

AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT

District or 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.

Individual awards in excess of \$200 must be expressly approved by the Governing Board.

Golden State Seal Merit Diplomas

To be eligible to receive the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma upon high school graduation, a student shall complete all requirements for a high school diploma and demonstrate, in accordance with the means adopted by the State Board of Education, mastery of the curriculum in at least six subject areas, four of which shall be mathematics, English language arts, science and United States history, with the remaining two subject areas selected by the student.

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), including:

1. One mathematics exam, excluding the Algebra II, Geometry, Summative High School Mathematics, or Integrated Mathematics 2 or 3;
2. One English language arts exam at grade 9, 10, or 11;
3. One science exam, including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science, or Integrated/Coordinated Science 1, 2, 3, or 4;
4. The grade 11 history-social science exam (United States history);
5. Two CSTs of the student's choice, which may include world History or any additional exams listed in items #1-4 above which have not already been used to establish eligibility.

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.

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:

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 CST in English language arts administered in grade 11 at the proficient level or above; and
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;
 - b. Successfully complete a four-year course of study in a foreign language, attaining an overall GPA of 3.0 or above in that course of study; or
 - c.
 - 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 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.

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 maintain appropriate records to identify high school students who qualify for the award and shall affix the insignia to the diploma and transcript of each student who earns the award.

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.

Revised: March 13, 2013

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Revised: September 10, 2008

Adopted: September 1984