

## Smaller Classes, Greater Variability

Small classes in Tennessee's Project STAR study produced greater differences—"variability"—between lower- and higher-achieving students than regular-size classes, an analysis suggests.

**Small classes**  
(13-17 students)



**Regular-size classes**  
(22-26 students)



Higher-achieving students benefited more from being in smaller classes than did lower-achieving students.

Benefits for high-achieving students were concentrated in kindergarten and 1st grade.

Higher-achieving students may have been more capable of making the most out of being in a small class.

A new randomized trial, with observational data on small classrooms, is needed.