

GENERAL WAIVER COVER SHEET
CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOVEMBER 2003 AGENDA
Item No. W-3

TITLE: Request by Fresno Unified School District for a renewal waiver of <i>Education Code</i> (EC) Section 37202, equity length of time requirement to allow a full day kindergarten pilot program at Burroughs, Greenberg and Winchell Elementary Schools.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC HEARING <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT
CDSIS: 3-9-2003	

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends:

Approval for one year with the condition that the district, provide an evaluation of the full day kindergarten pilot program before a renewal is considered.

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 2002 school year, Fresno Unified started an extended day kindergarten program at three elementary schools, Burroughs, Greenberg and Winchell. The waiver request was submitted late in the school year due to the fact that the district was unaware of the requirement of EC Section 37202 to maintain equal minutes at each grade level. Once the district became aware of the requirement, they immediately began the waiver process and had a waiver approved (CDSIS# 33-04-2003-W-1) at the June 2003 State Board of Education meeting. The district now wants to continue the pilot program. The district submitted letters from the Fresno Teachers Association asking the individual schools involved in the waiver request to support the renewal of this waiver. The district also submitted their method of data collection and evaluation of the full day kindergarten program.

Therefore, since the district has not had a full year to evaluate their pilot program, the department recommends granting the waiver for one year only, not to go permanent, and with the condition that the district submit an evaluation of the pilot program before another waiver will be considered.

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on: 04/03/03 and 05/06/03

Position of bargaining unit (choose only one):

Neutral

Support

Oppose

Name of bargaining unit representative: Mrs. Sherry Wood

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

posting in a newspaper posting at each school other

(specify) _____

Public hearing held on: August 27, 2003

Local board approval date: August 27, 2003

Advisory committee(s) consulted: 2002-03, approved and written into school plans.

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

Date consulted: during 2002-03 school year

Effective dates of request: 08/07/03 to 08/04/04

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate): n/a

Background Information:

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