

GENERAL WAIVER COVER SHEET

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2003 AGENDA

Item No. W-6

<p>TITLE: Request by Salinas City Elementary School District to waive <i>Education Code (EC)</i> Section 37202, equity length of time requirement to allow a full day kindergarten program at Boronda, Loma Vista and Los Padres Elementary Schools.</p> <p>CDSIS: 28-7-2003</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC HEARING <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT</p>
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RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends approval of this waiver 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):

The **Salinas City Elementary School District** is requesting a waiver of *EC* Section 37202, the equity length of time requirement, in order to institute a full-day kindergarten program at three of their thirteen elementary schools as a pilot program for one year. Salinas City Elementary is requesting to increase the kindergarten instructional time to 285 minutes a day which will make kindergarten instructional time the same length as the first through third grades in the district. The teachers and parents want the full day kindergarten and the program has been discussed at parent-teacher meetings and at school site councils. The additional time will focus on core curriculum areas such as language arts and mathematics with enrichment activities. The district has a student population of 72% of free and reduced-price lunches. Research suggests that giving children from lower-socio-economic levels more time in schools helps to better prepare them for higher grades.

The district has the agreement of the bargaining unit. There is adequate space at the three schools selected for this pilot and the district has an open enrollment policy for parents who might want to transfer their students to one of these schools with the full-day kindergarten. The local board adopted *EC* Sections 8970-8974 to establish an Early Primary Program.

Therefore, the department recommends approval of this waiver for one year with the condition that the district provide an evaluation of the full day kindergarten pilot program before a renewal is considered.

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on: 06/02/03

Position of bargaining unit (choose only one):

Neutral Support Oppose

Name of bargaining unit representative: Tom Goevelinger, Katie Venza

Comments: Mr. Goevelinger and Ms. Venza stated that they want a "side letter" to the contract regarding working conditions before the program can begin.

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more): School Board Meeting, June 21, 2003

Public hearing held on: June 09, 2003

Local board approval date: June 28, 2003

Advisory committee(s) consulted: All

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

Date consulted: various dates

Effective dates of request: 07/01/03 – 6/30/04

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate):

No impact.

Background Information:

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