

**APPROVE APPLICATIONS TO
RENEW SCHOOL CODE WAIVERS**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

That the Chicago Board of Education (the "Board") approve the applications for renewal of two waivers of state mandates which will otherwise expire. The two waivers are: (1) to allow the Board to provide services ordinarily provided by a Cook County Educational Service Center; and (2) to raise the statutory real estate bid threshold to \$100,000 (from \$25,000).

Upon approval of this Board Report, the waiver applications described below will be forwarded to the Illinois State Board of Education ("ISBE").

PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICES: A Public Hearing on the waiver renewal applications was held on February 7, 2005 in accordance with Section 2-3.25g of the Illinois School Code. The hearing was recorded and a copy of the report summarizing the hearing is available for review. Notice was published in two Chicago newspapers and provided to Chicago state legislators and collective bargaining agents as required by Section 2-3.25g of the Illinois School Code.

DESCRIPTION OF WAIVER APPLICATIONS: In 2000, the State Board of Education granted the Board's renewal applications for two waivers of School Code mandates which will expire at the end of the 2004-2005 school year. In order to renew these waivers, applications must be submitted to ISBE. The Chief Executive Officer has prepared applications for the following two waivers:

1. Cook County Education Service Center #6 ("ESC #6")

Section 2-3.62 of the Illinois School Code directs Educational Service Centers to provide services to public school districts in Cook County. Those services are (a) computer technology education, and (b) in-service training and staff development in math, science and reading.

Prior to 1995, both the staff of ESC #6 and CPS staff provided services in these areas. ESC #6 maintained its own governing board and administrators. The duplication of effort by ESC #6 and CPS produced an inefficient use of resources. The waiver allows the activities listed above to remain under the direction of the Board.

2. Real Estate Bid Threshold

Section 34-21(b)(2) of the Illinois School Code provides that sales of Board owned real estate valued at under \$25,000 may be negotiated and do not require notice and competitive bidding. Since 1995 the Board waiver has been in effect which raises the competitive bidding threshold to \$100,000.

Maintaining the competitive bidding threshold for real estate sales at \$100,000 will help maximize the Board's return on its sales of real property. Negotiated sales will maximize the Board's return on sale of properties under \$100,000 by eliminating the competitive bidding costs for these properties. Competitive bidding costs would be equal to approximately \$10,000 per property or 20% of the average value of the affected properties.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute the waiver applications described above and submit them to ISBE in accordance with Section 2-3.25g of the School Code.

LSC REVIEW: Not applicable.

FINANCIAL: Not applicable.

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully Submitted:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Ruth M. Moscovitch
General Counsel