BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: Enikia Ford Morthel, Superintendent

FROM: Jill Hoogendyk, Associate Superintendent
Francisco Martinez, Director, Admissions

DATE: October 21, 2026

SUBJECT: 2026-27 School Class Size Report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 1987, Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP), a community response to state and federal education funding shortages, has financed lower class sizes at all Berkeley public schools. In 2024, the passage of BSEP Measure H reaffirmed the community's commitment to smaller class sizes by allocating additional funds to continue maintaining a lower student-to-teacher class size ratio. Currently, BSEP funds approximately 32% of classroom teachers in Berkeley schools.

Additionally, in 2023, the District negotiated with the Berkeley Federation of Teachers (BFT) a different class size. The Contract permits the District to have higher class sizes, it permits a grade class size maximum of up to 27:1 per elementary school elementary school attendance zone but to maintain a 23:1 zone average. The contract language also addresses how teachers should be compensated for any increase in class size above the 23:1 zone average.

BSEP Measure H stipulates that the class size goal in grades K-5 shall be a school-wide average of 23:1. For middle and high school students, the class size goal shall be 28:1. We are attaching a PowerPoint presentation to this report where we present a detailed presentation about the class sizes in the district.

In 2026-27, the state's TK class size is a 10:1 student to teacher ratio or 20 students per two adult educators. BUSD has been at this ratio since the 2022-23 school year when BUSD and BFT negotiated TK class size of 20 students per class with one credential teacher and one instructional aide. Also beginning in the 2022-23 school year, the TK age requirements were reduced by two months each year until all 4-year olds are able to attend TK in 2026-27. As the TK age has expanded and to accommodate younger students, BUSD has responded by convening staff each year to identify available classrooms to house the students. Students are presently distributed throughout the

District except in one school, Oxford Elementary School. We have also assigned TK students in the zone where they reside so transportation can be provided.

2026-27 Class Size Reports

The BSEP class size goals have been met at all elementary schools of 23:1 elementary school-wide average. However, the contractual BFT class size goals in elementary schools have been met in all K-5 grades, except for in the 4th grade in the Southeast zone and 5th grade in the Northwest zone.

The class size goals in middle school have also been met, with an average class size average below the 28:1 teacher ratio. The district-wide class size average in 7th and 8th grade is also below the 28:1 including electives but excluding PE.

The Berkeley High School class size average of 28:1 student to teacher ratio has been met. The overall class size average is 27.4 at Berkeley High School excluding PE. The class size average for ninth grade without the LEAP academic support elective is 27.4. Berkeley Technology Academy class size average is 8.8 students per teacher, significantly less than the 18:1 average stipulated in the Measure.

POLICY/CODE

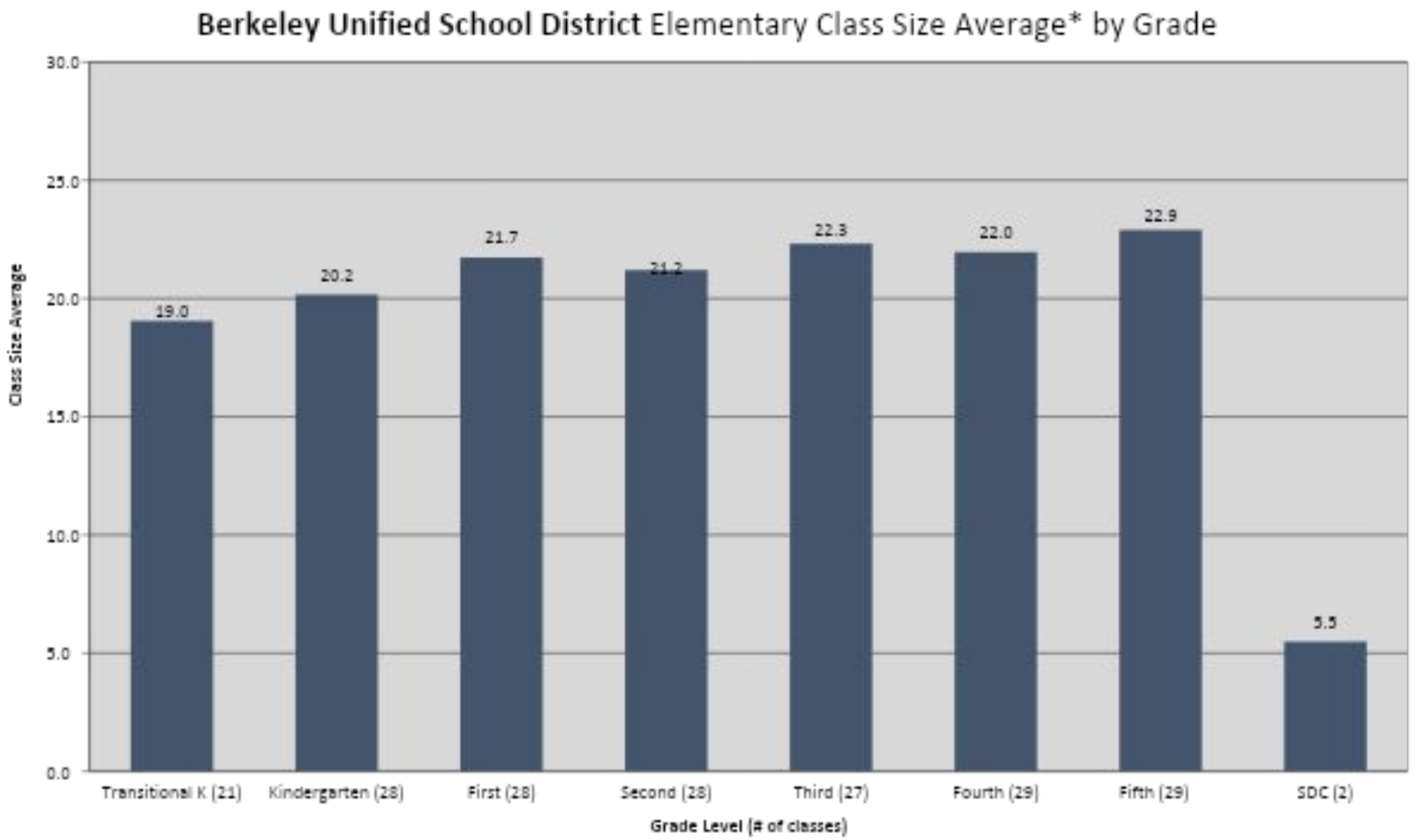
Berkeley Schools Excellence Program, Measure H of 2024

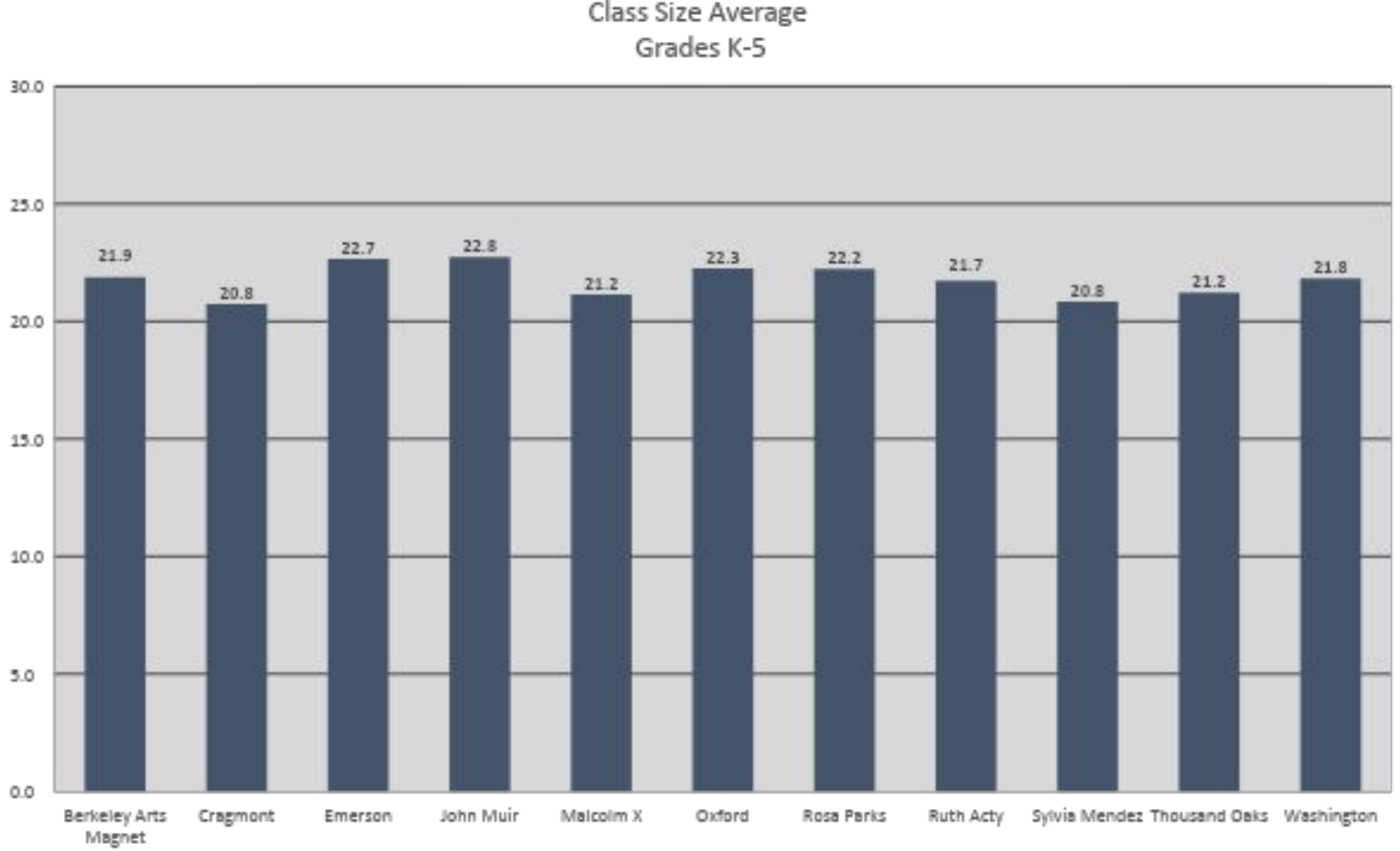
FISCAL IMPACT

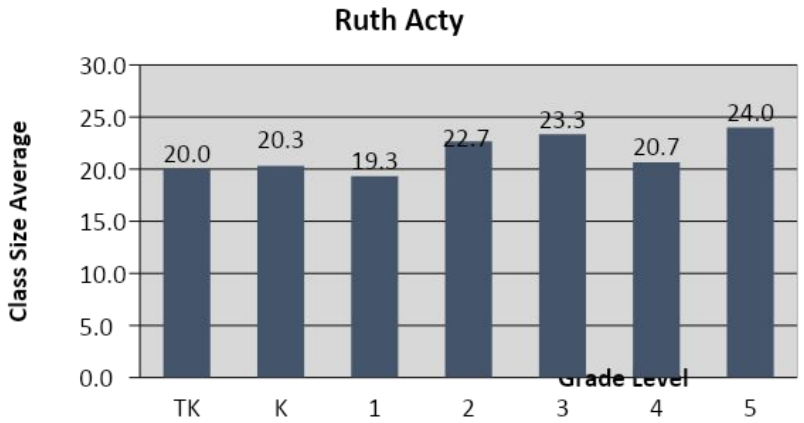
$ 19,440,600 from the Berkeley Schools Excellence Program, Measure H of 2024

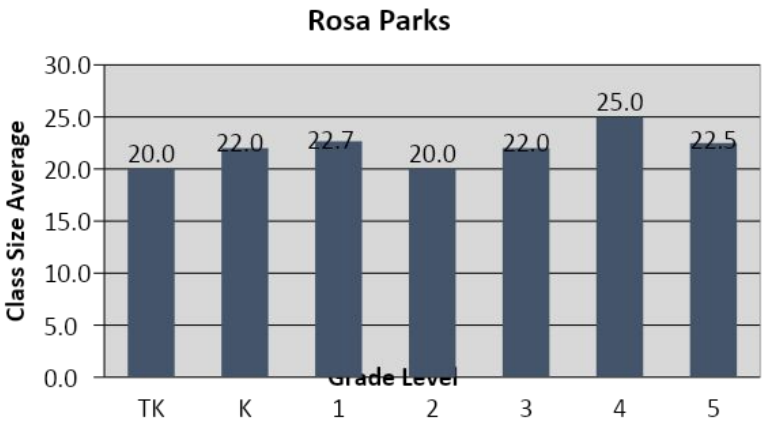
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

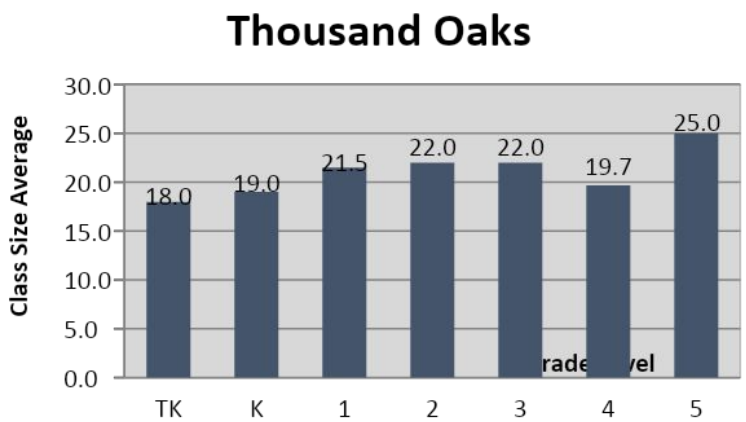
Receive the School Class Size Report for Information.


Berkeley Unified School District Elementary Class Size Average* by Grade
Class Size Average
30.0
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
19.0
20.2
21.7
21.2
22.3
22.0
22.9
5.5
Transitional K (21)
Kindergarten (28)
First (28)
Second (28)
Third (27)
Fourth (29)
Fifth (29)
SDC (2)
Grade Level (# of classes)

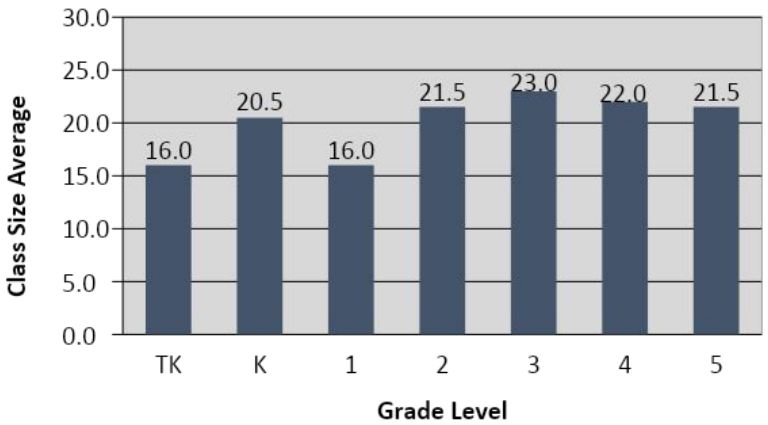

Class Size Average
Grades K-5
30.0
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
21.9
20.8
22.7
22.8
21.2
22.3
22.2
21.7
20.8
21.2
21.8
Berkeley Arts Magnet
Cragmont
Emerson
John Muir
Malcolm X
Oxford
Rosa Parks
Ruth Acty
Sylvia Mendez
Thousand Oaks
Washington


Ruth Acty
Class Size Average
30.0
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
20.0
20.3
19.3
22.7
23.3
20.7
24.0
TK
K
1
2
3
4
5

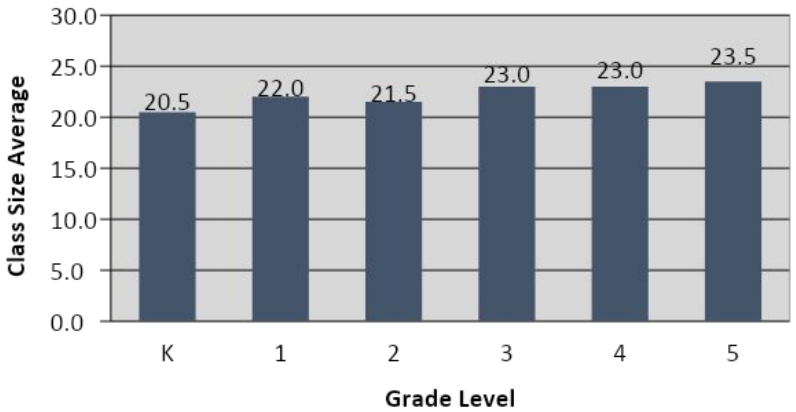

Rosa Parks
Class Size Average
30.0
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
20.0
22.0
22.7
20.0
22.0
25.0
22.5
TK
K
1
2
3
4
5


Thousand Oaks
Class Size Average
30.0
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
18.0
19.0
21.5
22.0
22.0
19.7
25.0
TK
K
1
2
3
4
5

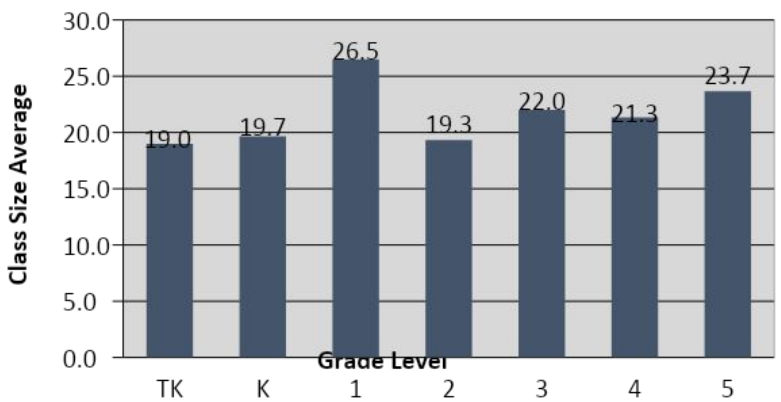
Cragmont



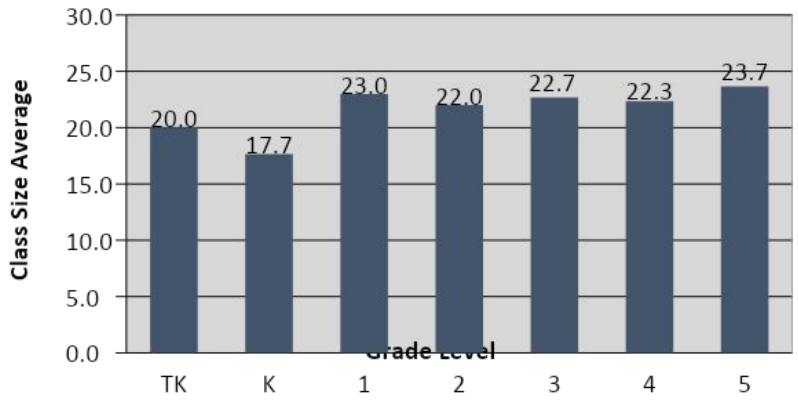
Oxford



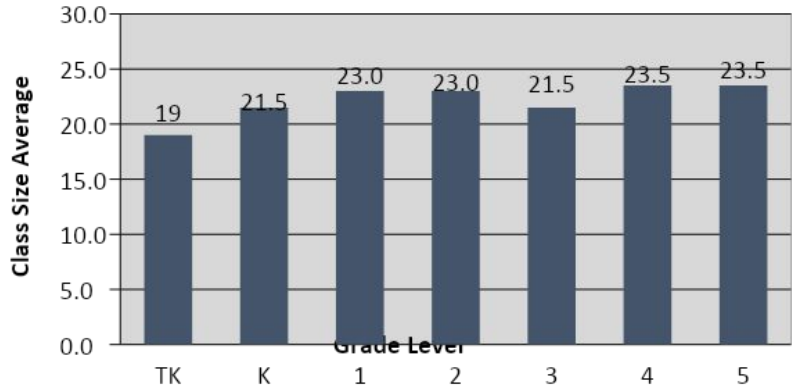
Washington



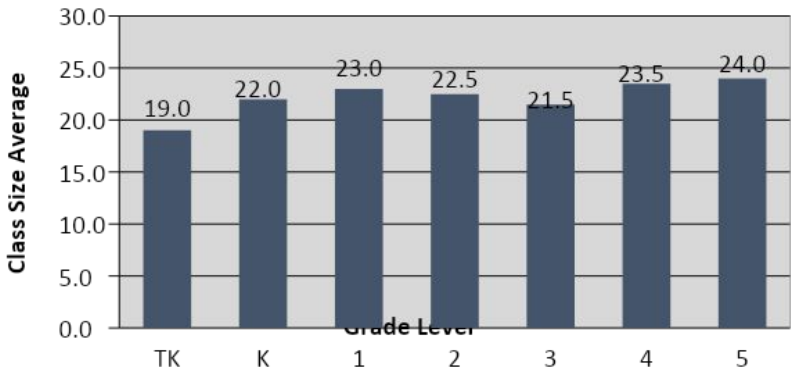
Berkeley Arts Magnet



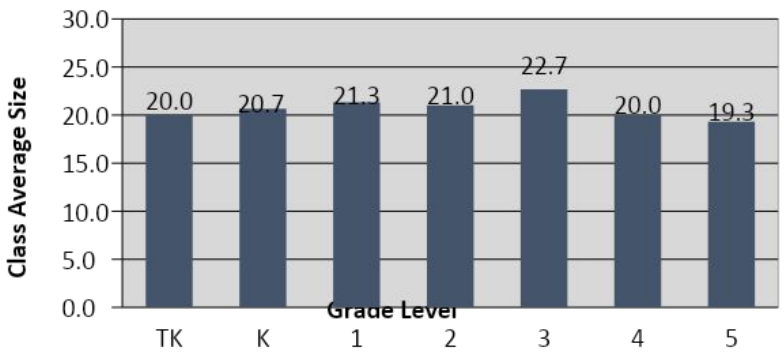
Emerson



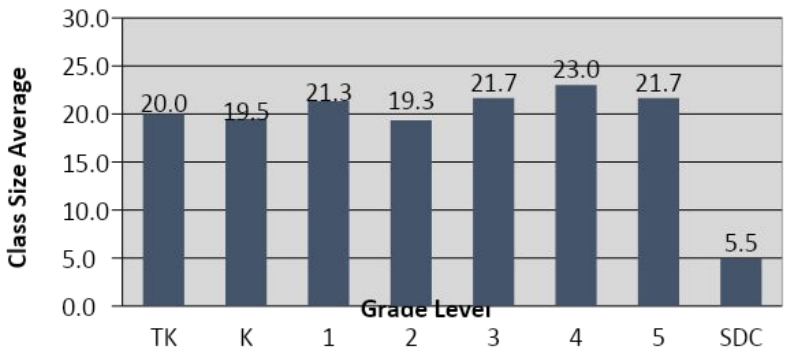
John Muir



Sylvia Mendez

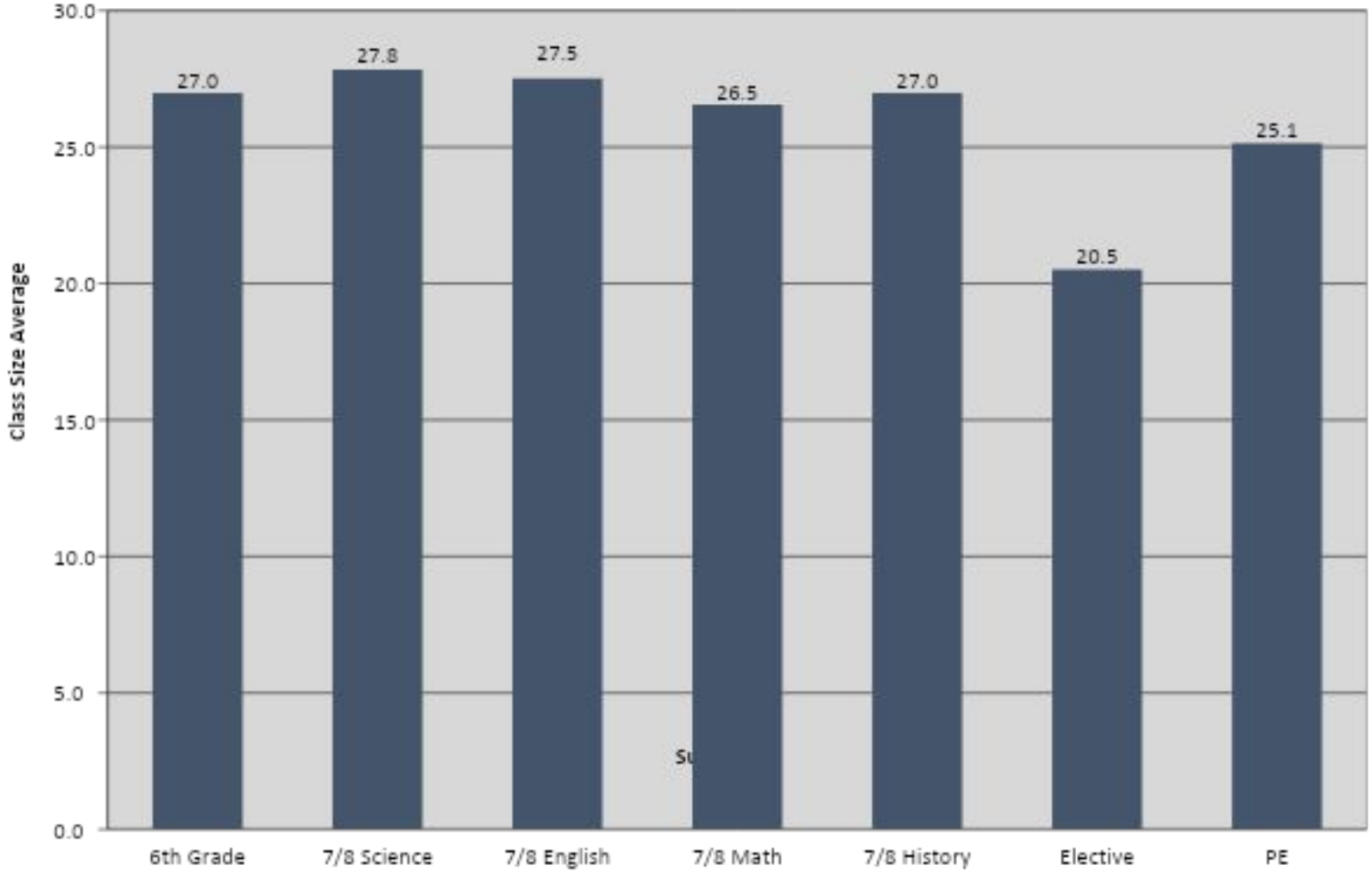


Malcolm X



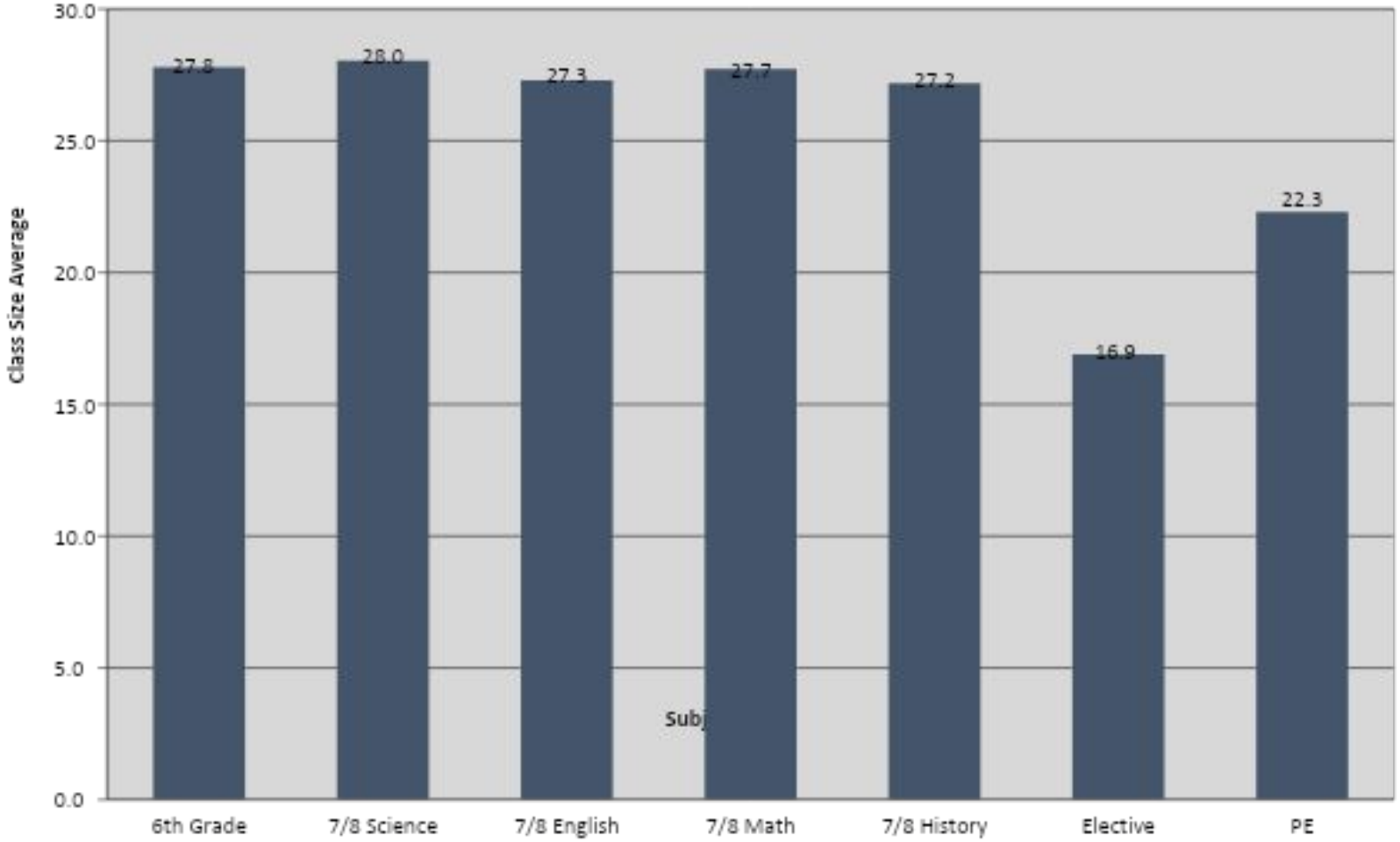
Berkeley Unified School District

Middle School Class Size Average by Subject



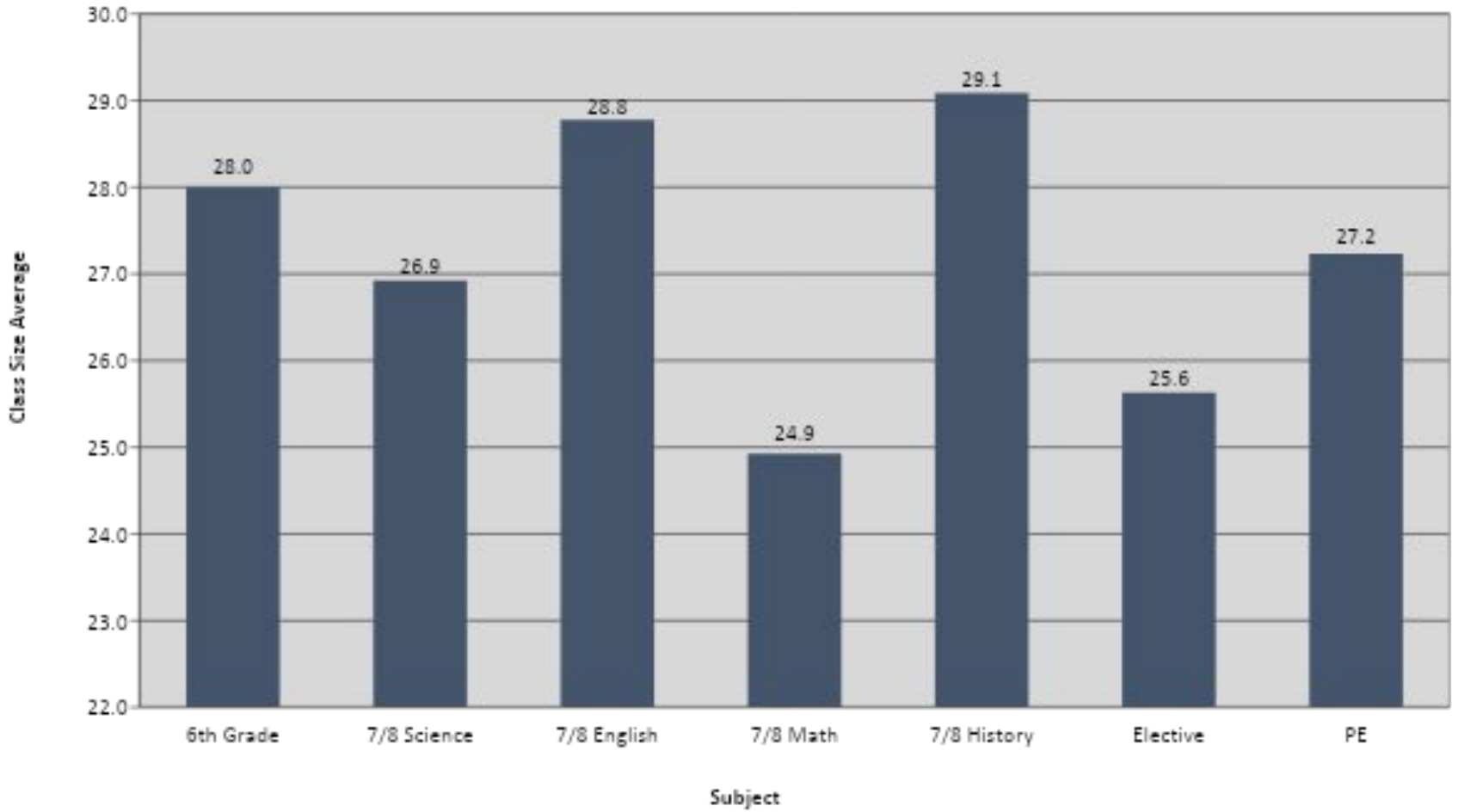
Berkeley Unified School District

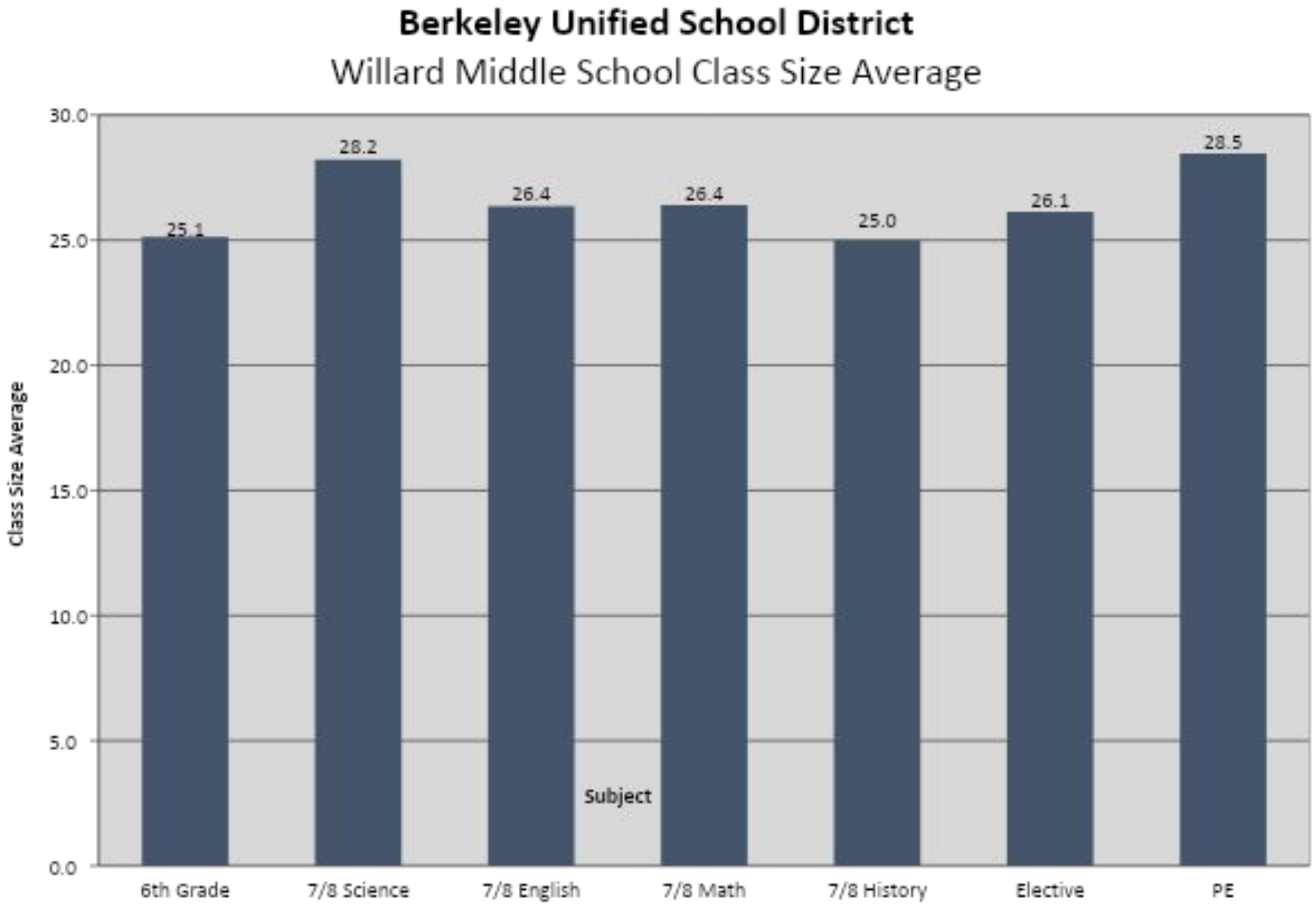
King Middle School Class Size Average

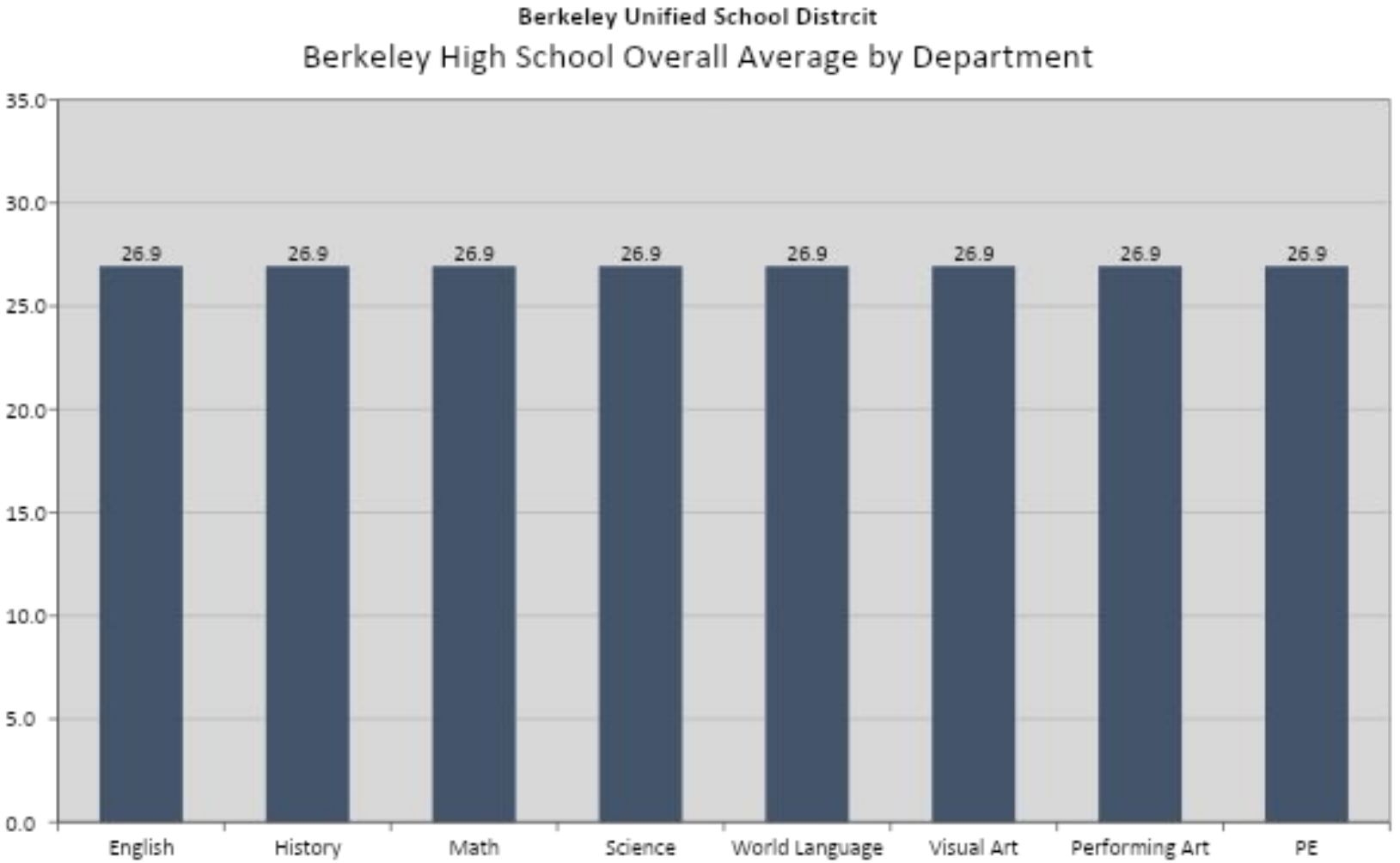


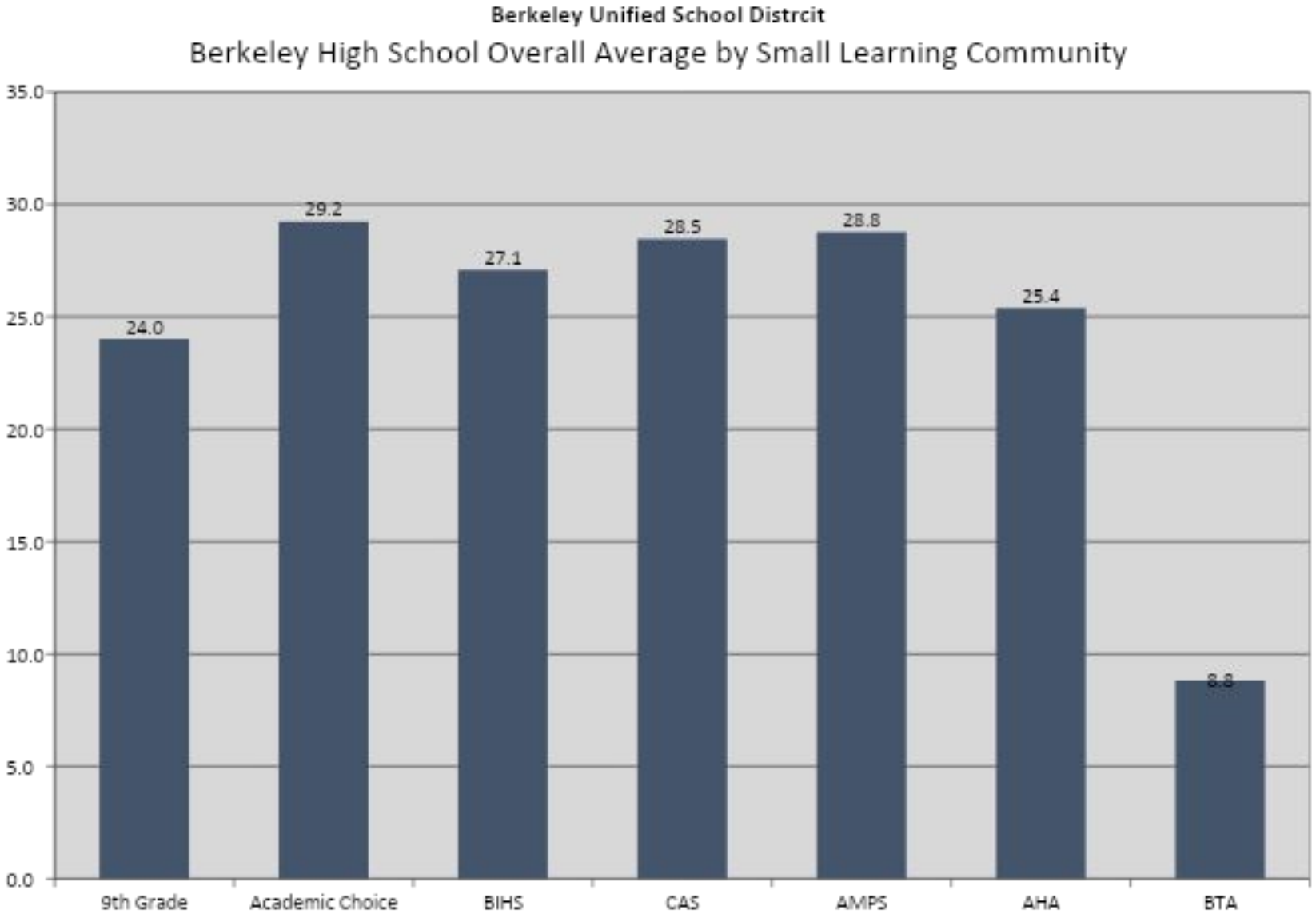
Berkeley Unified School District

Longfellow Middle School Class Size Average




Berkeley Unified School District
Willard Middle School Class Size Average
Class Size Average
30.0
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
25.1
28.2
26.4
26.4
25.0
26.1
28.5
Subject
6th Grade
7/8 Science
7/8 English
7/8 Math
7/8 History
Elective
PE


Berkeley Unified School Distrcit
Berkeley High School Overall Average by Department
35.0
30.0
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
26.9
26.9
26.9
26.9
26.9
26.9
26.9
26.9
English
History
Math
Science
World Language
Visual Art
Performing Art
PE


Berkeley Unified School Distrcit
Berkeley High School Overall Average by Small Learning Community
35.0
30.0
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
24.0
29.2
27.1
28.5
28.8
25.4
8.8
9th Grade
Academic Choice
BIHS
CAS
AMPS
AHA
BTA