

## **Awards for Achievement**

Board Policy

BP 5126

Students

The Governing Board encourages excellence as a goal for all students and wishes to publicly recognize students for exemplary achievements in academic, athletic, extracurricular, or community service activities. The purpose of such awards shall be consistent with school goals.

*(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)*

*(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)*

*(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)*

Student awards may include verbal recognition, a letter, a certificate, a Board resolution, public ceremony, trophy, gift, plaque, or scholarship.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop criteria for the appropriate selection of student award recipients.

*(cf. 1260 - Educational Foundation)*

*(cf. 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests)*

### Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

At graduation from high school, special recognition shall be awarded to those students whose academic achievements in core curriculum areas have been outstanding.

The Superintendent or designee shall identify high school students who have demonstrated mastery of the high school curriculum qualifying them for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma. (Education Code 51454)

*(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)*

### Biliteracy Seal Award

In order to recognize and encourage linguistic proficiency and cultural literacy, the district shall present a biliteracy seal award to each graduating high school student who demonstrates proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. The Superintendent or designee shall approve applications for the award based on a review of student qualifications in accordance with district-established criteria.

*(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)*

*(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)*

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

*220 Nondiscrimination*

*35160 Authority of governing boards*

*35310-35319 Scholarship and loan funds*

*44015 Awards to employees and students*

*51243-51245 Credit for private school foreign language instruction*

*51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma*

*CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5*

*876 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma*

*1632 Credit for private school foreign language instruction*

*Management Resources:*

WEB SITES

*CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>*

*California Department of Education, Golden State Seal Merit Diploma:*

*<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/meritdiploma.asp>"><http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/meritdiploma.asp>*

*Californians Together: <http://www.californianstogether.org>*

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The Superintendent or designee may appoint a committee at each school to consider awards for student accomplishments. This committee may consist of school administrators, teachers, parents/guardians, community members, and student representatives.

*(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)*

Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

To be eligible to receive the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma upon high school graduation, a student shall: (Education Code 51451, 51452; 5 CCR 876)

1. Complete all requirements for a high school diploma

*(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)*

*(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)*

*(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)*

*(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)*

2. Demonstrate mastery of at least six subject areas by earning a scaled score of 370 or above on six separate high school California Standards Tests (CST), including:

a. One mathematics exam, excluding the Algebra I, General Mathematics, or Integrated Mathematics 1 test

b. One English language arts exam

c. One science exam, excluding the grade 10 Life Science exam

d. The grade 11 history-social science exam (United States history)

e. Two additional CSTs of the student's choice, which may, but are not required to, include additional exams in mathematics, English language arts, science, or history-social science

*(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)*

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain appropriate records to identify students who are eligible for the merit and shall affix an insignia to the diploma and transcript of each student awarded the merit diploma. (Education Code 51454)

*(cf. 5125 - Student Records)*

The Superintendent or designee shall submit an insignia request form to the California Department of Education in sufficient time to allow processing of the request prior to the high school graduation ceremony.

### Biliteracy Seal Award

To be eligible to receive the district's biliteracy seal award upon graduation, a student shall:

1. Complete all requirements for a high school diploma, including all English language arts requirements, with an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or above
2. Demonstrate proficiency on the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) test (if taken)
3. Demonstrate proficiency on the California Standards Test (CST) in English Language Arts
4. Demonstrate proficiency in one or more languages other than English, by fulfilling at least one of the following requirements:
  - a. Receive a passing score of 3 or higher on the Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam for foreign language

*(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)*

- b. Successfully complete a four-year course of study in the same world language (Middle/High School combined), attaining an overall GPA of 3.0 or above in those courses
- c. Completion through Level 4 of world language with overall 3.0 grade average
- d. Pass a foreign government's approved language exam and receive a certificate of competency for that language from the authorizing government agency

*(cf. 6142.2 World/Foreign Language Instruction)*

The Superintendent or designee shall annually distribute information about the eligibility requirements for the award and the application process to students in grade 12.

The Superintendent or designee shall affix an insignia to the diploma of each student awarded the biliteracy award. The Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board at least annually regarding the status and activity of the fund. (Education Code 35319)

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Activities and Programs)*

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