

ERIE COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM

DATE: August 23, 2007

SUBJECT: Mandate Waiver on School Construction projects

CATEGORY: Operations: Policy: X Information: Personnel:

INITIATED BY: Steven Sceiford Facility Manger

DESCRIPTION:

Erie County Technical School is applying to PDE for a Mandate Waiver under the Education Empowerment Act. This will allow our students in construction trades programs to perform work on school buildings to enhance their instruction.

The application is seeking waiver of the rules in the Application for Non-Reimbursable Construction Project- PDE-3074 which states that construction work on any school building may not be performed by school students. School Code Section 751 (a) requires “work upon any school building” to be competitively bid.

An original application was approved in May 2007 but was rejected by PDE. This new application meets PDE standards for relating to a specific project: i.e. proposed training laboratory comprised of mock hotel rooms and a fast food service counter.

RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to approve the Mandate Waiver Program Application under the Education Empowerment Act allowing Erie County Technical School students to perform work on school buildings to improve instruction in the construction trades programs, as presented.

MANDATE WAIVER PROGRAM APPLICATION

School District/IU/AVTS: Erie County Technical School

Board Adoption Date: August 23, 2007

Superintendent/Executive Director: Aldo R. Jackson, Ph.D.

President, Board of Directors: James A. Bucksbee

Contact Person: Paul Fritz, Business Manager

Telephone Number and Fax: (814) 464-8662, (814) 464-8625 (fax)

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SECTION 1 - Law/Regulation/Standard to be waived. Please provide the appropriate legal citation and specify the provision(s) from which relief is sought.

24 P.S. 7-751 (a&b): The district is requesting a waiver from competitive bidding requirements to allow for the construction of a proposed training laboratory comprised of mock hotel rooms and a fast food service counter at the Erie County Technical School (ECTS). The project would be completed by students enrolled in the Construction Trades, Drafting & Design, Electrical Engineering and Facilities Maintenance Technologies programs at the ECTS.

SECTION 2 - Specify need for waiver.

The waiver will provide real-life construction experiences for students enrolled in the four programs. The waiver will also allow the technical school and its participating school districts to save thousands of dollars in material and labor costs if the project were conducted through a competitive bidding process.

SECTION 3 - Explain how the waiver will enable the school district, IU or AVTS to 1) improve its instructional program and/or 2) operate in a more effective, efficient or economical manner.

By virtue of their size and unique features, the construction of the mock hotel rooms and fast food service counter will provide excellent opportunities for students to learn from the hands-on experiences in various aspects of their career paths including project management, masonry, plumbing, carpentry and electrical construction. This project will also provide construction experience in commercial aspects of construction. The students typically experience only aspects of residential construction.

Our participating school districts will save thousands of dollars in construction costs by allowing the students to construct the training laboratory. The projected cost through competitive bidding is over \$500,000. The estimated cost of construction by the students is \$150,000.

SECTION 4 - Explain benefits to be obtained by the waiver, and supply supporting data and information.

The granting of a waiver will provide excellent educational experiences for over 165 students. As noted above, cost savings gained through the waiver will amount to over \$300,000.

SECTION 5 – If the purpose of the waiver is to improve the instructional program, please explain how the program will operate under the waiver.

The waiver will allow the faculty to design instruction that involves commercial construction standards. It will reduce costs in terms of instructional supplies.

SECTION 6 – Describe the evaluation procedure that will be used to determine: 1) the effectiveness of an innovative program; 2) the effectiveness of a revised instructional program, which shall include measures of student performance; and 3) the effectiveness of changes in the operations of the school district, IU or AVTS.

The program effectiveness will be evaluated from three perspectives. First, faculty will be interviewed to determine the effectiveness of the project in terms of class operation and teaching effectiveness. Second, students will be interviewed to determine their perception of the project in terms of learning opportunities and relevance to their career goals. We will also measure student performance on the state mandated occupational competency test (NOCTI) to see if student scores improve. Lastly, a cost-benefit analysis will be conducted to ensure a project operated under this structure does result in the intended benefits.

AFFIRMATION

We affirm that this application was adopted by the attached resolution of the Board of School Directors/Board of Control at a regularly scheduled meeting of the board. The school board's solicitor has reviewed the application and has determined that in waiving _____, the school district, IU or AVTS will not violate any court order, state law or federal law. (Insert law/regulation/standard to be waived)

We acknowledge that it is the board's responsibility to ensure that implementation of the waiver will be consistent with the terms of any court order, collective bargaining agreement or contract by which the board is bound.

Affirmed this _____ day of _____

Superintendent/Executive Director

President, Board of Directors **OR**
Chairperson, Board of Control

SEAL

Taken, sworn and subscribed before me,

this _____ day of

_____ A.D. _____
