

Regulation 5126: Awards For Achievement

Status: ADOPTED

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CSBA NOTE: Education Code 44015 authorizes the Governing Board to give district-level awards to students for "excellence." Before any awards are given under the authority of this law, the district is mandated to adopt rules and regulations implementing the awards program. The Board may delegate the authority to establish criteria for these awards to the Superintendent or designee; see the accompanying Board policy. The following section should be revised to reflect any such rules and regulations adopted by the district.

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

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

Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

CSBA NOTE: The following optional section is for use by districts that maintain high schools. Education Code 51450-51455 require the State Board of Education (SBE) to determine the means and the performance standards or achievement levels that demonstrate mastery of the curriculum for the purpose of awarding the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma. Eligibility criteria are published on the California Department of Education (CDE) web site and described below.

To be eligible to receive the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma upon graduation from high school, a student shall complete all requirements for a high school diploma and shall demonstrate mastery of the curriculum in mathematics, English language arts, science, U.S. history, and two other subject matter areas selected by the student by meeting at least one of the following criteria for each subject: (Education Code 51451, 51452; 5 CCR 876)

1. Mathematics and English language arts
 - a. A grade of at least B+ or the numerical equivalent in a single course each semester completed in grade 9, 10, or 11
 - b. An achievement level of "Standard Met" or above for the high school Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment
2. Science
 - a. A grade of at least B+ or the numerical equivalent in a single course each semester completed in grade 9, 10, or 11
 - b. An achievement level of "Standard Met" or above for the high school California Science Test taken in grade 10 or 11
3. U.S. history
 - a. A grade of at least B or the numerical equivalent in the required U.S. history course each semester
 - b. A qualifying score that demonstrates mastery of the subject as determined by the district for an exam produced by a private provider or the district
4. Two additional subject areas of the student's choosing
 - a. Any additional qualifying grade or score listed above, earned for the subject of English language arts, mathematics, science, or U.S. history not already used to meet eligibility
 - b. A grade of at least B or the numerical equivalent upon completion of high school courses in other subjects
 - c. A qualifying score that demonstrates mastery of other subjects, as determined by the district, for an exam produced by a private provider or the district

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain appropriate records to identify students who have earned the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma and shall affix an insignia to the high school diploma and transcript of each such student. (Education Code 51454)

CDE requires each district to annually submit one districtwide insignia request on a form provided by CDE. CDE's web site encourages districts to submit the request far enough in advance of the graduation ceremony date to allow sufficient time for processing by CDE and for district staff to place the insignias on the diplomas. CDE begins mailing requested insignias the first week of April.

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

State Seal of Bilingual

CSBA NOTE: The following optional section is for use by districts that maintain high schools and choose to recognize graduating students' bilingual/multilingual proficiency with the State Seal of Bilingual pursuant to Education Code 51460-51464; see the accompanying Board policy. Districts that choose to present bilingual awards to students at other grade levels may revise the following section to add eligibility criteria for those awards.

Pursuant to Education Code 51461, as amended by SB 98 (Ch. 24, Statutes of 2020), the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) may provide alternative criteria for students on track to graduate in 2020 or 2021 who did not receive a letter grade in English language arts or were not able to take the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) or due to COVID-19. The SPI has determined that students who were unable to take the ELPAC may meet the requirement based on their prior ELPAC score and consultation with the student's teachers. In addition, the requirement to take the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress is waived for students who were not able to take the exam, and students who completed all required English language arts courses through distance learning but did not receive a letter grade due to COVID-19 are eligible to earn the State Seal of Bilingual if all other requirements are met. For further information, see CDE's State Seal of Bilingual FAQs located on its web site.

To be eligible to receive the State Seal of Bilingual upon graduation, a student shall demonstrate a high level of proficiency in English and at least one other language, which may include American Sign Language, by meeting all of the following state-established criteria: (Education Code 51461)

1. Completion of all English language arts requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average of at least 2.0 in those classes
2. Passage of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress for English language arts or any successor test administered in grade 11 at or above the "Standard Met" achievement level
3. Proficiency in one or more languages other than English, demonstrated through one of the following methods:
 - a. Passage of a world language Advanced Placement (AP) exam with a score of 3 or higher or an International Baccalaureate (IB) exam with a score of 4 or higher
 - b. Successful completion of a four-year high school course of study in a world language, attaining an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 in that course of study, and oral proficiency in the language comparable to that required on an AP or IB exam
 - c. If no AP exam or off-the-shelf language test exists, passage of a district language exam that can be certified to meet the rigor of a four-year high school course of study in a given language and, at a minimum, assesses speaking, reading, and writing in a language other than English at the proficient level or higher
 - d. If a language is not characterized by listening, speaking, or reading, or for which there is no written system, passage of an assessment on the modalities that characterize communication in that language at the proficient level or higher
 - e. Passage of the SAT II world language exam with a score of 600 or higher

To be eligible to receive the State Seal of Bilingual, a student whose primary language is other than English shall also attain the level which demonstrates English language proficiency on the state's English Language Proficiency

Assessments for California. (Education Code 51461)

CSBA NOTE: CDE requires each district to submit one districtwide insignia request on a form provided by CDE. CDE recommends submitting the online form, which can be found on CDE's web site, four weeks prior to the graduation date to allow sufficient time for CDE to mail the insignias and for the district to affix the insignias to the diplomas. CDE will mail the insignias within two weeks of receiving the online request.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain appropriate records to identify high school students who have earned the State Seal of Biliteracy and shall affix the insignia to the high school diploma or transcript of each such student. (Education Code 51463)

State Seal of Civic Engagement

CSBA NOTE: The following optional section is for use by districts that choose to present the State Seal of Civic Engagement to students who have demonstrated excellence in civics education and participation and an understanding of the U.S. Constitution, the California Constitution, and the democratic system of government pursuant to Education Code 51470-51474; see the accompanying Board policy. The following criteria, adopted by SBE in September 2020, are intended to provide districts with a framework for making determinations of student qualifications based on local contexts.

CDE's SSCE Implementation Guidance, available on its web site, offers ideas and considerations for districts in the implementation of the criteria.

To be eligible to receive the State Seal of Civic Engagement, a student shall meet district requirements for all of the following state-established criteria:

1. Be engaged in academic work in a productive way
2. Demonstrate a competent understanding of U.S. and California Constitutions, functions and governance of local governments, tribal government structures and organizations, the role of the citizen in a constitutional democracy, and democratic principles, concepts, and processes
3. Participate in one or more informed civic engagement project(s) that address real-world problems and require students to identify and inquire into civic needs or problems, consider varied responses, take action, and reflect on efforts
4. Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions through self-reflection
5. Exhibit character traits that reflect civic-mindedness and a commitment to positively impact the classroom, school, community and/or society

CSBA NOTE: CDE provides the insignias to be affixed to students' diplomas or transcripts indicating the award of the State Seal of Civic Engagement. When ordering the insignias, districts will self-certify that students earned the award based on locally created criteria.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain appropriate records to identify students who have earned the State Seal of Civic Engagement and shall affix the insignia to the high school diploma or transcript of each such student. (Education Code 51473)

Scholarship and Loan Fund

CSBA NOTE: The following section is for use by any district that has established a scholarship and loan fund pursuant to Education Code 35310-35319; see the accompanying Board policy. Districts that have not established such a program should delete this section.

The Superintendent shall serve as chief executive officer of the scholarship and loan fund and as chairperson of the district committee established to administer the fund. The committee shall meet at least once each fiscal year and at other such times as it may be called into session by the Superintendent. (Education Code 35311, 35312)

Scholarship and loan funds shall be deposited, administered, and audited in accordance with Education Code 35314 and 35318.

CSBA NOTE: If the district has chosen to maintain a scholarship and loan fund, it is mandated by Education Code 35316 to adopt regulations governing applications, provided such regulations do not limit student eligibility based

on any conditions listed in Education Code 220; see BP 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Activities and Programs. The following paragraph may be expanded to describe the district's application procedures.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish criteria, procedures, and deadlines for student applications for scholarships and/or loans from the fund. As applicable, the Superintendent or designee may require the student to submit letters of recommendation or other supplementary materials providing evidence of the student's accomplishments and/or need.

Notifications

CSBA NOTE: The following optional section may be revised to reflect programs offered by the district.

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

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State References

	Description
5 CCR 11517.60-11519.56	English Language Proficiency Assessments for California
5 CCR 1632	Alternative credits toward graduation for foreign language instruction in private school
5 CCR 876	Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
Ed. Code 220	Prohibition of discrimination
Ed. Code 35160	Authority of governing boards
Ed. Code 35310-35319	Scholarship and loan funds
Ed. Code 44015	Awards to employees and students
Ed. Code 51243-51245	Credit for private school foreign language instruction
Ed. Code 51450-51455	Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
Ed. Code 51460-51464	State Seal of Biliteracy
Ed. Code 51470-51474	State Seal of Civic Engagement
Ed. Code 52164.1	Assessment of English language skills of English learners
Gov. Code 54950-54963	The Ralph M. Brown Act

Management Resources References

	Description
Website	Californians Together
Website	CSBA
Website	California Department of Education

Cross References

	Description
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
0415	Equity
1150	Commendations And Awards
4156.2	Awards And Recognition
4256.2	Awards And Recognition
4356.2	Awards And Recognition
5022	Student And Family Privacy Rights
5022	Student And Family Privacy Rights

5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.11	Attendance Supervision
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5125	Student Records
5125	Student Records
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities
5137	Positive School Climate
6141.4	International Baccalaureate Program
6141.5	Advanced Placement
6142.2	World Language Instruction
6142.2	World Language Instruction
6157	Distance Learning
6158	Independent Study
6158	Independent Study
6159	Individualized Education Program
6159	Individualized Education Program
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6174	Education For English Learners
6174	Education For English Learners
6181	Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice
6181	Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice
6183	Home And Hospital Instruction
6184	Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education