

June 25, 2008

APPROVE APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL CODE WAIVERS

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

That the Chicago Board of Education (the "Board") approves the applications for the waiver of the state mandates regarding driver education.

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 June 12, 2008, 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 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 APPLICATIONS: The request for driver education waivers are as follows: (1) A Section 27-24.3 waiver from the 6 clock hours of behind the wheel instruction and be allowed to substitute simulation instruction and range driving; and (2) A Section 27-23 waiver from the \$50.00 driver education fee limitation and be allowed to raise the fee up to \$150.00.

Section 27-24.3 of the Illinois School Code provides that a school district must provide at least 6 clock hours of practice driving in a car having dual operating controls under direct individual instruction. This requirement imposes tremendous costs to the district as well as delaying the opportunities for students to take or complete driver education instruction. The district is requesting a waiver from this provision to provide simulation instruction, range driving and controlled instruction as well as behind the wheel instruction.

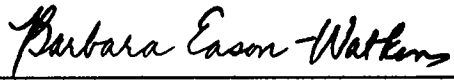
Section 27-23 of the Illinois School Code provides that a district may charge a reasonable fee, not to exceed \$50, to students who participate in driver education courses. However with the rising costs associated with providing driver education, \$50.00 is not reasonable. The district is requesting a waiver from this provision of the School Code to be able to charge students up to \$150.00 for taking the course. Fee waivers to qualified students would still apply.

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 School Code.

LSC REVIEW: Not applicable.

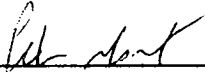
FINANCIAL: Not applicable.

Approved for Consideration:



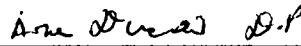
Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel