

GENERAL WAIVER COVER SHEET
CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 2004 AGENDA
Item No. W-7

TITLE: Request by Hesperia Unified School District to waive <i>Education Code</i> (EC) Section 37202, equity length of time requirement, to allow a full day kindergarten pilot program at Mesa Academy School .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC HEARING <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT
CDSIS: 18-11-2003	

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends approval of this waiver for one year with the condition that the district provide an evaluation of the full day kindergarten pilot program before a renewal is considered.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action:

The State Board of Education has approved similar waivers in the past.

Summary of Key Issue(s):

Hesperia Unified is requesting a waiver of the equity length of time requirement, EC Section 37202, that states a district shall maintain an equal length of time in the school year for all its elementary schools. The district wants to start a pilot program for an extended day kindergarten at Mesa Academy School, one of thirteen elementary schools within the district. Currently, the school operates the kindergarten at 36,675 annual minutes and with this waiver will increase the minutes annually to 49,912. Within this district, 56% of all students qualify for the free and reduced-price lunch program. The district wants to increase instructional time in order to increase student performance.

The district, in conjunction with the school leadership, teachers, and parents, all believe that increased instructional time for kindergarten students will increase student learning. The school site councils have discussed this issue at their meetings and approve. The district also has an open enrollment policy so that interested parents may opt to send their kindergarten pupils to this school site. The school board has adopted a policy for the Early Primary Program and will follow the requirements of EC Sections 8970-8974. The teacher's union fully supports this pilot program.

Therefore, the Department recommends approval of this waiver for one year with the condition that the district provide an evaluation of the full day kindergarten pilot program before a renewal is considered.

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on: October 31, 2003

Position of bargaining unit (choose only one):

Neutral Support Oppose

Name of bargaining unit representative: Gordon Williamson, Hesperia Education Assoc.
– Vice President

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

Posting in a newspaper posting at each school other (specify

Public hearing held on: November 10, 2003

Local board approval date: November 10, 2003

Advisory committee(s) consulted: School Site Councils

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

Date consulted: October 7, 2003

Effective dates of request: 10/01/03 to 06/30/04

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate): N/A

Background Information:

Waiver request forms and supporting documents are attached to this summary.