

GENERAL WAIVER COVER SHEET

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2003 AGENDA

Item No. W-14

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| <p>TITLE: Request by Conejo Valley Unified School District for a renewal to <i>waive Education Code</i> (EC) Sections 52082 and 52084 (a) and (b) under 9th Grade Class Size Reduction (Morgan-Hart) to receive funding to reduce class size for first year Algebra in 8th Grade in addition to Grade 9 English and Math.</p> <p>CDSIS: 13-7-2003</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 on the condition that total funding to the district will not exceed two times the Grade 9 enrollment of the district, and all classes will be held to the 1:20 ratio average (with no more than 22 pupils in any one class. If approved, *Education Code* (EC) Section 33051(c) will apply, and the district will not have to reapply annually if the information contained on the request remains the same.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action:

The State Board approved the same request from **Conejo Valley USD** on May 30, 2002. If approved, the district would continue to implement the waiver into the 2003-2004 school year.

This waiver would allow Conejo Valley USD to continue the opportunity to reduce class size in 8th grade Algebra I and increase the probability that students will master the course prior to high school enrollment. The State Board has been clear that, when waivers for Grade 9 Class Size Reduction are submitted, the funding amount should not increase. Conejo Valley USD will participate within their previous funding formula (determined by 2 times the CBEDS number for Grade 9 students.)

Summary of Key Issue(s):

The Morgan-Hart Class Size Reduction Act states in *Education Code* (EC) Sections 52084(a) that the Grade 9 course or the two Grade 9 courses included in the program count towards completion of the graduation requirements established in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of *Education Code* (EC) Section 51225.3; provided, however, that one of the courses included in the program shall be English. However in contrast to other districts, Conejo Valley is also requesting a waiver of *Education Code* 52082, the Grade level (9th) so that they can utilize the program in Grade 8. The waiver request from Conejo Valley USD will support the 8th grade Algebra I course, and provide a good foundation for students to enroll in additional Mathematics courses in high school.

Conejo Valley Unified School District reduces class size in Grade 9 English and Grade 9 Algebra I. In addition, they reduce class size in Grade 10 English due to the grandfather provisions allowed in *Education Code* (EC) Section 52480(g). This waiver, if approved, would reduce class size in Algebra I, regardless of whether the course is taught in 8th or 9th grade. The request is based on the SBE's adoption of rigorous mathematics standards and the success of the district in moving Algebra I to students primarily in the 8th grade.

CDE recommends that this waiver be approved for the 2003-2004 school year. The waiver will be conditional that total funding to the district does not exceed two times the Grade 9 enrollment (the maximum funding level) and that the district agrees to provide the student to teacher ratio of 20:1 average (with no more than 22 in any one class).

The district's bargaining unit is neutral on the request.

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on: 06-25-03

Position of bargaining unit (choose only one):

Neutral Support Oppose

Name of bargaining unit representative: Jerry Morris

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

posting in a newspaper posting at each school other

(specify)

Public hearing held on: 7-08-03

Local board approval date: 7-08-03

Advisory committee(s) consulted: 6-25-03

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

Effective dates of request: 06/14/03 - 08/08/04

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate):

N/A

Background Information:

Waiver request forms and supporting documents are attached.