

SUBJECT: AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT

ORIGINATING OFFICE: ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, EDUCATION SERVICES

EFFECTIVE: OCTOBER 13, 2015

REVISED: FEBRUARY 29, 2016
DECEMBER 16, 2021

The Board of Trustees 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. The principal of each school may, with the approval of the superintendent, establish appropriate recognition for student achievement.

District/School Awards

The Superintendent or designee shall develop criteria for the selection of student award recipients. Individual awards in excess of \$200 must be expressly approved by the Board of Trustees. (Education Code 44015)

Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

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.

Seal of Bi-literacy Award

To be eligible to receive the State Seal of Bi-literacy 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. Pass the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) in English Language Arts or any successor test administered in 11th grade at or above the “Standard Met” achievement level.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in one or more languages other than English, which may include American sign-language, by fulfilling one of the following criteria:
 - A. Passage of world language Advanced Placement examination with a score of 3 or higher or an International Baccalaureate examination with a score of 4 or higher
 - B. Successfully complete a four-year high school course of study in a world language, attaining an overall GPA of 3.0 or above in that course of study, and oral proficiency in the language comparable to that required on an AP or IB exam
 - C. Pass a district language examination that meets the rigor of a four-year high school course of study in that 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. Pass the SAT II world language examination with a score of 600 or higher

To be eligible to receive the State Seal of Bi-literacy, 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)

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 Bi-literacy, and/or any district awards programs to students at the applicable grade levels.