

GENERAL WAIVER COVER SHEET
CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MAY 2003 AGENDA
Item No. W-4

<p>TITLE: Request by Jefferson Elementary School District to waive <i>Education Code (EC)</i> Section 37202, the equity length of time requirement for the kindergarten pupils at Roosevelt School, Garden Village, Westlake, Colma, M.H. Tobias and Edison Elementary Schools.</p> <p>CDSIS: 128-03-2003</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC HEARING</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT</p>
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RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends approval of this waiver for one year with the condition that before a renewal waiver is granted, the district submit an evaluation of the extended day program.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action:

The State Board of Education has approved similar waivers in the past.

Summary of Key Issue(s):

Jefferson Elementary School District is requesting a waiver of *EC* Section 37202, which states that a district shall maintain an equal length of time in the school year for all its schools. Roosevelt Elementary School received a waiver last year for the 2002-2003 school year for one year only. The evaluation of that pilot program was successful with the families of 30 students surveyed along with three teachers. Most parents stated in their comments that the extended day kindergarten allowed their children to acquire more skills and prepare them better for the next grade. Parents also commented that they liked the fact that their children spent less time in after school programs.

Due to the success at Jefferson Elementary, the district wants to implement the program at five more elementary schools, Garden Village, Westlake, Colma, Tobias and Edison Elementary Schools. The school will increase the instructional minutes for the kindergarten class from 202 minutes to 240 minutes, an increase of 38 minutes per day. The district originally submitted this waiver as part of a renewal of the waiver for Roosevelt School but since the original conditions of the waiver have now changed, this cannot be considered at a renewal of the original request, waiver number 41-7-2002-W-4.

The school has been experiencing declining enrollment in the past several years and has the space to provide a longer day for the kindergarten pupils. The district maintains an open enrollment policy so all students will have an opportunity to participate in the extended day program. The district has discussed the extended day kindergarten program at Jefferson school with their governing board at a meeting during which **EC Sections 8970-8974** were reviewed and approved.

The district has followed all the guidelines for piloting an extended day kindergarten. Therefore, the department recommends approval of this waiver for one year with the condition that before a renewal will be considered, the district must submit an evaluation of their extended day kindergarten program at the following schools: Roosevelt, Garden Village, Westlake, Colma, Tobias and Edison.

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on: 02/28/03, 03/04/03

Position of bargaining unit (choose only one):

Neutral Support Oppose

Name of bargaining unit representative: Paul Hagen, Melinda Dart

Comments: provisions were agreed to as to work schedule to be followed

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

posting in a newspaper posting at each school other

(specify) _____

Public hearing held on: 03/26/03

Local board approval date: 03/26/03

Advisory committee(s) consulted: Affected School Site Councils

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

Date consulted: Garden Village on 02/06/03, Westlake on 02/13/03, Colma on 03/13/03, Tobias on 03/24/03, and Edison on 03/26/03

Effective dates of request: 08/01/03 to 06/30/04

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate): N/A

Background Information:

Documentation attached to this summary.