



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JULY 2004 AGENDA

General Waiver

SUBJECT Request by Las Virgenes Unified School District for a renewal waiver of <i>Education Code</i> (EC) section 37202, the equity length of time requirement, to allow a full day kindergarten program at Sumac Elementary School . Waiver Number: 24-5-2004	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action
	<input type="checkbox"/> Consent

RECOMMENDATION

Approval **Approval with conditions** **Denial**

That EC Section 33051(c) will apply and the district will not have to reapply annually if the information contained on the request remains the same.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The SBE has previously approved similar waivers in the past.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

The Las Virgenes Unified School District requests a renewal waiver of the equity length of time requirement in order to continue the implementation of an extended day kindergarten program at Sumac Elementary offering 215 minutes daily. The district's board for the first waiver adopted EC sections 8970-8974.

As a condition of the first waiver, the district submitted their evaluation of the pilot program that shows favorable results. For example, the overall effect of the full day kindergarten pilot program for the teachers has allowed them more time to plan activities and more time to meeting with each other. Seventy-four percent of the kindergarten parents responded to the district's survey. The survey shows that most parents were happy with the results of the extended day program. Included in the parental responses are such comments as: "The child is not rushed so fast. They get more class time and social time." This is "more convenient for everyone time wise, child learns more and adjusts more quickly."

In the evaluation of the pilot program, the district states that although they do not have consistent assessment instruments yet across all the grade levels due to current changes in the overall process, they do have common elements such as phonemic awareness, letter recognition, letter sounds and number recognition. They do not yet have multi-year data with an assessment instrument but are working towards that goal. First grade teachers plan to evaluate their non-extended day pupils using these elements as a comparison to the extended day kindergarten pupils. The pilot program evaluation also included the option for parents that do not wish to participate in this school's pilot program by offering them the choice of a school that is within five blocks of the pilot school. Generally, this program is effective in generating positive results for

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kindergarten pupils. The API scores of the schools in the Las Virgenes Unified School District demonstrate a high level of achievement overall. The districtwide API score is 849. The API for Sumac Elementary grew by 32 points in 2003, up from 797 to 829.

Therefore, the department recommends approval, Education Code (EC) Section 33051(c) will apply and the district will not have to reapply annually if the information contained on the request remains the same.

Authority for Waiver: *Education Code* (EC) Section 33050

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on date(s): 04/22/04

Position of bargaining unit(s) (choose only one):

Neutral Support Oppose

Name of bargaining unit/representative(s): Ginny Jannato, CTA

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

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

Public hearing held on date(s): Renewal waiver – not necessary

Local board approval date(s): 05/11/04

Advisory committee(s) consulted: not necessary for renewal waivers

Objections raised (choose one): None Objections are as follows:

Date(s) consulted: NA

Period of request: 08/01/04 to 07/31/05

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

The district is willing to absorb any fiscal costs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Action Item: Some documentation is available for web viewing. Waiver forms and other hard copy documents are available for viewing at the Waiver Office or State Board Office.