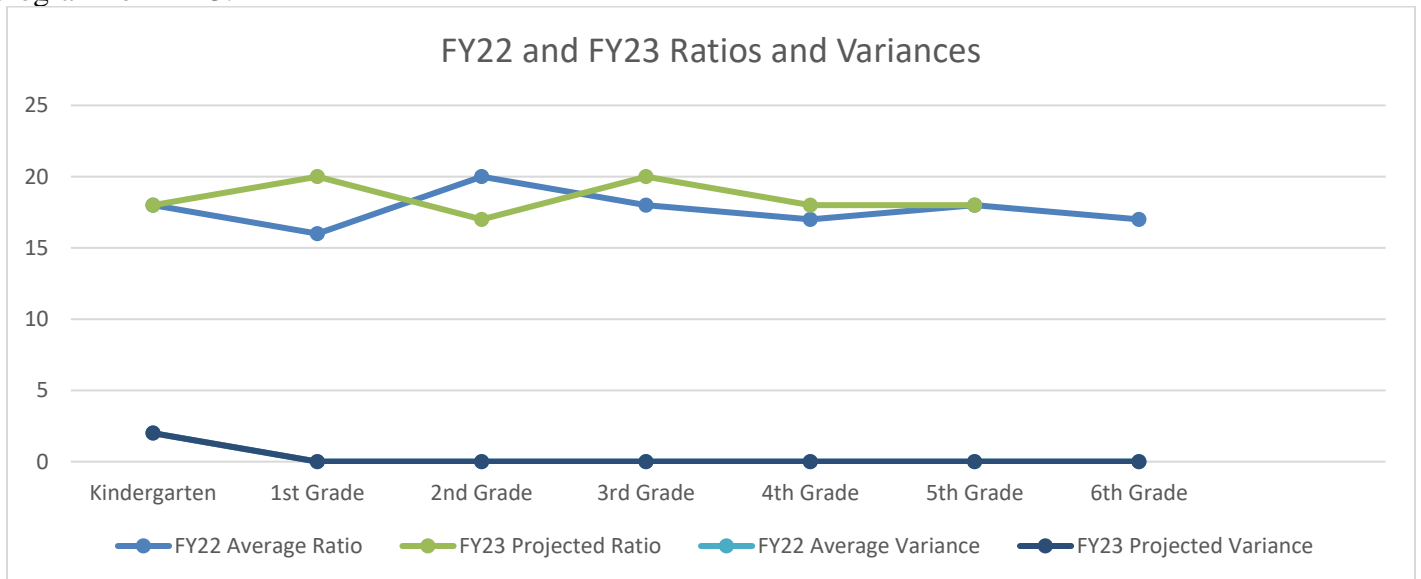
Washoe County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, Washoe County School District (WCSD) applied for both an alternative and traditional calendar beginning August 15, 2022 and ending June 12, 2023. Throughout FY22, WCSD had an average student enrollment of 61,703, requiring them to apply for a regular class size reduction program for FY23. On average, WCSD had 1,975 students across K-3 that would not have a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio, equating to 98 K-2 classrooms and another 23 third grade classrooms. WCSD cited funding limitations and hiring difficulties throughout FY22. WCSD has 65 elementary schools, with an average 15% enrollment of English learners and 61% rate of FRL. 24 elementary schools have a 1- or 2-star rating, and three are unrated.

WCSD did not submit an annual class size reduction plan pursuant to NRS 388.700 and 388.720. WCSD cited continued focus on educator recruitment and retention and recent changes in district staffing.

White Pine County School District

For the 2022-23 school year, White Pine County School District (White Pine CSD) applied for both regular and alternative calendars beginning August 17, 2022 and ending June 7, 2023. Throughout FY22, White Pine CSD had an average student enrollment of 1,256, making them eligible to apply for an alternative class size reduction program for FY23.



White Pine CSD projects growth in first, third, and fourth grade ratios, remaining stable in kindergarten and second while dropping significantly in second. Their projected variances remain stable in across all grades. On average, White Pine CSD has 15 students – all Kindergarteners – that would not have a classroom if class sizes were capped at the recommended ratio. White Pine CSD cited funding limitations and difficulty hiring throughout FY22. White Pine CSD has four elementary schools, three of which have a 1- or 2-star rating. Combined, the schools average 15% English learner enrollment and 58% FRL. White Pine CSD reported continued efforts to recruit and retain teachers to support Kindergarten classrooms, including support from Title II-A funds.

Conclusion

If Nevada were to limit each of its existing classrooms to their respective target ratios, 16% of K-3 students across Nevada – 19,216 students – would not have a classroom. On average, 21% of these students would be English learners and 73% would be considered at-risk on the basis of receiving a free-and-reduced-price lunch. The average Kindergarten classroom has 5 students more than the target ratio, although the reality is that some schools may have 5, 10, or 15 students in excess of that ratio in the classroom across every classroom in the school – on average, anywhere from 3-7 classrooms. Meanwhile, districts consistently cite funding limitations, to include facility limitations and difficulty hiring.

While there are funding deficits affecting class sizes, there are also significant gaps in class size reporting and subsequently, this analysis. This includes inadequate reporting for grades 4-6, as 7% of district enrollment is a disproportionate data set for determining or reviewing ratios; furthermore, it is inequitable in the review of classroom reviews for grades 4-6. Additionally, reporting from charters regarding class sizes is increasingly necessary, as charter enrollment has consistently increased over the past 5 years and represents 15% of all K-6 enrollment. While the focus has consistently been on providing early learners the ratios needed, discourse regarding class sizes often spans K-12, yet we have no clearly definable measures for grades 7-12. In addition, analysis regarding student achievement, including Read by Grade Three program outcomes and assessments would be a beneficial lens by which to compare the impact of class size and class arrangements within classrooms. Additionally, a review of classroom schedules – to include alternative calendars – should be considered in the context of class size reduction efforts. Finally, there are currently no programmatic interventions or recommendations in place for improving class size ratios, beyond funding and teacher recruitment and retention strategies.

NDE is committed to working with the State Board and districts to decrease class size ratios, particularly in high need schools, and to support class size reduction interventions. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Amelia Thibault via email at acthibault@doe.nv.gov or by phone at 775-687-2451.