

GENERAL WAIVER COVER SHEET

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JUNE 2003 AGENDA

Item No. W-3

<p>TITLE: Request by Tamalpais Union High School District to waive portions of <i>Education Code</i> 52084(a) and 52086(a) 9th Grade Class Size Reduction (formerly Morgan-Hart), the requirement for a 20:1 student to teacher ratio so that the district may provide a 25:1 ratio across four core courses—English, Math, Science and Social Studies.</p> <p>CDSIS: 3-4-2003</p>	<p><u> X </u> ACTION <u> </u> INFORMATION <u> </u> PUBLIC HEARING <u> </u> CONSENT</p>
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RECOMMENDATION:

X APPROVAL, for the period July 1, 2002 - June 29, 2003, E.C. 33051(c) **will not apply**, and the affected classes in the four core subjects on average will not exceed a student-teacher ratio of 25:1; and no individual affected class will exceed a maximum enrollment of 27:1 on any day the class meets; total funding for the program will not exceed two times the 9th grade CBEDS enrollment for each participating school.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action:

This is the third, non-consecutive year for this waiver request. The current request is a renewal of a waiver approved by the State Board on May 9, 2001 for the 2002-03 school year with similar conditions as above, **however the district also promised that they would not seek a renewal “whether the legislation is approved or rejected”** This waiver request is part of a continuing “smaller learning community” project, the district combines funds from 9th Grade Class Size Reduction program and a federal smaller learning communities grant to create a reduced class size in all Grade 9 English/Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies classes.

Summary of Key Issue(s):

The State Board allowed the waiver originally for 2001-02 **because the three participating high schools posted API scores above 800** and this was seen as a pilot project for an academically successful district. The district promised to seek legislation to allow their program design, and they have done this with the introduction two bills (see below). Although the three high schools scored above 800 the year before the first waiver, **the following year 2 of the 3 schools did not receive a valid API score** because more than 20% of the students had parental waivers to opt-out of the testing that is used to create an API score.

In addition the district did, as promised, seek a legislative fix, first with AB 2547, Nation, Statutes of 2002, which died in committee last November 2002. It was reintroduced this year as AB 163, Nation, has been again “placed on Appropriations suspense file.” So the district now needs a third waiver to continue the program, in spite of the promises made. The district is able to provide data through an evaluation study of the program, and results indicate that **9th grade students’ GPAs**

have risen, and school climate measures have improved (attendance rates and the number of suspensions dramatically reduced.) The district feels they have confirmed that smaller learning communities foster teacher collaboration and students' sense of community and support. Two of the schools have 2002 API's 832 and 806, however the third school still has no API due to excessive parent opt-out waivers.

The Department is very interested in the data that is being collected as a part of this project as longitudinal evaluation studies are not currently available for high school class size reduction. Therefore, considering all of the above, the Department is recommending approval with the same types of waiver condition, for a third non-consecutive year so that EC 33051(c) will NOT apply.

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on: 1-09-01 and 3-14-03

Position of bargaining unit (choose only one):

Neutral **Support** Oppose

Name of bargaining unit representative: Paul Grifo, President, Tamalpais Teachers
Patrick Gaynor, President 2003

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

posting in a newspaper **posting at each school** **other (specify)**
Published on district website

Public hearing held on: 2-26-02 (non controversial renewal)

Local board approval date: 3-25-03

Advisory committee(s) consulted: **Redwood High 3/19/03, Tamalpais High 3/18/03,**
and Drake High School 3/25/03

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

Effective dates of request: July 1, 2003 - June 29, 2004

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate): District would only be eligible for two times the 9th grade CBEDS enrollment for each participating school.. the same maximum allowed for any district under the regular program.

Background Information:

Documentation is attached to this summary.