

Small District Funding Waivers

Small District¹ Funding Waivers

The Legislature recognized that smaller school districts may have difficulty operating community day schools (CDSs) with the statutory funding formulas. To address this concern, *Education Code* Section 48664(d) provides that any school district with fewer than 2,501 units of average daily attendance may request a Superintendent's waiver of the statutory funding limitations for CDSs (as provided in *Education Code* Section 48664 (a)). Under the waiver, the district is eligible for special small school funding, which provides a block grant amount to permit the operation of a CDS of reasonably comparable quality to those offered in larger districts.

A district granted a waiver of the funding formula for a CDS pursuant to subdivision (d) of *Education Code* Section 48664 will, for the school year for which the waiver is granted, be allocated the amount provided for one teacher pursuant to *Education Code* Section 42284, except that the California Department of Education (CDE) will proportionally reduce the amount by 1/180 for each day fewer than 180 that the school is in session during the year as a whole.

For the 2004-05 school year, the waiver amount is \$88,460. This amount replaces base revenue funding. In addition to the waiver amount, districts operating a CDS under a funding waiver receive fifth and sixth hour supplemental funding (*Education Code* Section 48664(a)) as well as funding for additional seventh and eighth hour supervised attendance following the student's completion of the full six-hour instructional day (*Education Code* Section 48864(c)).

Applying for a Small District Funding Waiver

In order to apply for a Small District Funding waiver, districts must submit the following documents:

- A completed "Request for Small District Funding (Superintendent's Waiver)" form.
- Description of the CDS program, as provided in the document, "CORE ELEMENTS" (Parts of this document have recently been revised. Merely updating the report submitted for 2003-04 will not be sufficient).
- Letter from the County Superintendent of Schools, stating that the operation of the community day school is consistent with the county-district

¹ *Education Code* section 48667(a) states that, for the purposes of Article 3. Community day schools, "each county office of education shall be deemed to be a school district."

collaborative plan for serving expelled pupils, and that, for this reason, the County Superintendent recommends approval of the requested waiver. (The school districts may have the COE send this letter, with an original signature, directly to CDE.)

Note: Consistent with *Education Code* Section 48926, which provides for countywide plans for providing services for expelled students, the district should provide copies of the CDS program description and the School Accountability Report Card to the COE, as part of the district's request for this letter.

According to *Education Code* Section 48664(d), small district funding waivers are for "any fiscal year." Therefore, your period of request should be July 1 through June 30 of the year for which you are requesting a funding waiver. These waivers are subject to annual renewal.

Applying For Renewal of Superintendent's Small District Funding Waivers

If your district or county office of education (COE) applied for and received a Superintendent's Small District Funding Waiver for Community Day Schools (CDSs) from the Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide funding for your CDS for the 2003-04 school year your district or COE must submit the following documents:

- A completed Request for Superintendent's Small District Funding Waiver form for each CDS. The period of request should be from July 1 through June 30 of the year for which you are requesting the funding waiver.
- A letter from the County Superintendent of Schools, stating that the operation of the CDS is consistent with the county-district collaborative plan for serving expelled pupils, and that for this reason the County Superintendent recommends approval of the requested waiver. This letter must be included in the packet of application materials submitted by the district.

For every CDS that has been in operation for three years or less, districts and county offices must also submit the following additional document:

- Description of the CDS program, as provided in the document, "CORE ELEMENTS"
- For CDSs that have been in operation for more than three years and operations remain substantially unchanged from the previous year, districts and county offices will now only be required to submit a narrative description of the CDS program every other year, according to the following schedule:

- Districts in counties with even numbered county codes (e.g. Alpine County's code is 01) should submit the description in even-numbered school years, starting with 2004-05.
- Districts in counties with odd numbered county codes (e.g. Yuba County's code is 58), should submit the description in odd-numbered school years, starting with 2005-06.

ATTENTION: The California Department of Education (CDE) must receive the complete waiver renewal request for **2004-05**, including all required documents and information, by close of business on Monday, November 15, 2004, or the district will be ineligible to receive a funding waiver.

For the renewal of the funding waivers for **2005-06**, all required documents and information must be received by close of business on Monday, May 31, 2005, or the district will be ineligible to receive a funding waiver.

Please direct your waiver request, as well as any questions to:

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