



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 9.1h

Meeting Date: May 16, 2013

Subject: **Approval to Submit Class Size Waiver Request for Grades 1-3 for Fiscal Years 2012-13 and 2013-14**

- ☐ Information Item Only
- ☒ Approval on Consent Agenda
- ☐ Conference (for discussion only)
- ☐ Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- ☐ Conference/Action
- ☐ Action
- ☐ Public Hearing

Division: Administrative Services

Recommendation: The administration requests the Governing Board to approve submission of a class size waiver to the State Board of Education (SBE) to increase our class sizes in Grades 1-3 to 33:1.

Background/Rationale: California Education Code (EC) sections 41376 and 41378 prescribe the maximum class sizes and penalties for districts with any classes that exceed the limits established in 1964. In grades one through three, the average class size is not to exceed 30 students and no class may be larger than 32 students.

California's Education funding continues to lag that of the nation. In 2007-08, our district received an average of \$5,785 per ADA. Five years later in 2012-13, we are receiving 10% less or \$5,213 per ADA, a \$572 per student decrease in funding. We are also receiving 20% less funding in categorical funds than in 2007-08. As a result of decreased funding, the district must increase class sizes. Please note that despite our waiver authorization to increase class sizes to 33:1, the district maintained an average class size of 28.7:1 for 2012-13. Our staffing ratio for 2012-13 and 2013-14 is 31:1 (below the penalty) for grades 1-3. However, the district has one third grade class with an average class size of 33:1, which incurs a penalty of \$735,033 for 2012-13. This waiver, if granted, eliminates the penalty.

Due to continued shortfalls in state funding of education, the district is requesting authorization to submit a request to the SBE to continue to allow the district to maintain its flexibility to increase average class sizes up to 33:1. The district does not anticipate increasing class sizes to higher than 32:1; however, due to fiscal uncertainty, we would like to request the flexibility to increase class sizes to 33:1, if needed. Often times, it is better for the students and families to increase the class size by one student than to split families by con-capping students to other schools.

Financial Considerations: The penalty for noncompliance is significant, up to and including the loss of all ADA funding for any students above the class sizes established by California Education Code (EC) sections 41376 and 41378 in 1964.

Documents Attached: None

Estimated Time of Presentation: N/A

Submitted by: Ken A. Forrest, Chief Business Officer

Approved by: Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent