



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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June 26, 2017

Ms. Winifred H. Tuthill
Illinois State Board of Education
Nutrition Programs Division
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777

Re: Food Service Waiver Request

Dear Ms. Tuthill:

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 2012, expires at the end of this current school year. The District is making application for another five-year waiver. In so doing, 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 providing advance written notice of a public hearing to all unions within the District and to all appropriate state legislators (senators and representatives), publishing a legal notice and holding such public hearing (please note copies all letters sent and certificate of publication). Also attached is the only statement made at the public hearing in support of the support.

The food fund raisers support our two middle school PTOs, whose support is invaluable to the District's continued academic success. More importantly, food fund raising is necessary for the continuation of the District's award-winning CAST and BRAVO integrated arts programs. Without earnings from occasional lunch-time fund-raisers, 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 and reduced percentage is approximately 20%.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Carol Kelley
District Superintendent