



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MAY 2004 AGENDA

Petition Waiver

<p>SUBJECT</p> <p>Petition request under <i>Education Code</i> (EC) Section 60421(d) and 60200(g) by Mill Valley School District to purchase Instructional Resources (Ca. Edition of Full Option Science System (FOSS K-5) using Instructional Materials Funding Realignment Program (IMFRP) monies.</p> <p>Waiver Number: 128-3-2004</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action
	<input type="checkbox"/> Consent

RECOMMENDATION

Approval Approval with conditions Denial

Approval from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2006, with the condition that the district supplement the *Full Option Science System (FOSS)* program with *Harcort Brace Science* to ensure coverage of all science content standards

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The petition process was continued in statute for use by districts with the Instructional Materials Funding Realignment Program, AB 1781, Statutes of 2002 with *Education Code* Section 60421(d). This is the first petition request from this district for the *FOSS* program. Dr. Sandra Mann, a member of the Curriculum Commission, earlier reviewed this program at the request of the State Board. A similar petition from the Palo Alto Unified School District was approved by the State Board at its March 2004 meeting.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

Mill Valley School District submits this petition to use Instructional Materials Funding Realignment Program (IMFRP) funds for the purchase of *FOSS, Grades K-5, California Edition*.

The *FOSS Grades K-5* program was submitted for consideration for adoption as part of the 2000 Science Primary Adoption, but was not adopted. The district is seeking to use the California Edition of the *FOSS* program in conjunction with the Board-adopted *Harcort Brace Science* program for grades K-5. The district asserts that this combination addresses the weaknesses found in the program during the 2000 Adoption and in a subsequent review of the program by Dr. Sandra Mann of the Curriculum Commission.

In addition, each site has a set of leveled books including non-fiction titles that supplement the *FOSS* materials for content information at each child's reading level. Many of these books come from the Houghton Mifflin Reading library which gives an overlap between curriculum areas.

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It is difficult to track student achievement in science, as the API does not reflect science and the first statewide assessment in Science (for 5th grade) is not slated to occur until 2004. However, Mill Valley's five elementary schools all received a 10 API ranking in 2003.

Since assessment data in science is unavailable, the general procedure is to use mathematics test data for waiver requests for science materials as a proxy. The Mill Valley scores in mathematics (SAT-9, CAT-6, and CST) for the five elementary schools covered by this waiver request have been significantly higher than the state average.

On the 2003 Mathematics Standards Test, for example, 88-96 percent of Mill Valley students in grades 2nd through 5th scored at the Basic level or higher, compared to 61-76 percent for the same grade range statewide. More specific test results are provided in the Mathematics Assessment Information provided by the district as part of its waiver request (attached).

Authority for Petition: *Education Code* (EC) Section 60421(d) and 60200(g)

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

posting in a newspaper posting at each school other (specify)

Public hearing held on date(s): March 16, 2004

Local board approval date(s): March 16, 2004

Period of request: July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2006. The District requested approval through June 2008, but typically the State Board approves waivers/petitions for a two-year period. If the district submits a renewal petition, they should include evidence for having met the conditions included in this petition.

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

LEA's K-8 IMFRP in the 2003-2004 year:	\$ 400,000
Estimated cost of requested materials:	\$ 40,000 annually
Percentage of K-8 IMFRP:	10%

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Action Item: Some documentation is available for web viewing. Waiver forms and other hard copy documents are available for viewing at the Waiver Office or State Board Office.