

## **Class Size Amendment – HB 7039 and SB 2 (2010)**

- ❖ District class size averages have fallen significantly throughout the entire state:
  - For PreK through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade classrooms, the average class size has fallen from the 2003 baseline number of 23 per class to 16 per class in 2009-2010.
  - For 4th through 8th grade, the average class size has fallen from 24 per class to 19 per class.
  - For 9th through 12th grade, the average class size has fallen from 24 per class to 22 per class.
- ❖ Notwithstanding this tremendous progress, districts and schools across this state are not going to be able to implement the final phase next year without significantly disrupting the lives of teachers, students, and families.
- ❖ This disruption has nothing to do with funding – we've appropriated \$16 billion dollars, and that has provided the necessary capacity for schools. Instead, the critical problems we face with the amendment are district-level management issues.
- ❖ A good example is Collier County. In Collier County, the district is rezoning 1,800 students because of the coming class size mandates. Children are being forced to change schools.
- ❖ But Collier County is just one example. If we don't urgently act this year to right size the class size amendment, this story will be played out in districts across the state.
- ❖ The proposed Joint Resolution will “right size” class size and make it workable. The resolution asks voters to measure class size limits based on the individual school level, instead of the current inflexible, hard-cap classroom-level requirements.
- ❖ What this Joint Resolution does not do is change the class size targets that voters approved in 2002. Instead, it provides schools with the flexibility to add 3 students in the lower grades and 5 in the upper grades.
- ❖ This change would allow schools to have the breathing room they will need to adapt to changing circumstances at the school level. This change will chart a course forward that keeps class sizes at a level where teachers can teach and children can learn and that is fiscally sound and sustainable.