



Illinois State Board of Education

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Rod Blagojevich
Governor

Jesse H. Ruiz
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

June 14, 2007

DOM

Dr. Constance R. Collins
Superintendent
Oak Park School District 97
970 Madison Street
Oak Park, IL 60302

Dear Dr. Collins:

On June 4, 2007, the Illinois State Board of Education received your *renewal* request for a modification of rules governing School Food Services (23 Ill. Adm. Code 305.15(e)).

Your request has been approved as a modification of those rules. This approval begins in the 2007-08 school year and extends through the 2011-12 school year.

Sincerely,

Christopher Koch

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Enclosure

RECEIVED

JUN 4 2007

APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OR MODIFICATION
OF STATE BOARD RULES AND/OR SCHOOL CODE MANDATES

This application is to be used for seeking a waiver or modification of State Board of Education rules or of School Code mandates in accordance with Section 2-3.25g of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g]. The completed application must be submitted by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the above address. Please use the instructions on reverse side when completing this application. **Please note that action on incomplete applications will be delayed until all required documentation is received.**

1. The application is for: (Check appropriate box(es) below.)

- WAIVER OF SCHOOL CODE WAIVER OF ISBE RULE MODIFICATION OF SCHOOL CODE MODIFICATION OF ISBE RULE

2. APPLICANT'S NAME AND NUMBER <u>OAK PARK SCHOOL DIST 97</u>	CONTACT PERSON <u>DON ROBINSON</u>
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS <u>970 MADISON ST</u> <u>OAK PARK, IL 60302</u>	CONTACT PERSON'S TELEPHONE NUMBER/EXTENSION <u>708-524-7623</u>
SUPERINTENDENT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR <u>DR. CONNIE COLLINS</u>	CONTACT FAX NUMBER <u>708-383-6460</u>
COUNTY <u>COOK</u>	E-MAIL ADDRESS OF CONTACT PERSON <u>d.robinson@op97.org</u>
	Can we contact your e-mail address? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

3. Provide citation or language of the rule(s) or School Code mandate(s) which are the subject of this application. If you are requesting a modification, display it here, using strike through or underlining.

23 IL Admin. Code, § 305.15(a)

APPROVED

4. Attach a narrative identifying and justifying the specific request.

a. For proposed waivers and modifications of rules or modifications of School Code mandates that are based upon meeting the intent of the rule or mandate in a more effective, efficient or economical manner, a narrative description must provide all of the required information (see Item 4(a) on the reverse side).

See Attachment

b. All proposed waivers/modifications requested to stimulate innovation or improve student performance, including all proposed waivers of School Code mandates, shall provide the specific plan for improved student performance and school improvement upon which the request is being based and how the applicant will determine success (see Item 4(b) on the reverse side).

N/A

c. Applications requesting waivers from Section 17-1.5 of the School Code must include the amount, nature, and reason for the requested relief and all remedies that have been exhausted by the district to comply with the administrative expenditure limitation.

N/A

WM300-4360(LR)

5. **Public Testimony:** Attach a description of the testimony provided, to include the information enumerated in item 5 on the reverse side.

6. This application is for: INITIAL WAIVER/MODIFICATION 2007-08 RENEWAL OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED WAIVER/MODIFICATION
This application requests waiver/modification for 5 years (from 2005 school year through 2010 school year, 2011-12 exp. 07)
(See Item 6 on reverse side for limits on the duration of waivers/modifications.)

7. Attach a copy of each public notice required. Any request not meeting the requirements will be returned as ineligible for consideration.

8. Compliance with Notice and Hearing Requirements

I certify that a hearing concerning this application and any associated plan for improved student performance was held on April 25, 2007 and, for those applicants requesting waivers or modifications of the daily physical education requirement, that the regular board meeting(s) were held on N/A of that month.

I further certify that the applicant has met all the notification and hearing requirements enumerated in items A and B on reverse side and that the board of education/board of directors of the applicant identified above approved this application on

April 25, 2007

May 29, 2007

Connie Collins
Signature of Applicant (i.e., District Superintendent/Executive Director/Regional Superintendent)

OAK PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS · DISTRICT 97

970 Madison · Oak Park · Illinois · 60302

Phone (708) 524-3000 · Fax (708) 524-3019



"We Build the Future"

May 28, 2007

Chris Schmitt – Nutrition Programs Division
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N First St
Springfield, IL 62777

RE: Waiver Request

Oak Park School District 97 currently has a waiver of 23 Illinois Administrative Code 305 that permits competitive food sales for the exclusive benefit of not-for-profit organizations in support of the district's educational programs. That waiver, approved in 2002, expires at the end of the current school year. The district is making application for another five-year waiver. In doing so, we acknowledge the new nutrition rules and the obligation of the district to ensure that any competitive food sales conform fully to those nutrition rules.

District 97 has conformed to the waiver process by publishing a legal notice, holding a public hearing, and completing and forwarding this application. The waiver is critical to programs at district 97. The district has not experienced an operating referendum increase for almost 20 years. The food fundraisers support school PTOs, whose support is invaluable to the district's continued academic success. More important, food fundraising is necessary for the continuation of District 97's award-winning CAST and BRAVO integrated arts programs. Without earnings from occasional lunchtime fundraisers, CAST and BRAVO will be unable to sustain their art, music, and drama initiatives. Their programs would need to be scaled back, and necessary financial support for those students unable to otherwise participate would exacerbate the financial problem. District 97's free & reduced percentage is 18% and rising.

Please contact me if you require any additional information or explanations. We eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,

Donald Robinson
Asst Supt for Finance & Operations