

Class Size as an Administrative Measure

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Class size reduction (CSR) is a simple, easy to communicate school reform policy that is popular with parents, teachers, and principals. CSR is easy to understand and appeals to common sense, which makes it an attractive and politically viable policy option. Studies of Robinson on reducing class sizes in the primary grades with 22 or fewer students appeared to have a beneficial effect on reading and math scores, especially for economically disadvantaged students. While initiatives to reduce class size have been praised by many, others remain skeptical. Policy and fiscal issues aside, in many states the debate is no longer over whether CSR makes a difference but how and under what circumstances. How can a state or district best design a successful CSR policy? This poster presentation addresses some of the critical questions concerning the implementation of the policy, including the controversial issues around the policy and the evidence of its effectiveness in reaching the goal of improved early learning.

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