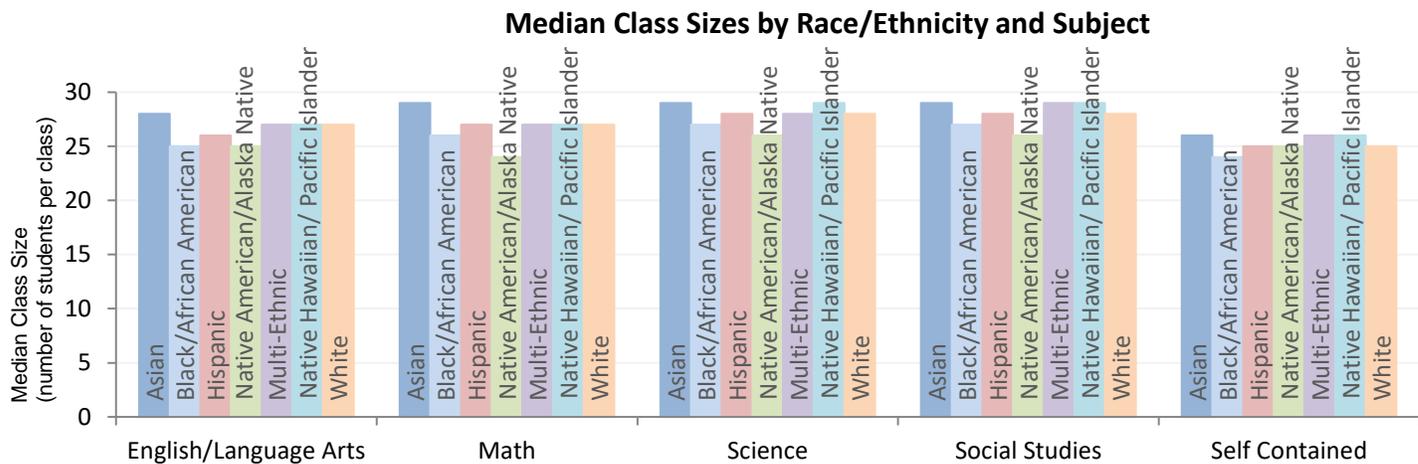


Median Class Size by Student Groups

Race/Ethnicity

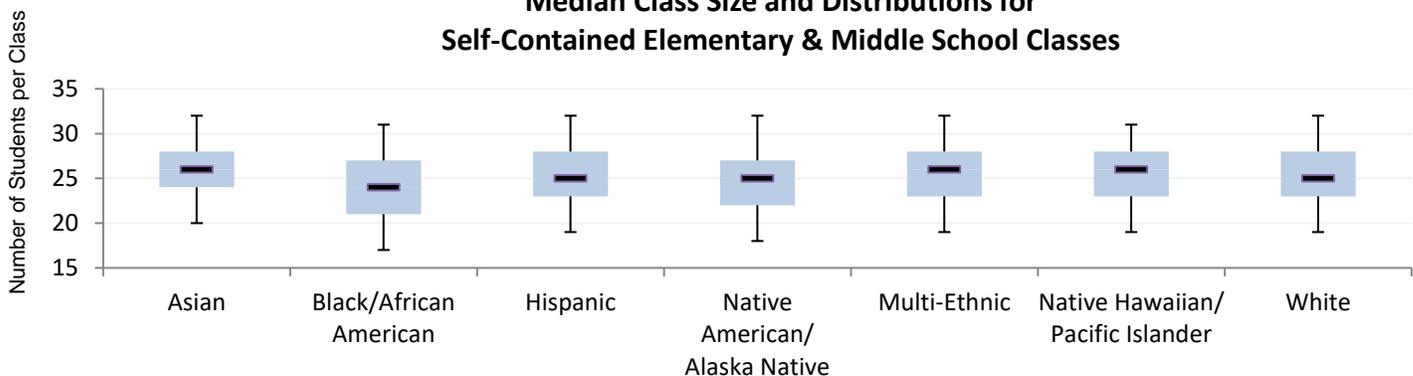
When looking at race/ethnicity of students and the student's average class size, Black/African American students and Native American/Alaska Native students average smaller class sizes than other student racial/ethnic groups, across subject levels, except for elementary self-contained classes, where they were about the same. In contrast, Asian students average larger class sizes than other students.¹



However, the majority of Black/African American and Native American/Alaska Native students are located in school districts that have a low median class size for all of their students, and the majority of Asian students are located in a school district which has a high median class size for all students. In conclusion, the differences in median class size based on student racial/ethnic groups may in fact be measuring the median class size for certain districts, rather than providing any evidence of class size differences based on race/ethnicity alone.

In general, class sizes are higher for Science and Social Studies classes than Math or English classes. Although median class sizes are fairly similar for Self-Contained courses, the variation in class size is much wider for Black/African American students and Native American/Alaska Native students.²

Median Class Size and Distributions for Self-Contained Elementary & Middle School Classes



¹ Data are based on students who were enrolled in public school courses on May 2, 2016 and are derived from the 2015-2016 Class Roster and Third Period Cumulative ADM data collections.

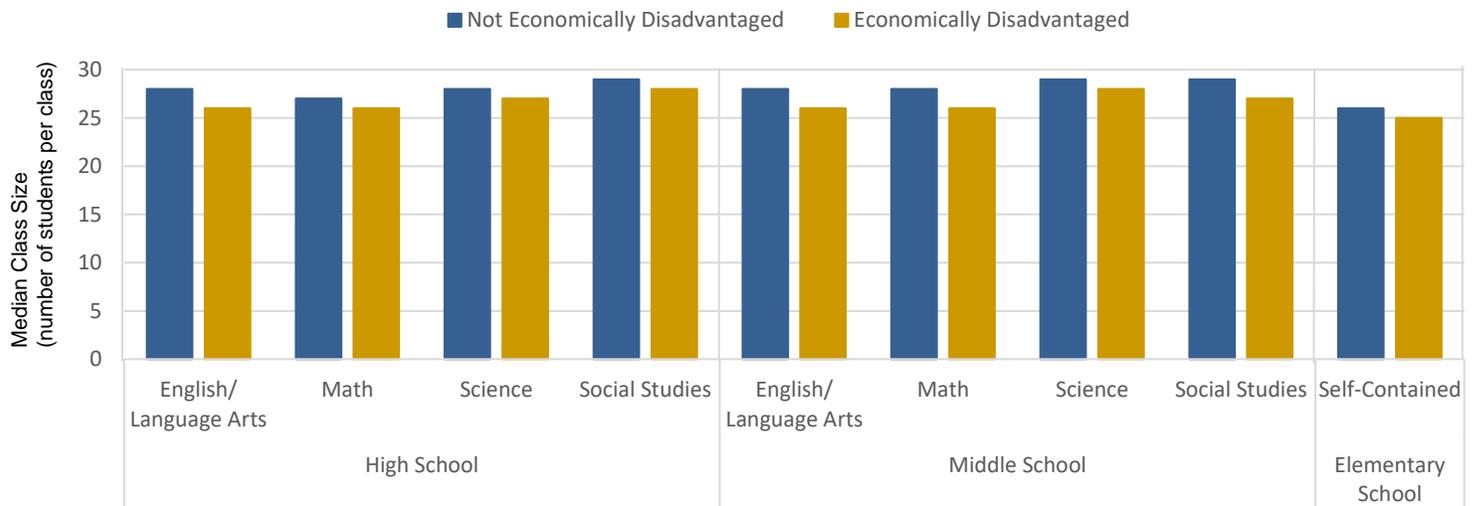
² The upper and lower 5% of data were removed from this analysis to control for data error.

³ In this box and whisker chart, the bottom whisker shows the bottom quartile (5-25%), the blue square shows the second and third quartiles (25-75%) with the dark gray bar showing the median, and the top whisker shows the top quartile (75-95%).

Economically Disadvantaged

Students who are economically disadvantaged average smaller class sizes, regardless of subject area and grade level. ⁴

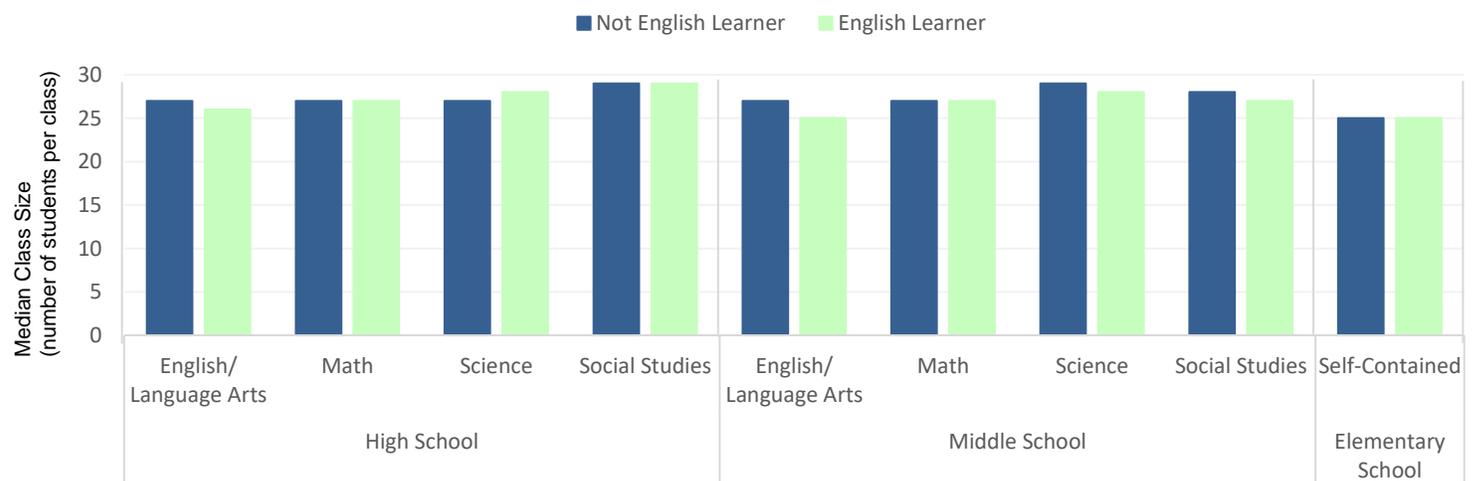
Median Class Size: Economically Disadvantaged



English Learners

When looking at students who have ever received services as English Learners, there is a greater variation in class size medians at the middle school level. ⁵ Middle school classes tend to have smaller class sizes for this student group, but elementary and high school classes tend to be the same size or larger than classes for students who are not English Learners.

Median Class Size: English Learners



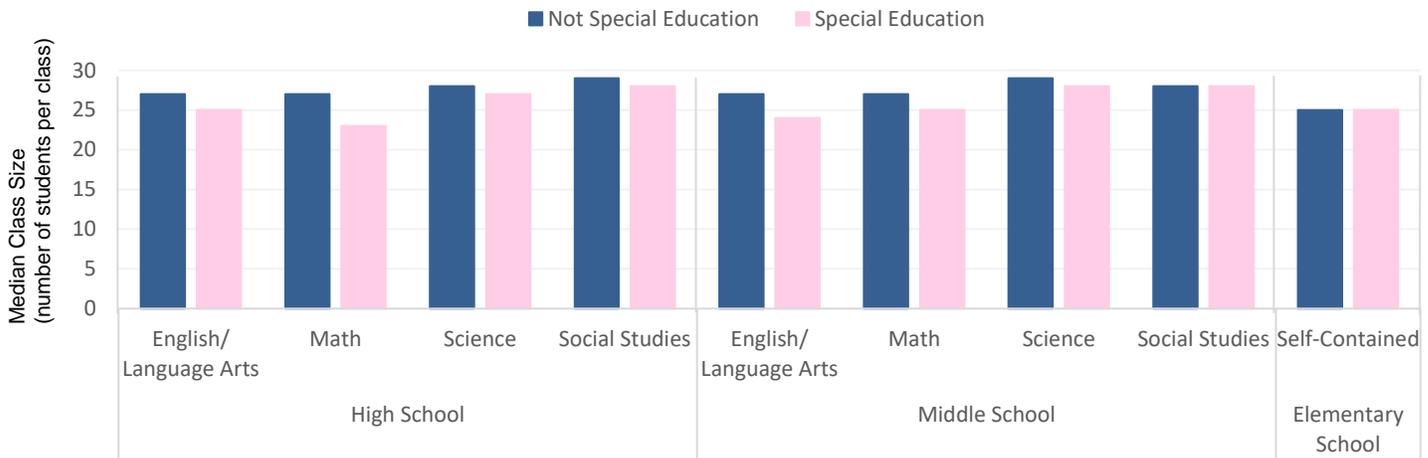
⁴ Data are based on students who were enrolled in public school courses on May 2, 2016 and are derived from the 2015-2016 Class Roster and Third Period Cumulative ADM data collections.

⁵ Same data criteria as above.

Special Education

Variation can be found in class size medians between Special Education students and those who are not in Special Education, which can be seen in the chart below.⁶ Only Middle School Social Studies and Elementary School Self-Contained courses show no difference in median class size.⁷ The other subjects generally offer smaller classes for Special Education students.

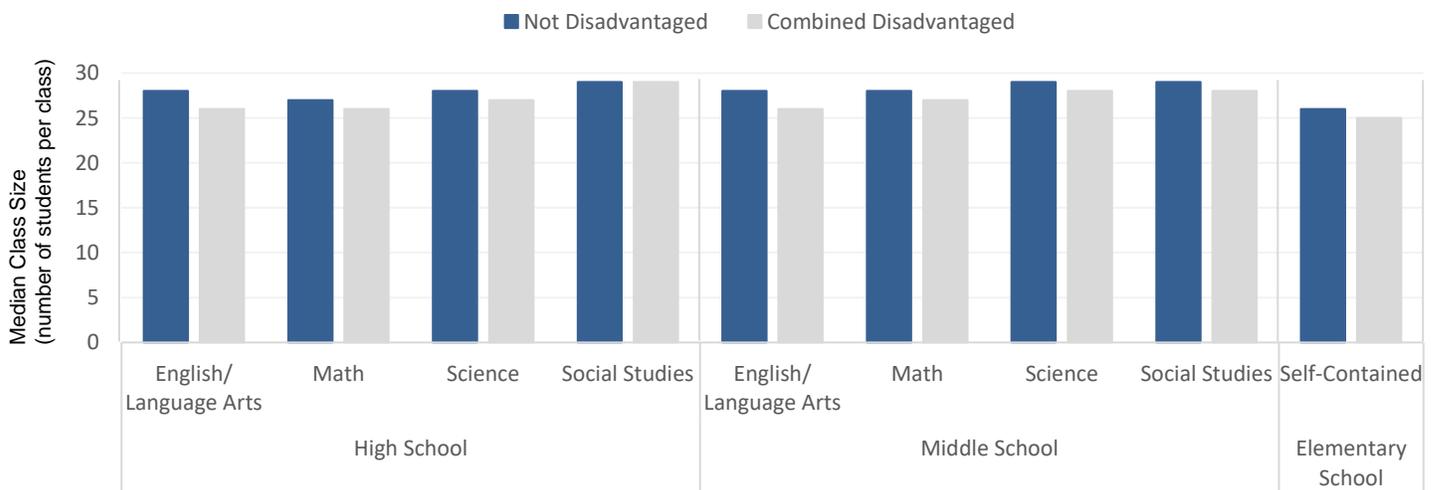
Median Class Size: Special Education



Combined Disadvantaged Students

In general, students who are members of one or more historically disadvantaged group have smaller class sizes, but this is most pronounced in departmentalized English/Language Arts classes.⁸

Median Class Size: Combined Disadvantaged



⁶ Classes that only contain special education students are not removed from these data, which may affect the final data results.

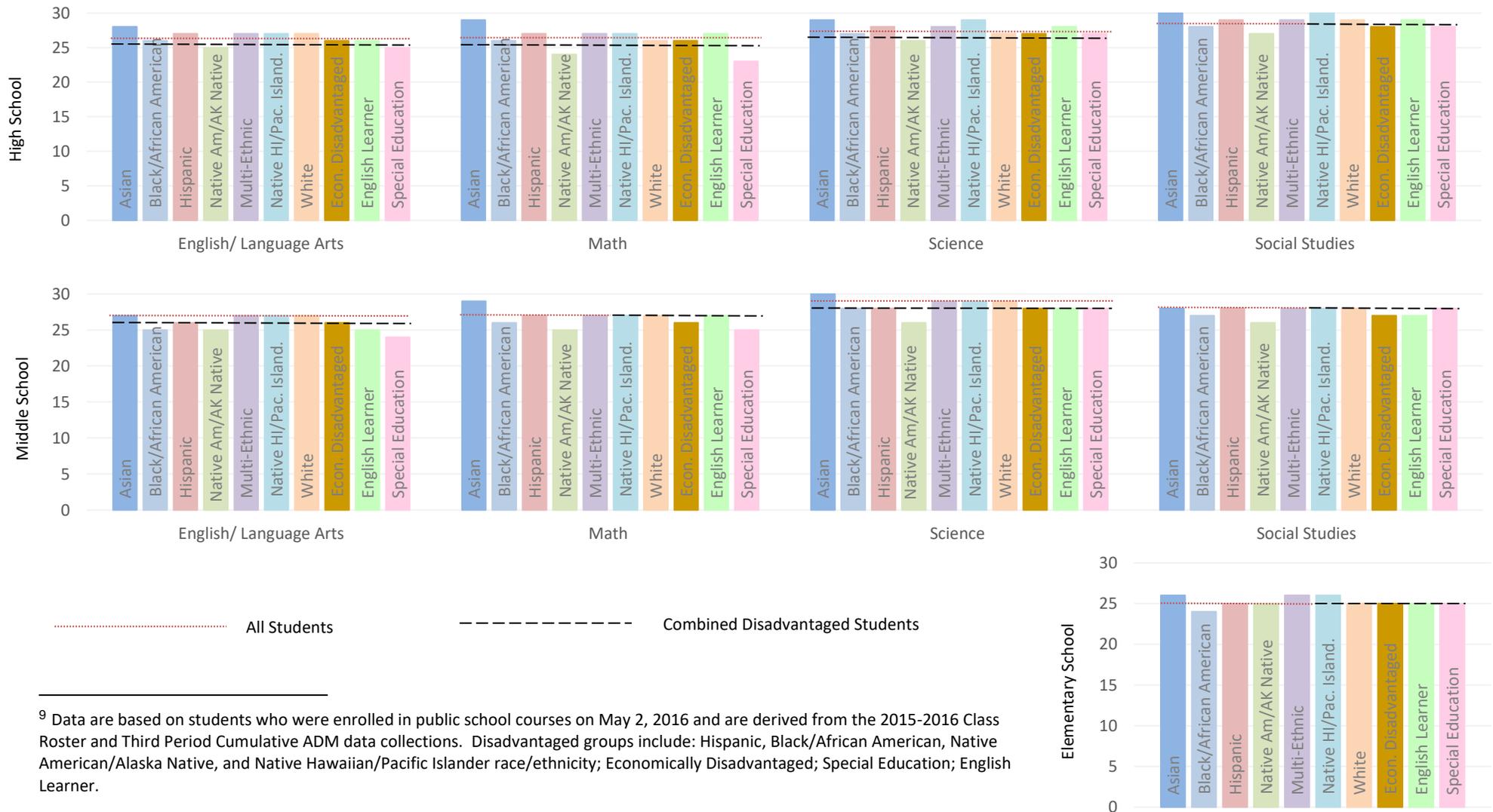
⁷ Data are based on students who were enrolled in public school courses on May 2, 2016 and are derived from the 2015-2016 Class Roster and Third Period Cumulative ADM data collections.

⁸ Same data criteria as above. Disadvantaged groups include: Hispanic, Black/African American, Native American/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander race/ethnicity; Economically Disadvantaged; Special Education; English Learner.

Conclusion

Overall, there is much less variation between class sizes based on student groups in elementary self-contained classes, and there is a clear difference in class size between all students and disadvantaged students, varying in degree based on subject and grade level. ⁹

Median Class Size



⁹ Data are based on students who were enrolled in public school courses on May 2, 2016 and are derived from the 2015-2016 Class Roster and Third Period Cumulative ADM data collections. Disadvantaged groups include: Hispanic, Black/African American, Native American/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander race/ethnicity; Economically Disadvantaged; Special Education; English Learner.