

GENERAL WAIVER COVER SHEET

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2003 AGENDA

Item No. W-8

<p>TITLE: Request by Simi Valley Unified School District to waive <i>Education Code (EC)</i> Section 37202, equity length of time requirement to allow full day kindergarten programs at seven elementary schools: Knolls, Santa Susana, Park View, Justin, Arroyo, Township and Berylwood.</p> <p>CDSIS: 4-7-2003</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 **Simi Valley Unified 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 seven of their twenty-one elementary schools as a pilot program for one year. Simi Valley Unified is requesting to increase the kindergarten instructional time in order to increase student achievement as the content standards for kindergarteners have increased over the last several years as well as the content standards for grades one through three. The districts hopes that by increasing the number of minutes of instructional time for kindergarten students that teachers will not have to spend as much time later on with remedial tasks in higher grades. Research also 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 enough space at the selected schools 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: 04/30/03

Position of bargaining unit (choose only one):

Neutral

Support

Oppose

Name of bargaining unit representative: Arleigh Kidd

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

posting in a newspaper posting at each school other (specify) Public Library, City Hall & Adult Education Site

Public hearing held on: June 03 & 24, 2003

Local board approval date: June 03 & 24, 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: 08/27/03 – 06/10/04

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate):

No impact.

Background Information:

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