

WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent

Date: 01/20/12

Request For Placement on Board Agenda:

**AGENDA TOPIC: Public Hearing regarding General Waiver
Request for grades 4-8 Class Size**

PRESENTER: Betty Skala, Director of Business Services

Background Information:

A public hearing is a requirement prior to the approval of a General Waiver Request.

We are seeking a General Waiver Request for grades 4-8 to waive the class size requirement to ensure our revenue limit funding is not penalized due to going over the limits as set forth in California education Code 41376, that of exceeding the greater of the statewide average of the number of pupils per teacher in 1964 (29.9) or the District's average number of pupils per teacher in 1964 (28.8).

The General Waiver Request is seeking to request a waiver to increase from 28.8 to 33 pupils per FTE classroom teacher.

Recommendations:

Conduct a public hearing in order for us to meet the requirements of the General Waiver Request.

WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent

Date: 01/26/12

Request For Placement on Board Agenda:

AGENDA TOPIC: General Waiver Request for grades 4-8

PRESENTER: Betty Skala, Director of Business Services

Background Information:

Under the authority of California Education Code 41376, to waive portions of Education Code Section 41376 (b) & (e), relating to class size penalties for grades four through eight. Allowable class size is current fiscal year average number of pupils per teacher not to exceed the greater of the statewide average number of pupils per teacher in 1964 (29.9) or the district's average number of pupils per teacher in 1964 (28.8).

As required by the waiver process, we have consulted with both bargaining groups and conducted a site council meeting for input on this waiver and their comments have been included. Additionally, a public hearing has been conducted in accordance with the requirements set forth in the General Waiver Request seeking testimony from the public regarding the waiver proposal.

2010-2011 as reported to California Department of Education and audited by our external auditors, we were at 21.6 pupils per FTE classroom teacher.

Recommendations:

Request permission to submit on the district's behalf this waiver to the California State Board of Education to meet the deadline for the next waiver board meeting in May 2012.

GENERAL WAIVER REQUEST

GW-1 (Rev. 10-2-09)

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lr/wr/>

First Time Waiver: x

Renewal Waiver:

Send Original plus one copy to:
 Waiver Office, California Department of Education
 1430 N Street, Suite 5602
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Send Electronic copy in **Word** and
 back-up material to: waiver@cde.ca.gov

CD CODE						
1	1	6	2	6	6	1

Local educational agency: Willows Unified School District			Contact name and Title: Betty Skala, Director of Business Svc.			Contact person's e-mail address: bskala@willowsunified.org		
Address: (City)		(State)		(ZIP)		Phone (and extension, if necessary): 530-934-6600, ext 5		
823 W Laurel Street		Willows		CA		95988		Fax Number: 530-934-6609
Period of request: (month/day/year)			Local board approval date: (Required)			Date of public hearing: (Required)		
From: 7/1/12 To: 6/30/14			2/2/12			2/2/12		

LEGAL CRITERIA

1. Under the general waiver authority of *Education Code* 33050-33053, the particular *Education Code* or *California Code of Regulations* section(s) to be waived (number): 41376 (b) and (e) Circle One: **EC** or **CCR**

Topic of the waiver: Class Size Standards, Grades 4 – 8.

2. If this is a renewal of a previously approved waiver, please list Waiver Number: and date of SBE Approval
 Renewals of waivers must be submitted two months before the active waiver expires.

3. Collective bargaining unit information. Does the district have any employee bargaining units? No Yes If yes, please complete required information below:

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on date(s): 01-12-12

Name of bargaining unit and representative(s) consulted: Willows Unified Teachers Association/ Teresa Woods & California School Employees Association/ Karen Hansen and Linda Ell

The position(s) of the bargaining unit(s): Neutral Support Oppose (Please specify why)

Comments (if appropriate): **See Attachment #1 (Collective bargaining unit information)**

4. Public hearing requirement: A public hearing is not simply a board meeting, but a properly noticed public hearing held during a board meeting at which time the public may testify on the waiver proposal. Distribution of local board agenda does not constitute notice of a public hearing. Acceptable ways to advertise include: (1) print a notice that includes the time, date, location, and subject of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation; or (2) in small school districts, post a formal notice at each school and three public places in the district.

How was the required public hearing advertised?

Notice in a newspaper Notice posted at each school Other: WUSD District Office, Glenn County Office of Education & City of Willows Civic Center

5. Advisory committee or school site councils. Please identify the council(s) or committee that reviewed this waiver: Willows Intermediate School Site Council

Date the committee/council reviewed the waiver request: 01-26-12

Were there any objection(s)? No Yes (If there were objections please specify)

See Attachment # 1 (Advisory Committee/School Site Council)

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
GENERAL WAIVER REQUEST
 GW-1 (10-2-09)

6. *Education Code* or *California Code of Regulations* section to be waived. If the request is to waive a portion of a section, type the text of the pertinent sentence of the law, or those exact phrases requested to be waived (use a **strike out key**).

See Attachment # 1 (Education code section to be waived)

7. Desired outcome/rationale. Describe briefly the circumstances that brought about the request and why the waiver is necessary to achieve improved student performance and/or streamline or facilitate local agency operations. If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.

See Attachment # 1 (Desired outcome/rationale)

8. Demographic Information:
 Willows Unified School District has a student population of 1,506 and is located in a rural community in Glenn County.

Is this waiver associated with an apportionment related audit penalty? (per EC 41344) No Yes
 (If yes, please attach explanation or copy of audit finding)

Has there been a Categorical Program Monitoring (CPM) finding on this issue? No Yes
 (If yes, please attach explanation or copy of CPM finding)

District or County Certification – I hereby certify that the information provided on this application is correct and complete.

Signature of Superintendent or Designee:	Title: Superintendent	Date:
FOR CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION USE ONLY		
Staff Name (<i>type or print</i>):	Staff Signature:	Date:
Unit Manager (<i>type or print</i>):	Unit Manager Signature:	Date:
Division Director (<i>type or print</i>):	Division Director Signature:	Date:
Deputy (<i>type or print</i>):	Deputy Signature:	Date:

#1 Attachment – Application Section 3 – Collective Bargaining Unit Information

No opposition. WUTA/CSEA indicated they could not take a position on this issue at this time and indicated a neutral position. Question was how would this benefit? The response was due to our financial situation, to avoid penalties and the need to increase class size, benefits the district's bottom-line, therefore benefits all employees of the district and helps the district address the Governor's proposed triggers.

#1 Attachment – Application Section 5 – Advisory Committee/School Site Council

No objections. However, the following comments were made: They indicated they are neutral and may not agree with larger class sizes, but understand the financial situation that the district faces. They do not want to see penalties that would ultimately impact the district, resulting in greater losses of resources to serve the educational needs of the students. Felt that class sizes over 20-25 are not serving the best interest of the children. Some indicated that the district could make different decisions to avoid being in this position.

#1 Attachment – Application Section 6 – Education Code to section to be waived

41376. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, in computing apportionments and allowances from the State School Fund for the second principal apportionment, shall determine the following for the regular day classes of the elementary schools maintained by each school district:

(a) For grades 1 to 3, inclusive, he shall determine the number of classes, the number of pupils enrolled in each class, the total enrollment in all such classes, the average number of pupils enrolled per class, and the total of the numbers of pupils which are in excess of thirty (30) in each class.

For those districts which do not have any classes with an enrollment in excess of 32 and whose average size for all the classes is 30.0 or less, there shall be no excess declared. For those districts which have one or more classes in excess of an enrollment of 32 or whose average size for all the classes is more than 30, the excess shall be the total of the number of pupils which are in excess of 30 in each class having an enrollment of more than 30.

~~(b) For grades 4 to 8, inclusive, he shall determine the total number of pupils enrolled, the number of full-time equivalent classroom teachers, and the average number of pupils per each full-time equivalent classroom teacher. He shall also determine the excess if any, of pupils enrolled in such grades in the following manner:~~

~~—(1) Determine the number of pupils by which the average number of pupils per each full-time equivalent classroom teacher for the current fiscal year exceeds the greater of the average number of pupils per each full-time equivalent classroom teacher in all the appropriate districts of the state, as determined by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, for October 30, 1964, or the average number of pupils per each full-time equivalent classroom teacher which existed in the district on either October 30, 1964 or March 30, 1964, as selected by the governing board.~~

~~—(2) Multiply the number determined in (1) above by the number of full-time equivalent classroom teachers of the current fiscal year.~~

~~—(3) Reduce the number determined in (2) above by the remainder which results from dividing such number by the average number of pupils per each full-time equivalent teacher for October 30, 1964, as determined by the Superintendent of Public Instruction in (1) above.~~

(c) He shall compute the product obtained by multiplying the excess number of pupils, if any, under the provisions of subdivision (a) of this section by ninety-seven hundredths (0.97), and shall multiply the product so obtained by the ratio of statewide change in average daily attendance to district change in average daily attendance. Change in average daily attendance shall be determined by dividing average daily attendance in grades 1, 2 and 3 reported for purposes of the first principal apportionment of the current year by that reported for purposes of the first principal apportionment of the preceding year.

(d) If the school district reports that it has maintained, during the current fiscal year, any classes in which there were enrolled pupils in excess of thirty (30) per class pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section, and there is no excess number of pupils computed pursuant to subdivision (b) of this section, he shall decrease the average daily attendance reported under the provisions of Section 41601 by the product determined under subdivision (c) of this section.

~~(e) If the school district reports that it has maintained, during the current fiscal year, no classes in which there were enrolled pupils in excess of thirty (30) per class determined pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section, and there is an excess number of pupils computed pursuant to subdivision (b) of this section, he shall make the following computation:~~

~~—He shall compute the product obtained by multiplying the excess number of pupils computed pursuant to subdivision (b) of this section by ninety-seven hundredths (0.97) and shall multiply the product so obtained by the ratio of statewide change in average daily attendance to the district change in average daily attendance. He shall decrease the average daily attendance reported under the provisions of Section 41601 by the resulting product.~~

(f) If the school district reports that it has maintained, during the current fiscal year, any classes in which there were enrolled pupils in excess of thirty (30) per class determined pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section, and there is an excess number of pupils computed pursuant to subdivision (b) of this section, he shall make the following computation:

He shall add to the product determined under subdivision (c) of this section, the product determined under subdivision (e) of this section and decrease the average daily attendance reported under the provisions of Section 41601 by this total amount.

The governing board of each school district maintaining elementary schools shall report for the fiscal year 1964-65 and each year thereafter the information required for the determination to be made by the Superintendent of Public Instruction under the provisions of this section in accordance with instructions provided on forms furnished and prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Such information shall be reported by the school district together with, and at the same time as, the reports required to be filed for the second principal apportionment of the State School Fund. The forms on which the data and information is reported shall include a certification by each school district superintendent or chief administrative officer that the data is correct and accurate for the period covered, according to his best information and belief.

For purposes of this section, a "full-time equivalent classroom teacher" means an employee of an elementary, high school, or unified school district, employed in a position requiring certification qualifications and whose duties require him to teach pupils in the elementary schools of that district in regular day classes for the full time for which he is employed during the regular school day. In reporting the total number of full-time equivalent classroom teachers, there shall be included, in addition to those employees defined above, the full-time equivalent of all fractional time for which employees in positions requiring certification qualifications are required to devote to teaching pupils in the elementary schools of the district in regular day classes during the regular school day.

For purposes of this section, the number of pupils enrolled in each class means the average of the active enrollment in that class on the last teaching day of each school month which ends prior to April 15th of each school year.

The provisions of this section are not applicable to school districts with less than 101 units of average daily attendance for the current fiscal year.

Although no decreases in average daily attendance shall be made for the fiscal year 1964-65, reports are required to be filed under the provisions of this section, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall notify each school district the amount of the decrease in state allowances which would have been effected had such decrease in average daily attendance been applied.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall adopt rules and regulations which he may deem necessary for the effective administration of this section. Such rules and regulations may specify that no decrease in average daily attendance reported under the provisions of Section 41601 shall be made for a

school district on account of large classes due to instructional television or team teaching, which may necessarily involve class sizes at periods during the day larger than the standard set forth in this section.

#1 Attachment – Application Section 7 – Desired Outcome/Rational

Education code states that class size averages in grades 4-8 cannot exceed either 29.9 or the class size average of the district in 1964. In Willows Unified School District, this limit is 28.8. With current state and federal budgetary challenges, we have and continue to face huge deficits. As a district with one comprehensive high school and education Code restrictions on class size in grades K-8, our options are limited, thus impacting our high school with significantly larger classes and fewer electives. Additionally penalties would impact our lower grades with less intervention and concentration in reading and mathematics. We are requesting a waiver of Education Code 41376 (b) & (e) penalties to allow for an average class size in grades 4-8 from our current limit of 28.8:1 to 33:1.

We have in the past several years cut over \$3.7 million from our budget in response to the revenue reductions imposed by loss of funding. Solvency will continue to be problematic for the district as the State of California continues to struggle financially. Our options for local solvency continue to be reduction in school days, larger class size and elimination of programs including, but not limited to, reading and mathematics programs. We have also been facing declining enrollment with students leaving our rural area for locations outside of our county. Our district resides in a rural farming community lacking employment opportunities, and with the uncertainty of our local economy in conjunction with the state's situation, faces possible further reductions in enrollment as families leave the area to seek employment elsewhere. Having this temporary flexibility regarding class size can help the district address specific local and economic conditions. It will also give us the time over the next two years to reassess our fiscal position to lower class sizes.

Willows Unified School District, despite increased class size will continue to stress academic achievement, and support of our educational responsibilities will remain as our primary objective and goal supporting our mission **Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's Challenges** and we are committed to providing a safe, enriched, student-centered learning environment where all our students can:

- realize their full academic potential,
- develop respect and tolerance for themselves and others, and
- become involved, responsible citizens”