

This document contains the *Summary of Stakeholder Meeting ESEA Waiver Possibilities* and *Elementary Secondary Education Act -- California Waiver Stakeholder Forum Presentation Slides* dated March 2, 2012 as prepared by the California Comprehensive Center at WestEd.

Both materials were presented by Fred Tempes, Director, Comprehensive School Assistance Program, of the California Comprehensive Center at the California State Board of Education (SBE) Meeting on March 7-8, 2012.

This document is available at the California State Board of Education Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr12/documents/mar12item07presentation.pdf>

Summary of Stakeholder Meeting

ESEA Waiver Possibilities

Purpose of the Meeting

At the request of the State Board of Education and the California Department of Education (CDE), the California Comprehensive Center at WestEd (CA CC) organized and conducted a “Stakeholder Input Meeting” at WestEd’s Sacramento Office on March 2, 2012. The meeting’s purpose was to provide accurate information about the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver requirements and options and to give participants an opportunity to share ideas and recommendations with policy makers regarding a possible California waiver.

The Participants

Working with State Board and CDE staff, the CA CC identified and invited 34 participants to the meeting. Twenty-five of those invited were able to attend; about half represented school districts (including three districts that do not receive Title I funding), and half were from education organizations and advocacy groups. A list of attendees is appended to this report.

Organization of the Meeting

Fred Tempes, Director of the CA CC, began the meeting by welcoming the group and introduced Deb Sigman, CDE Deputy Superintendent, District, School & Innovation Branch, who reviewed the meeting’s purpose. The group then heard from Leigh Manasevit, of Brustein and Manasevit, LLC, Washington, D.C., who briefed participants on the waiver authority in the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the parameters of the September 2011 waiver package offered to states by the U. S. Department of Education (ED). Manasevit also reviewed the status of the waiver requests from other states and briefly discussed the status of ESEA reauthorization.

Following Manasevit’s presentation, Christine Swenson, Director of CDE’s Improvement and Accountability Division, outlined the CDE-proposed, state-defined waiver intended to provide California local educational agencies (LEAs) with immediate relief from identifying schools and districts for Program Improvement (PI), and from implementing all of the required notifications, interventions, sanctions, and set-aside activities required while a school or district is in PI. Swenson pointed out that, in return for the granting of the waiver, California and its LEAs would:

- Continue to implement the current AMO and AYP accountability requirements, based on the state’s approved accountability structure.
- Comply with existing requirements in Title I, Part A, statutory and regulatory obligations, for schoolwide and targeted assistance schools.
- Allow LEAs with PI schools to redirect set-aside funds, at their discretion, to address specific student needs based on a comprehensive local needs assessment and documented in an amendment to their current existing LEA Plan.

- Maintain local evidence that supports the strategies the LEA intends to use to address student needs.

After Swenson answered clarifying questions posed by participants, Tempes and Jannelle Kubinec, CA CC Associate Director, facilitated a discussion of the pros and cons of the ED waiver package and the state-defined waiver proposal from CDE, as well as the option of not submitting a waiver at this time.

Outcomes

In general, participants expressed support for a waiver request that would:

- Eliminate the goal that all students reach proficiency by the end of the 2013-14 school year.
- Eliminate the requirement to identify schools and districts failing to meet targets as in need of improvement and the related programmatic requirements.
- Grant flexibility as to how the state identifies highly qualified teachers, especially in small and rural school districts.
- Allow greater flexibility in the use of ESEA funds, including the currently required set-asides for supplemental educational services, choice transportation and Title I professional development.

By the end of the three-hour meeting, however, participants expressed only limited support for the ED waiver package. Reasons put forth for this hesitancy to endorse applying for the full waiver package included:

- The timeline would not provide relief until the 2013-14 school year.
- Potentially, California could move forward with a host of required initiatives that might be incompatible in the current California context and with the eventual reauthorization of ESEA.
- The provisions related to teacher and principal evaluation would be contentious and distracting from more positive initiatives.
- The accelerated timeline for implementing the Common Core State Standards in California would not be possible from both a program and fiscal standpoint.
- Implementing the full waiver package would be costly.

Conversely, a consensus emerged during the meeting that, while the participants supported the notion of a state-defined waiver, the CDE's proposal was not bold enough in describing California's position and the many initiatives currently under way that align with ED priorities. In addition, the proposal needed to detail how, if granted the state-defined waiver, California would "increase the quality of instruction for students; and ... improve the academic achievement of students."

More specifically, participants expressed the views that California's state-defined waiver should:

- Emphasize that the state has adopted the Common Core standards and is engaged in early district implementation activities.
- Point out that California is a governing member and an active participant of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment consortium.

- Be seen as an opportunity to build an accountability model that emphasizes student growth, builds on the API structures in place, and is broadened to include measures of success beyond the current indicators
- Acknowledge that current law and pending legislation provide an opportunity to create an educator evaluation process that will be grounded in the California context and acceptable to all stakeholders.

Finally, several participants pointed out that meeting the demands of such an expanded state-defined waiver would require time and planning, and that the planning should include a mechanism for systematic stakeholder input. They urged the State Board to explore avenues for seeking relief from the NCLB requirements in the near term while such work is underway.

School Districts

Corona Norco Unified School District:

Barbara Wolfinbarger, *Director*

Los Angeles Unified School District:

Debbie Ernst, *Director*

Orinda Union Elementary:

Joe Jaconette, *Superintendent*

Sacramento City Unified School District:

Matt Perry, *Director of Linked Learning Department*

San Diego Unified School District:

Ron Rode, *Executive Director*

San Jose Unified School District:

Linda Hershbach, *Manager of State and Federal Programs*

San Juan Unified School District:

Wanda Shironaka, *Program Manager, Title I*

Santa Ana Unified School District:

Tony Wold, *Executive Director of Business Operations*

Sierra Sands Unified School District:

Shirley Kennedy, *Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction*

Tracy Unified School District:

Linda Dopp, *Director*

Ukiah Unified School District:

Lynn Zimmerman, *Director, Education Services*

Education Associations & Advocacy Groups

Association of California School Administrators:

Alice Petrossian, *President*

Sherry Skelly-Griffith, *Legislative Advocate*

California Association of Bilingual Educators:

Martha Zaragoza-Diaz, *Legislative Lobbyist*

California Association of School Business Officials:

Molly McGee-Hewitt, *Executive Director*

California Charter Schools Association:

Colin Miller, *Vice President of Policy*

California County Superintendents Educational Services Association:

Peter Birdsall, *Executive Director*

Education Associations & Advocacy Groups (continued)

California Parent Teachers Association:

Cecelia Mansfield, *SBE Liaison*

California School Boards Association:

Erika Hoffman, *Pr. Legislative Advocate*

California School Employees Association:

Steve Henderson, *Legislative Advocate*

California Teachers Association:

Jane Robb, *IDP Department*

Californians Together:

Michael Matsuda, *President*

Shelly Speigel-Coleman, *Executive Director*

Charter Schools Development Center:

Eric Premack, *Founding Director*

EdVoice:

Bill Lucia, *President*

Public Advocates:

Katie Valenzuela, *Policy Advocate*

Staff

State Board of Education:

Sue Burr, *Executive Director*

Judy Cias, *Chief Counsel*

Patricia de Cos, *Deputy Executive Director*

Camille Esch, *Principal Education Policy Consultant*

California Department of Education:

Jeff Breshears, *Improvement & Accountability Division*

Cathy McBride, *Government Affairs Division*

Deb Sigman, *District, School & Innovation Branch*

Christine Swenson, *Improvement & Accountability Division*

Laura Wagner, *Improvement & Accountability Division*

California Comprehensive Center:

Jannelle Kubinec, *Director of National, State and Special Projects*

Fred Tempes, *Director, Comprehensive School Assistance Program*

Angela Stewart, *Senior Program Coordinator, Comprehensive School Assistance Program*

(recorder)

Elementary Secondary Education Act

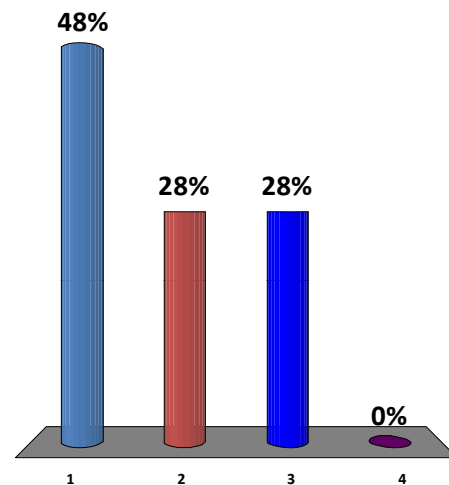
California Waiver Stakeholder Forum

March 2, 2012

California Comprehensive Center
at WestEd

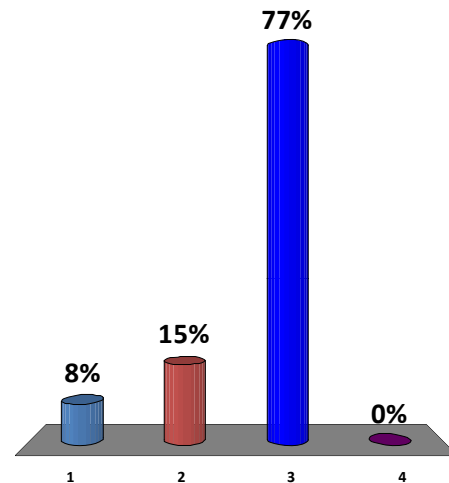
I am here today in my role as a:

1. District administrator
2. Association Representative
3. Education Advocate
4. Other



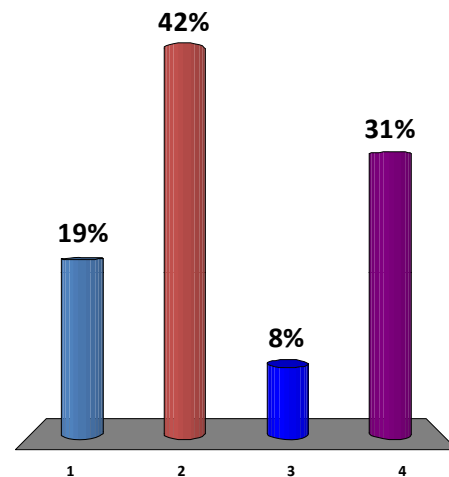
I hope to gain from today...

1. More information about the ESEA waiver requirements
2. Opportunity to share ideas and recommendations with policy makers
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Other



Based on what I know right now, the State Board of Education should*:

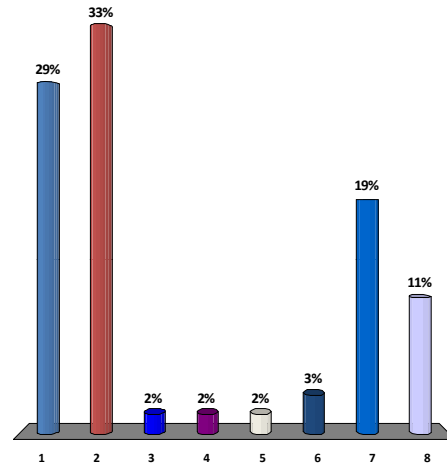
1. Apply for the Secretary of Education's specified ESEA waiver
2. Apply for a state-defined waiver
3. Should not apply for a waiver
4. I need to know more to answer this question



*Question asked after initial informational session.

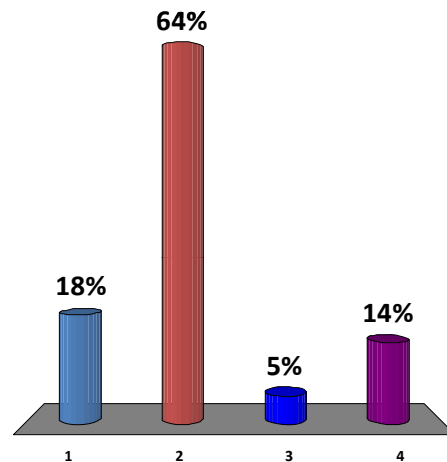
Which of the following ESEA components would your LEA/Agency find **most beneficial** to waive? (select up to three)

1. 2013-14 Timeline for AYP
2. School and district improvement requirements (e.g., no PI designation)
3. Rural Schools
4. Schoolwide programs
5. Support school improvement
6. Reward schools
7. Highly qualified teacher requirements
8. Transfer funds



Based on what I know right now, the State Board of Education should*:

1. Apply for the Secretary of Education's specified ESEA waiver
2. Apply for a state-defined waiver
3. Should not apply for a waiver
4. I need to know more to answer this question



*Question asked at end of meeting.