



## CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

ITEM #WC-7

### MARCH 2004 AGENDA

#### Federal Waiver

##### SUBJECT

Request by **Ross Valley 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 **Bully-Proofing**, a K-8 program that offers a systems approach for handling bully/victim problems through the creation of a "caring community".

Waiver Number: Fed-14-2003

Action

Consent

##### RECOMMENDATION

Approval  Approval with conditions  Denial

The district must submit a report to the Safe and Healthy Kids Program Office no later than March 2005 describing the progress made by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence's in evaluating the *Bully Proofing Your School* program. The district must submit a report to the Safe and Healthy Kids Program Office no later than March of 2006 describing Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence's progress in submitting the results of the evaluation to the National Registry of Effective Programs, the University of Colorado's Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, and/or the California Healthy Kids Resource Center, for possible designation as a Model, Blueprint, or Validated Program. The district must be willing to take part in the formal evaluation if requested. The district must also evaluate its own comprehensive prevention program in accordance with the district's approved Local Educational Agency Plan.

##### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

State Board 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

This application requests a waiver so that the LEA may use the "promising" prevention program *Bully Proofing Your School* rather than a "science-based" prevention program as required by Title IV of NCLB. Per State Board Policy 03-01, there are three conditions, which must be satisfied before approval of the use of a

“promising” prevention program rather than an already-established science-based program. Each of those conditions is listed in bold below.

**Is the program innovative and does the program demonstrate substantial likelihood of success?**

These two conditions, for innovation and substantial likelihood of success, are satisfied because the program has already been designated as “promising” by the University of Colorado’s Center for the Study of Prevention and Violence.

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Policy 03-01 lists the Center as one of the nationwide research groups that may recognize a new program as “science-based.”

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

This condition requires that the plan be reviewed by one of the nationwide research groups identified in policy 03-01, that the applicant show a commitment to supporting the scientific evaluation of the program and willingness to take part in clinical trials designed to measure program effectiveness, and that the applicant provide an annual report to the California Healthy Kids Office describing adequate progress for submitting the program for recognition as a science-based program.

This waiver request meets this criterion, because the program is in the second year of a three-year study of the program’s effectiveness by the University of Colorado’s Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence and it thus far shows a significant decline in verbal and physical bullying in the study schools. Because the evaluation of *Bully-Proofing Your School* is already underway, there is not much the applicant can do to take part in the clinical trials. Providing an annual report to the California Healthy Kids Office is a condition for approval of the waiver.

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Authority for Waiver: Federal Waiver Authority: NCLB, Title IV, Part A, Section 115(a)(3)

Local board approval date(s): 1/13/04

Period of Request: 8/25/03 – 6/30/05

**FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)**

Programmatic change – no fiscal impact.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Waiver request forms and supporting documents are available for inspection in the Waiver Office.