

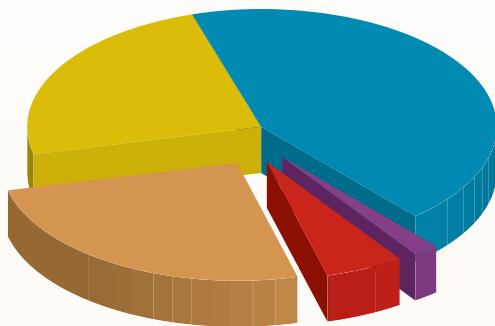
Chapter 5: The Province's Schools

In 2009/10, 279 public schools operated in the province with the majority located in the Eastern school district and in rural regions (see Figure 5.1). While the total number of schools remained the same as the previous year, changes occurred in the Western and Nova Central districts. For example,

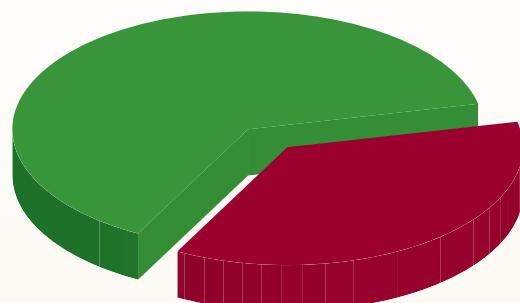
- A K-12 school closed in the Western district (St. Joseph's School in Croque);
- In Nova Central, a 7-9 school opened (Lewisporte Intermediate); and,
- Four schools in Nova Central were reconfigured. These include:
 - Centreville Academy and William Mercer Academy changed from a K-8 school to a K-9 school;
 - Jane Collins Academy changed from a Grade 9-Level III school to a Level I-Level III school; and,
 - Lewisporte Academy changed from a K-9 school to a K-6 school.

Figure 5.1: Location of schools (2009/10)

(a) By district



(b) By locale



(Source: Table 5.1)

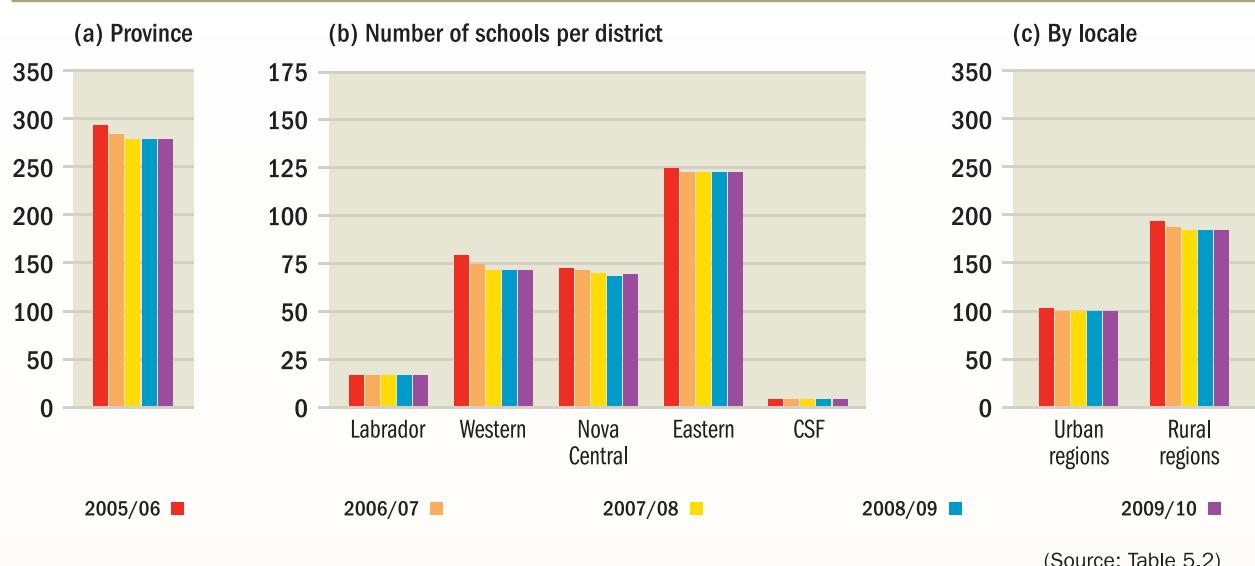
Trends in the number of public schools (2005/06-2009/10)

As shown in Figure 5.2a, the number of schools in the province has gradually declined from 294 in 2005/06 to 279 in 2008/09. This represents a 5.1% reduction in the number of schools. However, between 2008/09 and 2009/10, the number of schools remained the same at 279.

The greatest change in the number of schools was found in the Western district and in rural regions of the province. Between 2005/06 and 2009/10, there was:

- a 10.1% decline in the number of schools in the Western district (see Figure 5.2b), and
- a 7.3% decline in the number of schools in rural regions. The number of schools in urban regions declined by only 1.0% (see Figure 5.2c).

Figure 5.2: Change in the number of public schools (2005/06-2009/10)



School configurations

Schools can be grouped based on the grades they provide. Currently, schools are organized based on the following six grade configurations.

Grade Configuration	Grades provided
Kindergarten – 12	All grades
Primary	Any combination of grades between Kindergarten and Grades 3, 4 or 5 with no higher grades present
Elementary	K-6 to K-9 or any combination in this range
Intermediate	Typically includes Grades 7 to 9
Secondary	Any combination of grades between Grade 7 and Level I, II or III
Senior High	Grades 9-Level III or Levels I-III

School configurations (2009/10)

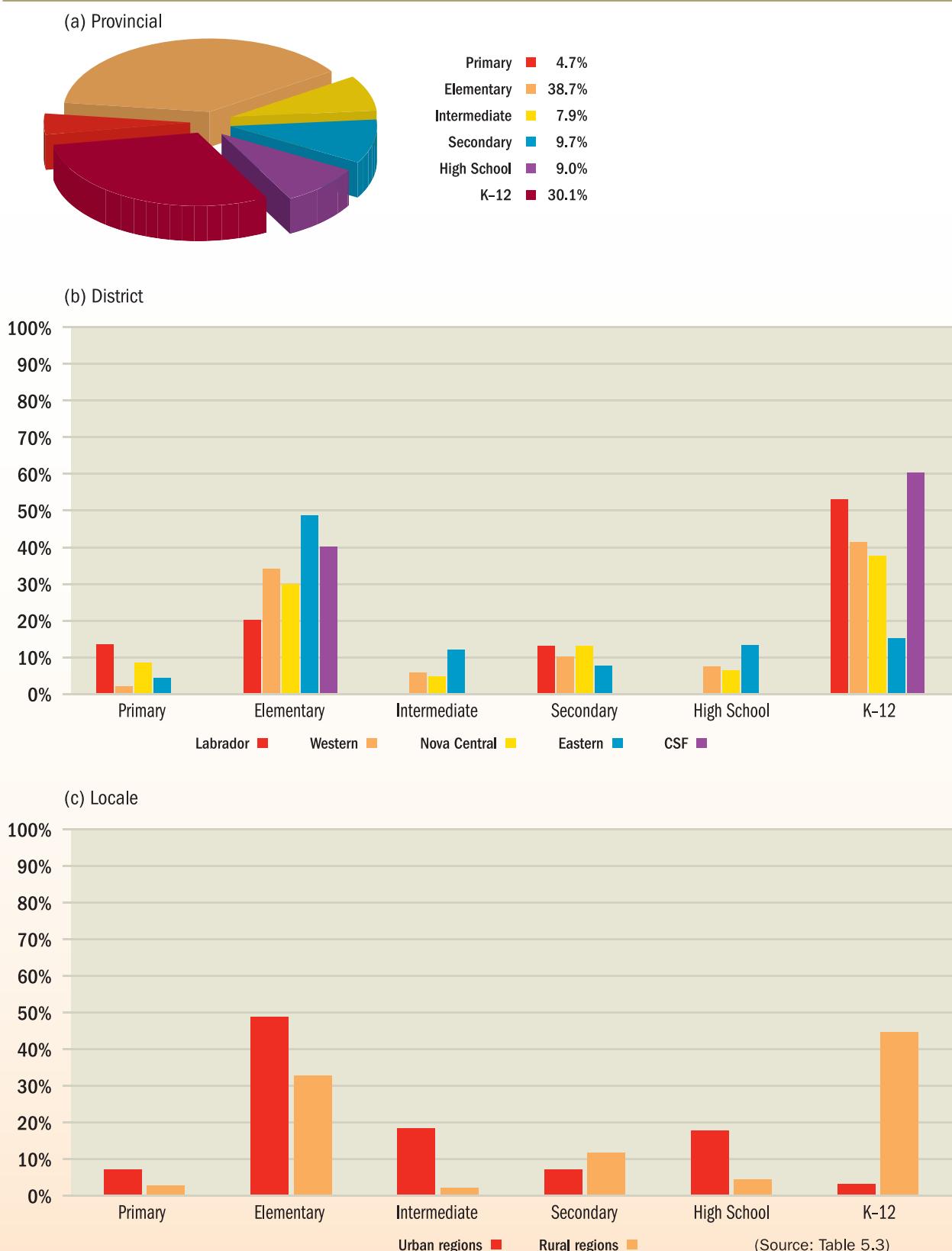
In 2009/10, the majority of the province's 279 schools were either elementary or K-12. Combined, these two school types accounted for over two-thirds of all schools. Primary schools accounted for the smallest percentage of grade configurations, accounting for only 4.7% of the total number of schools (see Figure 5.3a).

The grade configuration of schools within each district varies. For example, in 2009/10, nearly half (48.8%) of the schools in the Eastern school district were elementary. The Labrador district, on the other hand, was made up of a higher percentage of K-12 schools. The composition of schools within the Western and Nova Central districts was somewhat similar with both having a higher percentage of either K-12 or elementary schools (see Figure 5.3b).

The types of schools present in urban and rural regions of the province are also different. The majority of schools in urban regions are elementary (48.5% of the 101 schools) whereas the majority in rural regions are K-12 (44.9% of the 178). Also, urban centres tended to have higher percentages of primary, elementary, intermediate and high schools. Rural regions, on the other hand, had higher percentages of secondary and K-12 schools (see Figure 5.3c).



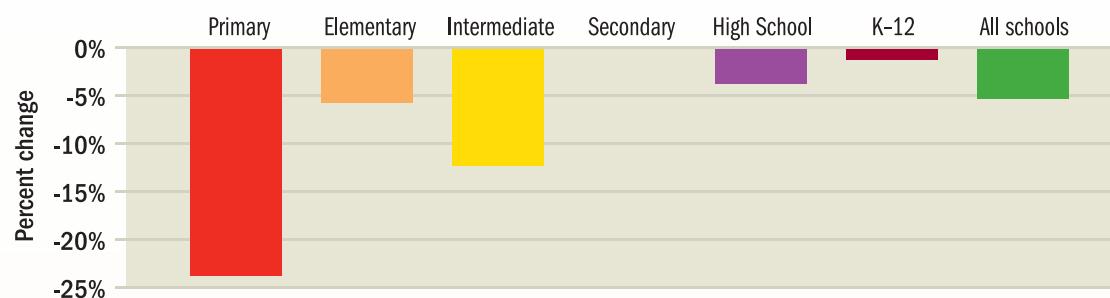
Figure 5.3: Percentage of schools by grade configuration (2009/10)



Provincial trends in school configurations (2005/06-2009/10)

While there was a 5.1% decline in the total number of schools in the province between 2005/06 and 2009/10, the largest changes occurred with primary and intermediate schools. During this time, the number of primary schools declined by 23.5% (from 17 in 2005/06 to 13 in 2009/10) and the number of intermediate schools declined by 12.0% (from 25 to 21 schools). The percent change in the other grade configurations ranged between 0.0% and 5.3% (see Figure 5.4).

Figure 5.4: Changes in school configurations (2005/06-2009/10)



(Source: Table 5.4)

School size

For the purpose of this report, schools were grouped into three sizes based on student enrolment:

- small schools had less than 100 students attending;
- medium schools had between 100 and 299 students; and,
- large schools had 300 or more students in attendance.

Overall, schools in the province tend to be either medium or large. In 2009/10, one third of the schools were medium-sized and over 42.3% were large (see Figure 5.5a). Figure 5.5b reports the percentage of small, medium and large schools located within each district. This figure shows that:

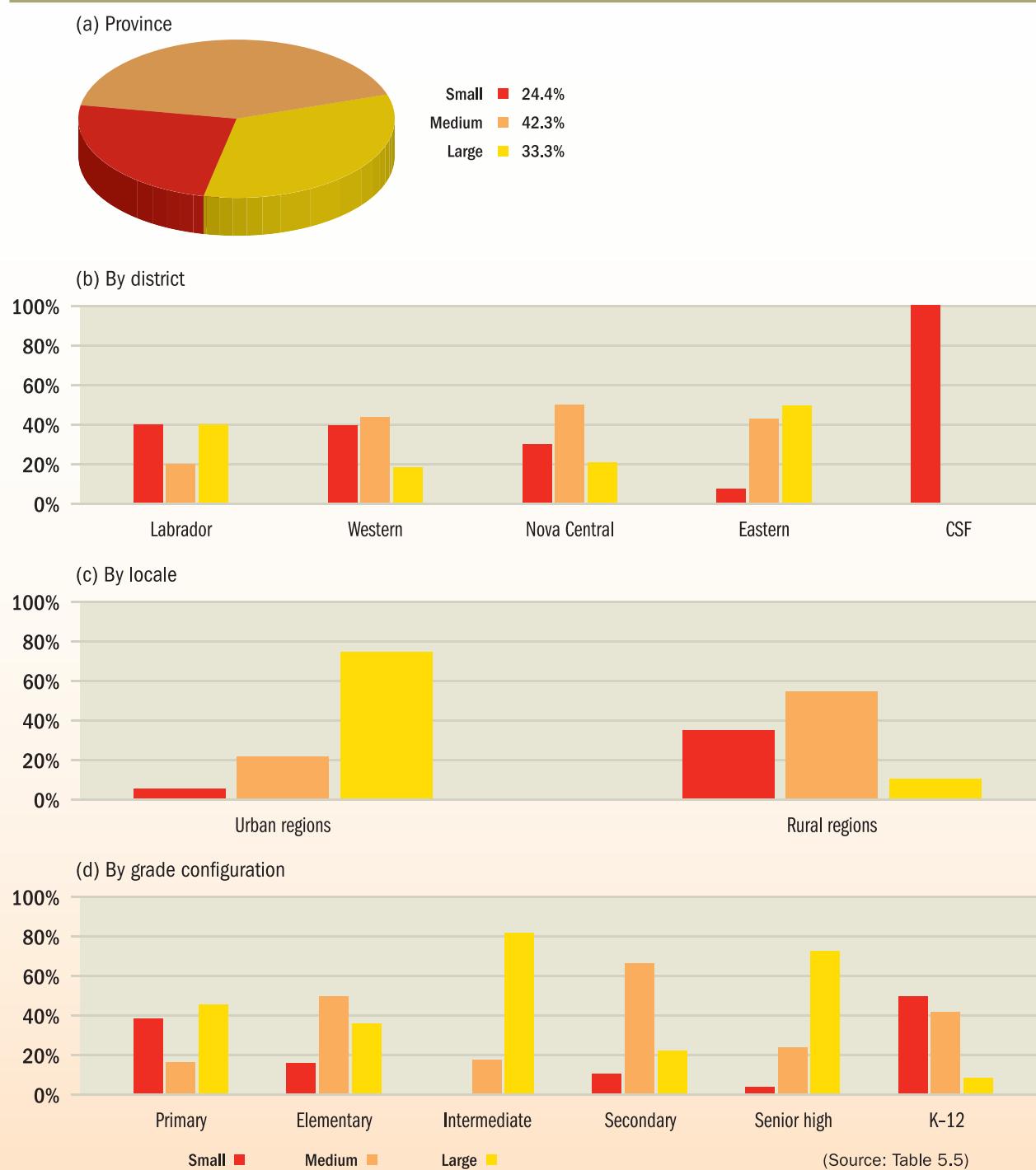
- The Eastern school district had the highest percentage of large schools and lowest percentage of small schools.
- The Nova Central and Western districts had the highest percentage of medium sized schools.
- Labrador was the only district where an equal percentage of small and large schools existed.
- All five schools within the CSF were small.

The highest percentage of large schools was located in urban regions, while rural regions had the highest percentage of small and medium sized schools (see Figure 5.5c).

Finally, Figure 5.5d reports the school size of different grade configurations. In 2009/10:

- Intermediate and senior high schools tended to be larger.
- Secondary and elementary schools tended to be medium sized.
- Primary schools had similar percentages of small and large schools.
- K-12 schools had similar percentages of small and medium sized schools.

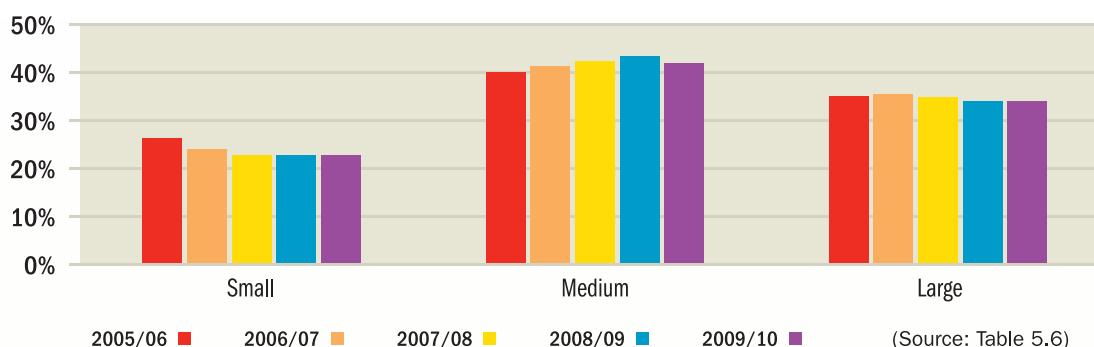
Figure 5.5: School size (2009/10)



Provincial Trends in School Size (2005/06-2009/10)

In general, the percentage of schools of each size has remained fairly consistent. For example, between 2005/06 and 2009/10, the percentage of large schools ranged from 33.3% to 34.7% (see Figure 5.6).

Figure 5.6: Changes in provincial school size (2005/06-2009/10)



(Source: Table 5.6)

Average Class Size

In the province, class size maximums are set at

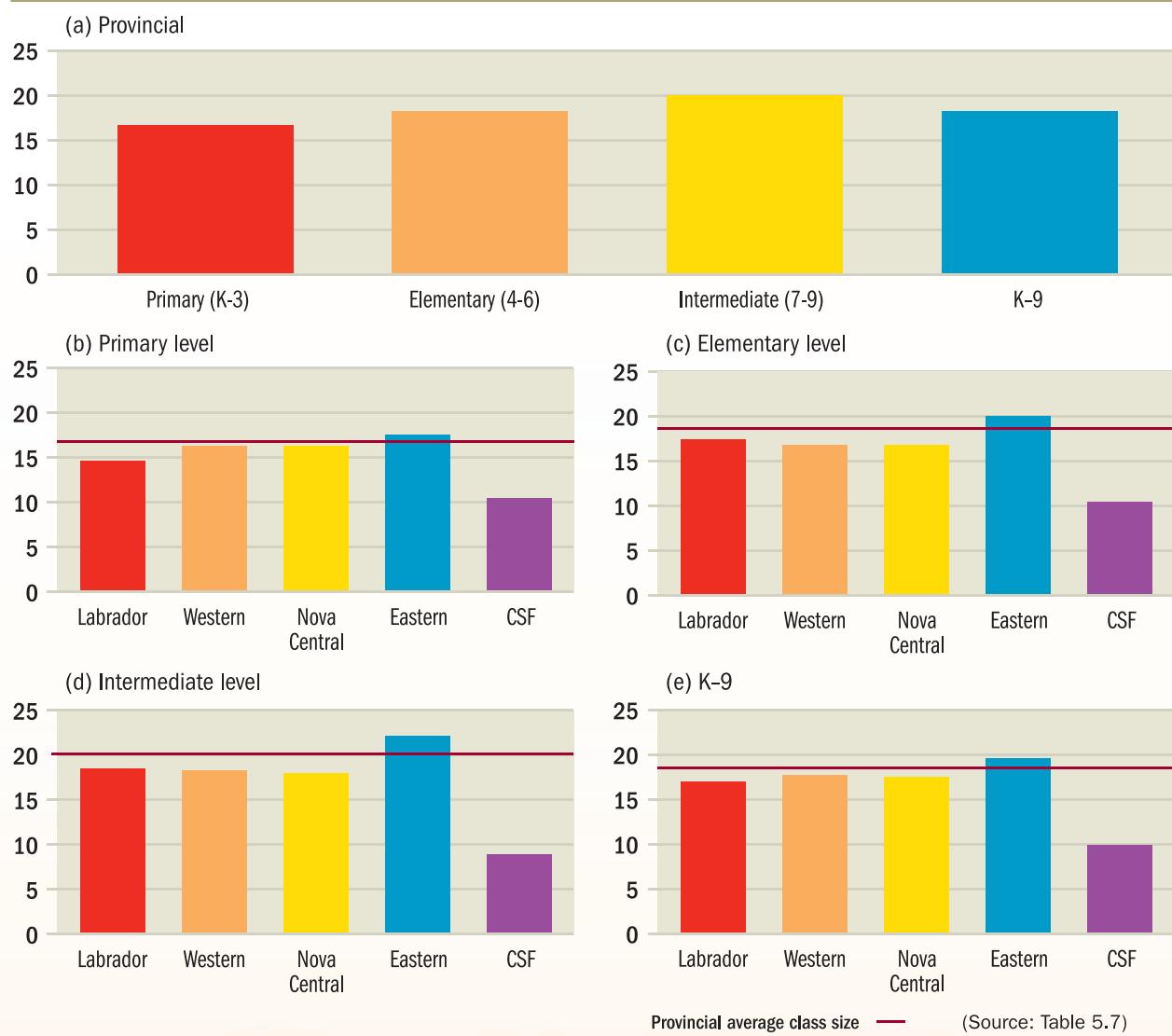
Grade level	Class size maximum
Kindergarten	20
Grades 1-6	25
Grades 7-9	27

Note: the maximum class size for Grades 6 and 9 will be implemented in 2010/11.

Provincially, the average class size in 2009/10 for each of these levels was below the targets set by the department (see Figure 5.7). The average class size ranged from a low of 16.7 at the primary level to a high of 20.1 at the intermediate level.

Overall, the average class size was below the provincial level in four of the five school districts. The Eastern school district was the only place where the average class size was slightly higher than the provincial average in each of the grade groupings. However, these average class sizes still remained below the class size caps implemented by the department. The lowest average class size was found in the CSF (see Figure 5.7).

Figure 5.7: Average class size (2009/10)



Trends in average class size (2005/06-2009/10)

Over the past five years, average class sizes in the province have steadily decreased in the primary, elementary and intermediate levels (see Figure 5.8). At the district level, the lowest average class size at each grade level was found in the CSF. On the other hand, the highest average class sizes were found in the Eastern school district. For each level, the average class size was greater than the provincial average, but still below the class size caps.

Focusing on the specific levels, the average class size at the primary level remained fairly stable in the Western, Nova Central and CSF districts. The other two districts reported a continuing decrease from year to year (see Figure 5.9a). For the elementary and intermediate levels, continual declines in the average class size occurred in the Western, Nova Central and Eastern school districts. However, in the Labrador and CSF districts, it declined between 2005/06 and 2007/08, increased in 2008/09 and declined once again in 2009/10 (see Figure 5.9b and Figure 5.9c). A similar trend was seen in the average class sizes in K-9 schools (see Figure 5.9d).



Figure 5.8: Provincial average class size (2005/06-2009/10)

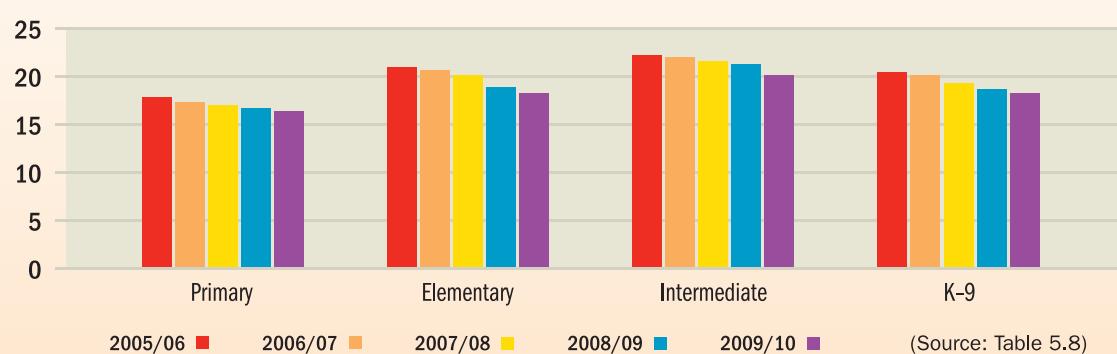


Figure 5.9: District average class size (2005/06-2009/10)

