



## CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

ITEM #WC-8

### MARCH 2004 AGENDA

**Federal Waiver**

**SUBJECT**

Request by **Simi Valley School District** to waive No Child 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 **Get Real About Violence**, a violence prevention program for grades six through nine

Waiver Number: Fed-15-2003

**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 United Learning in evaluating the *Get Real About Violence* program. The district must submit a report to the Safe and Healthy Kids Program Office no later than March of 2006 describing the progress made by United Learning 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**

The SBE previously adopted policy 03-01 that requires a program or activity supported with Safe and Drug Free School and Communities (SDFSC) funds to meet the principles of effectiveness. Attachment A of the policy lists those programs that provide scientific evidence that the program reduces violence or illegal drug use as required by Title IV, Part A Section 4115. A waiver to allow the use of SDFSC funds to support a program not listed on Attachment A is presented for consent when it meets the criteria otherwise listed in the SBE Waiver Policy.

**SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

This application requests a waiver so that the LEA may use the "promising" prevention program *Get Real About Violence* rather than a "science-based" prevention program as required by Title IV of NCLB. Per State Board Policy 03-01,  
**Simi Valley School District, Page 2**

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 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration’s Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. 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 Department describing adequate progress for submitting the program for recognition as a science-based program. This waiver applicant meets this condition and has submitted documentation that the curriculum evaluation of **Get Real About Violence** will be published by *Health Communication* in the last quarter of 2004. The publisher, United Learning, is also planning another evaluation study to begin in 2004 with both publication submittal and submittal to independent bodies in 2005. Participating in clinical trials, if chosen, and providing an annual report to the Department are conditions for approval of the waiver.

A supplement to the waiver application provided a description of the current curriculum evaluation of **Get Real About Violence**, the planned evaluation study and its publication, and the applicant’s plan and timeline for program implementation.

---

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

Local board approval date(s): 11-18-03

Period of request: 11-18-03 to 11-18-05

**FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)**

Waiver approval will allow the district to use funds for this program.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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

