

**AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT**

The Governing Board encourages excellence as a goal for all students and wishes to publicly recognize students for exemplary achievement in academic, athletic, extracurricular, or community service activities.

*(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)*  
*(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)*  
*(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)*

**District/School Awards**

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

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

**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 Award**

The district shall present the State Seal of Biliteracy to each graduating high school student who has attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. (Education Code 51460-51464) Additionally, a Pathway to Biliteracy award will be presented to all eighth-grade students promoting to high school, who demonstrate academic proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in two languages.

*(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)*  
*(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)*

In order to affirm the value of bilingualism and encourage students' enrollment in world language programs, the Superintendent or designee may present awards at appropriate grade levels to recognize the pursuit and/or attainment of grade-level proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English.

**AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT** (continued)

*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

51460-51464 State Seal of Biliteracy

52164.1 Assessment of English language skills of English learners

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

876 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

1632 Credit for private school foreign language instruction

11510-11516 California English Language Development Test

**AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT**

**District/School Awards**

The Superintendent or designee may appoint an awards committee at each school which may consist of school administrators, teachers, parents/guardians, community members, and student representatives. The committee shall submit recommendations for student awards to the Superintendent or designee for approval.

*(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)*

Individual awards in excess of \$200 must be expressly approved by the Governing Board. (Education Code 44015)

**Golden State Seal Merit Diploma**

To demonstrate mastery of these subject areas, the student shall earn a scaled score of 370 or above on six separate high school California Standards Tests (CST).

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain appropriate records to identify students who are eligible for the merit diploma 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 Award**

To be eligible to receive the State Seal of Biliteracy upon graduation, a student shall meet all the following criteria: (Education Code 51461)

1. Complete all English language arts requirements for high school graduation with an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or above in those classes
2. Demonstrate proficiency in English language arts by fulfilling one of the following criteria:
  - a. Score at the standards met or standards exceeded on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress Exam (CAASPP)
  - b. Earn a final grade of B or better in the first semester of the Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC)

**AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT** (continued)

3. Demonstrate proficiency in one or more foreign languages, which may include American Sign Language, by fulfilling one of the following criteria:

- a. Pass a foreign language Advanced Placement examination with a score of 3 or higher or an International Baccalaureate examination with a score of 4 or higher

*(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)*

- b. Successfully complete a four-year high school course of study in a foreign language, attaining an overall GPA of 3.0 or above in that course of study

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

- c. Pass a district language examination that meets the rigor of a four-year high school course of study in that language, provided the test has been certified to or approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction

- d. Pass the SAT II foreign language examination with a score of 600 or higher

In addition to meeting the criteria in items #1-3 above, a student in any of grades 9-12 whose primary language is other than English shall attain the early advanced proficiency level or higher on the California English Language Development Test (CELDT). As necessary for this purpose, the district may administer the CELDT an additional time outside of the regularly scheduled administration specified in AR 6174 - Education for English Language Learners. (Education Code 51461)

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

**Pathway to Biliteracy Award**

To be eligible to receive the Pathway to Biliteracy Award, a student shall meet all the following criteria:

1. Participation in at least one year of a World Language class OR Spanish for Native Speakers class in 8th grade with a "B" or above. (The one year requirement allows transfer students to be potential candidates).
2. Proficient or above in 6th grade ELA portion of 2013 CST (for 2014-15 only) OR District Assessment; local assessment criteria for 2015-16 and beyond or an Average grade of "B" or above in ELA.

**AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT** (continued)

3. Written and oral presentations about bilingualism or cultural experiences (select two from the letter choices below: a, b, and c) or d only.
  - a. Written essay on why knowing multiple languages is important;
  - b. Oral presentation on 5 careers where bilingualism is important and why and how bilingualism is a benefit in those careers;
  - c. A personal response essay to having attended two cultural events from the second language/culture they are studying; or
  - d. Project Based Learning (PBL) presentation, encompassing the 100,000 Strong in the Americas global initiative that shows the economic, social, political, and personal impact of learning another language.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain appropriate records to identify high school students who qualify for the award and shall affix the insignia to the diploma or transcript of each student who earns the award. (Education Code 51463)

**Notifications**

The Superintendent or designee shall annually distribute information about eligibility requirements for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma, State Seal of Biliteracy, and/or any district awards programs to students at the applicable grade levels.