

December 20, 2006

APPROVE APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL CODE WAIVER**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Chicago Board of Education (the "Board") approve the application for a waiver from state requirements set out in 105 ILCS 5/18-8.05(F)(2)(d)(2) regarding the scheduling of school improvement plan in-service training programs for teachers. Upon approval of this Board Report, the waiver application described below will be forwarded to the Illinois State Board of Education ("ISBE").

PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICES:

A Public Hearing on the waiver application is scheduled for December 18, 2006, in accordance with Section 2-3.25g of the Illinois School Code. The hearing will be recorded and a copy of the report summarizing the hearing will be available for review. Notice was published in a Chicago newspaper 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 APPLICATION:

The requested waiver will allow the Board to authorize certain schools to schedule school improvement plan activities for teachers in full day sessions rather than half day sessions. Currently, half day sessions are required due to the restrictions contained in 105 ILCS 5/18-8.05(F)(2)(d)(2). These restrictions relate to the calculation of student attendance days and the requirements for accumulating extra student attendance hours during a specified period of time. The waiver would allow a full-day school improvement plan session to be counted as a day of student attendance as long as the required five clock hours of student instruction time is provided to students throughout the school term. The waiver, however, would not impact the overall total student instructional and teacher in-service minutes provided during the course of a school year. Rather, the waiver will provide flexibility as to when these minutes are scheduled. The application shall request a five year waiver period, beginning with the 2007-08 school year and ending with the 2011-12 school year

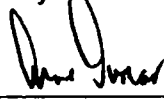
This waiver is being sought to allow Autonomous Management and Performance Schools (AMPS) and other schools designated by the Board the flexibility to schedule school improvement plan in-service sessions in a timeframe that best suits the needs of students, teachers and administrators. If the waiver is granted, the Board may in its sole discretion authorize individual Chicago Public Schools to utilize a school calendar which includes full-day school improvement in-service sessions.

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

Approved for Consideration:


Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

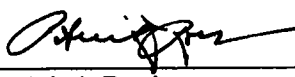
Respectfully Submitted:


Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Noted:


John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 


Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel