



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JULY 2004 AGENDA

Federal Waiver

SUBJECT Request by Carlsbad Unified School District to waive No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB); Title IV, Part A, Section 4115(a)(1)(c) to use Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities funds to support the cost of <i>Lions-Quest Skills for Growing</i> a K-5 comprehensive prevention program. Waiver Number: Fed-04-2004	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent

RECOMMENDATION

Approval
 Approval with conditions
 Denial

The District must submit a report to the Safe and Healthy Kids Program Office (SHKPO) no later than July 31, 2005, describing the progress made by Dr. Marv Eisen, who will be working with the Urban Institute and the Association for the Study and Development of Community, to conduct a pilot study of the *Lions-Quest Skills for Growing* program. The district must submit a report to the SHKPO no later than July 31, 2006, that describes the progress in submitting the results of the evaluation to the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and the California Healthy Kids Resource Center, for possible designation as a Model, or Validated Program. The district must be willing to take part in a formal evaluation, if requested and must also evaluate its own comprehensive prevention program in accordance with the district's approved Local Educational Agency Plan (LEAP).

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

State Board Waiver Policy 03-01 contains guidelines for approval of applications for waiver of the NCLB requirements that Title IV funds be used for "science-based" prevention programs.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

The waiver application from the Carlsbad Unified School District regarding the *Lions-Quest Skills for Growing* program has been reviewed to ensure compliance with the three major criteria described in SBE policy 03-01 that must be met in order for the waiver to be approved by the board. The waiver application's success in meeting each of the three criteria is described as follows:

1. Is the program innovative?

The program is innovative and the goals and format use up-to-date youth development principles and practices. The Skills for Growing is a K-5 comprehensive prevention curriculum that is well integrated into all subject matter, is grade level specific, and is designed to create personal, classroom, and school climate for positive learning

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environments. Evaluation of curriculum for elementary grades is needed, and the results will benefit school districts in California. In addition, the goals of the program are consistent with several of the recent performance measures required of all school districts receiving Title IV Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities funds. These program goals can be measured using the Resilience and Youth Development Module of the California Healthy Kids Survey. The program's major goals are to:

- Engage students, families, school and community in creating a learning environment based on caring relationships, high expectations, and meaningful involvement
- Provide opportunities to learn emotional and social skills
- Provide opportunities to practice good citizenship
- Strengthen children's commitments to family, positive peers, school, and community
- Promote a safe and healthy life, free from harm of tobacco, alcohol, and drug use
- Celebrate diversity and encourage respect for others

2. Does the program demonstrate substantial likelihood of success?

The program does demonstrate a substantial likelihood of success. Lions-Quest Skills for Growing for K-5, is similar to the proven effective, science-based program, Lions-Quest Skills for Adolescence, for grades 6-8 which is approved by the State Board of Education. The Carlsbad Unified School District Board of Education previously selected the Skills for Adolescence program for implementation in its middle schools and CDE approved its use in the district's LEAP. Adding the elementary version of the approved science based program will have a strong likelihood of being implemented with fidelity. In addition, the Collaborative for Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) and their leadership, including Maurice Elias, Rutgers University, Daniel Goleman, Timothy Shriver, Roger Weissberg, and others have designated all the Lions-Quest programs in their "Best of the Best" category. Additionally, Peter Benson of the Search Institute stated that Lions-Quest Skills for Growing meets 30 of the 40 criteria related to effective asset building in children. The program was developed with a 1.5 million dollar partnership with the Kellogg Foundation and takes the theory of protective factors, asset building, and life skills to the practical level in the classroom.

The opportunity to subject Lions-Quest Skills for Growing to evaluation, employing scientifically-based research methodology, represents a valuable addition to the field of prevention research consistent with the Board's criteria.

3. Is there a plan and timeline for submitting the program for review and recognition?

The applicant has stated that Dr. Eisen will be working with the National Institutes of Health to design the strategy and implementation process to measure the impact of the program at the elementary level. In October of 2004 Dr. Eisen will be working with the Urban Institute and the Association for the Study and Development of community to do pilot site selection and instrumentation designed for the study. The Lions-Quest Skills for Growing study will be one of the largest federal prevention studies to date in the drug prevention field.

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The applicant's timeline includes providing a progress report to the California Department of Education in July 31, 2005. The findings of the study will be submitted to the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), as well as the United States Department of Education, and the California Healthy Kids Resource Center no later than July 2006. This fully meets the Boards criteria in this regard.

The Department recommends that this waiver request be approved as it meets each of the three criteria identified in the State Board waiver policy regarding the federal statute.

Authority for Waiver: NCLB, Title IV, Part A, Section 4115(a)(3)

Local board approval date(s): June 28, 2003

Period of request: July 8, 2004 – July 6, 2006

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

Waiver approval will allow the district to use Title IV, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities funds for this program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Consent Item: Backup materials, waiver request forms and supporting documents are not available for web viewing but are available for inspection in the Waiver Office.

Attachment:

Federal Waiver Request Addendum (one page)

California Department of Education
FEDERAL WAIVER REQUEST
Safe and Drug Free Innovative Programs

Carlsbad Unified School District

Lions Quest *Skills for Growing*

Addendum, April 30, 2004

7. Describe the plan for submitting the program for review and recognition as a science-based program.

The Lions Quest organization reports that they have finalized arrangements with Dr. Marv Eisen of the Urban Institute and of the Association for the Study & Development of Community to initiate for the Lions-Quest *Skills for Growing* a comprehensive longitudinal study of its impact regarding resiliency, asset building, and reduction of at-risk behaviors. (As mentioned in item # 6, the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning has identified Lions-Quest as a Select Program for providing this foundational aspect of delivering protective factors in children.)

Dr. Eisen will be working with the National Institutes of Health to design the strategy and implementation process to measure this impact at the elementary level in age appropriate manner. He will be providing the leadership for designing and submitting this plan of action for the N.I.H. October 2004, review cycle. Lions Quest will also be inviting non-governmental philanthropic entities to join in this effort, since the area of effective early primary prevention is such a critical factor in the drug use and abuse decision. After the proposal submission in October 2004, Dr. Eisen will commence working with the Urban Institute and the Association for the Study and Development of Community to do pilot site selection and instrumentation designed for the study. The *Skills for Growing* study will be one of the largest federal prevention studies to date in the drug prevention arena.

The Lions Quest staff indicates that they are eager to finalize this process. They look toward preliminary results approximately two years from the date of funding. They are also informing officials at the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) and the U.S. Department of Education regarding this initiative.

Carlsbad Unified School District will submit to the California Department of Education in May 2005, a report about the progress Lions-Quest has made toward achieving their goals.