

GENERAL WAIVER COVER SHEET
CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOVEMBER 2003 AGENDA
Item No. W-2

TITLE: Request by Pioneer Union School District for a renewal waiver of <i>Education Code</i> (EC) Section 37202, equity length of time requirement, to allow a half-year full day kindergarten program at Grizzly Pines Elementary School .	<u> X </u> ACTION <u> </u> INFORMATION <u> </u> PUBLIC HEARING <u> </u> CONSENT
CDSIS: 19-7-2003	

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends:

- Approval of this waiver as long as the conditions of the waiver do not change, EC Section 33051 (c) will apply.

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):

In the 2001-02 school year, Pioneer Union School District started an extended day kindergarten program at Grizzly Pines Elementary School. Grizzly Pines is a small necessary school located in rural El Dorado County in the small town of Grizzly Flats, located near the town of Somerset. This is one of two schools in the district with kindergarten students (the other school has an ADA of 295). This school has an enrollment of 30 pupils in kindergarten through fifth grade according to CDE's Education Demographics Report.

In the initial request for waiver, the district wanted the waiver to increase the instructional time for the kindergarten students in order to implement positive academic interventions as well as address parental child care issues. The kindergarten minutes were increased from 200 minutes a day up to 310 minutes a day. This is a multi-age classroom environment and the full day kindergarten is offered in the second half of the year. During the beginning of the year, the older children are trained to work with the younger students so that in the latter part of the school year, the older children help with the kindergarteners as they stay the full day. This has been very successful for both the kindergarteners and the older children.

In a rural setting, it is extremely difficult to find suitable after school child care. Parents have to drive long distances in between home and school and child care locations. By allowing the extended day kindergarten, not only will the students benefit from increase instructional time, there would less of a problem for parents who live in remote areas of the district to provide suitable after school day care.

With the small size of the student population, it is hard to measure accurate growth for required evaluation. The API for this school is in the 700's. However, both the parents and teachers support the extended day kindergarten program and that success can be achieved at this level even though it is difficult to measure. Therefore, due to unique environment of this rural remote setting and the level of achievement and success that can be measured, the department recommends approval and as long as the conditions of the waiver do not change, that EC Section 33050 (c) will apply.

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on: 07/07/03

Position of bargaining unit (choose only one):

Neutral Support Oppose

Name of bargaining unit representative: Kristen Strand and Mike Barton

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

posting in a newspaper posting at each school other

(specify) _____

Public hearing held on: July 10, 2003

Local board approval date: July 10, 2003

Advisory committee(s) consulted: Supported by all of the parents

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

Date consulted: Parents surveyed about pilot program and teacher testimonial submitted
see attached

Effective dates of request: 06/01/03 to 05/31/05

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate): N/A

Background Information:

Waiver request forms and supporting documents are attached to this summary.