



STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
ALBANY 12224

APPROVAL #16  
CHAPTER #556

September 8, 2022

MEMORANDUM filed with Senate Bill 9460, entitled:

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

A P P R O V E D

This legislation would establish maximum class size limits for classrooms within the New York City School District.

This legislation, which received broad, bipartisan and near-unanimous support in the legislature, would require specific limits to be established for all classrooms in the district, pursuant to a plan developed with and approved by teachers and principals as well as the State Education Department. The plan would require all classrooms in kindergarten through grade three to have no more than twenty students, grades four through eight to have no more than twenty-three students, and grades nine through twelve to have no more than twenty-five students. This requirement would be phased in over a five-year period, requiring an additional twenty percent of classrooms to be compliant each year, and, critically, prioritizing schools with the highest poverty levels. The plan would allow for flexibility based upon teacher availability, financial feasibility, and classroom space availability, however the latter would also require planning to ensure that enough classroom space is being added to accommodate the increased number of classes. The bill reflects the need to ensure students have dedicated teachers devoting time and attention to their learning in person as we continue to come back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the current bill would require the five year phase-in to be complete by September 2027, implementation of this initiative will require significant strategic planning. I have secured agreement with the Legislature to require a full phase-in of the plan by September 2028. In doing this, the amended legislation directs the parties to commence the plan development process immediately in order to prepare for implementation beginning in September 2023.

This bill is approved.

*Ruth Hochul*