

GENERAL WAIVER COVER SHEET
CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 2004 AGENDA
Item No. W-1

TITLE: Request by Santa Cruz City Schools to waive Education Code (EC) Section 51224.5, regarding completion of a course in Algebra I as part of the graduation requirement, so that the 6% of the graduating seniors of 2004 may get a diploma. CDSIS: 17-11-2003	<u> X </u> ACTION <u> </u> INFORMATION <u> </u> PUBLIC HEARING <u> </u> CONSENT
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RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends:

- Approval
 Denial

**CDE Recommendation will be submitted in the
Last Minute Memorandum**

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action:

In September 2001, the State Board of Education and the California Department of Education co-authored a letter to the field regarding algebra readiness. The letter alerted the field to the change in California Education Code Section 51224.5 that requires students, beginning with the graduating class of 2003-04, to complete Algebra I as a condition of graduation.

There have been no previous waivers on the topic to the State Board of Education.

Summary of Key Issue(s):

The waiver application from the Santa Cruz City Schools states that students were not notified about the algebra requirement for graduation until November 2003 and that approximately 94% have already met the requirement.

The Department sent a letter to all Superintendents of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with graduating seniors and Superintendents of County Offices of Education on November 5, 2003 as a reminder that the law enacted in 2000 to add algebra as a graduation requirement was effective with the graduating class of 2003-04.

In 2000 the Legislature acted (Senate Bill 1354) to add Algebra I as a requirement for graduation, effective with the graduating class of 2003-04. This action was based on the following declarations:

- Too many of California's high school graduates are graduating without the necessary mathematical foundation to succeed in the workforce and in postsecondary education.

- Research and findings demonstrate the importance of algebra as a building block for advanced mathematics, a predictor of success in college, and as a key ingredient for everyday problem solving.
- By requiring that a course in Algebra I that meets or exceeds the state content standards be included in the adopted course of study and taken by every high school pupil as a requirement of graduation, the state can ensure that high school pupils are given the opportunity to learn as required by law.

CDE Recommendation will be submitted in the Last Minute Memorandum

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on: October 28, 2003

Position of bargaining unit (choose only one):

Neutral Support Oppose

Name of bargaining unit representative: Greater Santa Cruz Federation of Teachers

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

posting in a newspaper posting at each school other (specify)

Letters sent to parents and notice posted at multiple sites.

Public hearing held on: November 5, 2003

Local board approval date: November 19, 2003

Advisory committee(s) consulted: District Administrative Cabinet

Objections raised (choose one): None Objections are attached on
separate sheet

Date consulted: November 12, 2003

Effective dates of request: July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate):

Background Information:

Documentation is attached to this Summary.

Attachments:

Senate Bill 1354

E.C. 51224.5

E.C. 51225.3

September 4, 2001 letter

November 5, 2003 letter