

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~~artistic, extracurricular, ~~or athletic, and~~ 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

Note: Education Code 44015 authorizes the Governing Board to give district-level awards to students for "excellence" and mandates that the district adopt rules and regulations implementing any such awards program. See the accompanying administrative regulation for language implementing this mandate.

Pursuant to Education Code 44015, when such an awards program is established in a district, the Board must budget funds for this purpose, but may authorize awards from funds under its control whether or not budgeted funds have been provided or the budgeted funds are exhausted.

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

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

Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

Note: The following **optional** section is for use by districts that maintain high schools. Education Code 51450-51455 establish the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma which may be awarded by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) and the State Board of Education to students identified as demonstrating mastery of the high school core curriculum. See the accompanying administrative regulation for eligibility criteria.

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

The Superintendent or designee shall identify graduating 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 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

State Seal of Biliteracy-Award

Note: The following **optional** section is for use by districts maintaining one or more high schools. Education Code 51460-51464 establish the State Seal of Biliteracy, a voluntary program which recognizes high school graduates

who have attained a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English. The SPI will provide an insignia that can be affixed to the diploma or transcript of eligible students. See the accompanying administrative regulation for eligibility criteria for the award. Districts that choose to adopt their own criteria and present a district-level biliteracy award may revise the following paragraph accordingly.

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)

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

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

Note: The following **optional** paragraph is for use by districts that choose to present biliteracy awards at other grade levels, and should be revised to reflect district practice. Californians Together, a statewide coalition working to enhance the success of English learners, recommends issuing local "pathway awards" recognizing benchmarks toward biliteracy at preschool, grade 3, end of elementary school, end of middle school, and when a student who is an English learner is reclassified as fluent English proficient.

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. [The Superintendent or designee may also present awards to English learners who are reclassified as fluent English proficient to recognize proficiency in both English and the student's native language.](#)

State Seal of Civic Engagement

Note: The following **optional** section is for use by districts that recognize 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. Education Code 51470-51474 establish the State Seal of Civic Engagement, a voluntary program which encourages and creates pathways for students in elementary and secondary schools to become civically engaged in democratic governmental institutions at the local, state, and national levels.

The SPI will provide an insignia that can be affixed to the diploma or transcript of eligible students. See the accompanying administrative regulation for eligibility criteria for the award.

[The Superintendent or designee shall present the State Seal of Civic Engagement to each student who demonstrates excellence in civics education and participation and has demonstrated an understanding of the U.S. Constitution, the California Constitution, and the democratic system of government. \(Education Code 51470-51474\)](#)

Note: The following paragraph reflects information on the California Department of Education's web site emphasizing that the criteria are written to ensure that no student is excluded from the opportunity to earn the State Seal of Civic Engagement based on academic ability, alternative school settings, or unique or unconventional expressions of civic engagement.

[All district students shall be afforded the opportunity to earn the State Seal of Civic Engagement, regardless of their background, communities, or experiences. No student shall be denied such](#)

opportunity based on academic ability, alternative school setting, or unique or unconventional expression of civic engagement.

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

(cf. 0415 - Equity)

(cf. 6157 - Distance Learning)

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)

(cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)

(cf. 6183 - Home and Hospital Instruction)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

Scholarship and Loan Fund

Note: The following section is for use by districts that choose to establish and maintain a scholarship and loan fund pursuant to Education Code 35310-35319. If the district chooses to establish such a fund, it should revise the following paragraph to reflect only those purposes for which it wishes to make funds available.

The Board shall establish and maintain a scholarship and loan fund which **mayshall** be used to provide interest-free loans for educational advancement, scholarship, **and/or** grants-in-aid to bona fide organizations, students, or graduates of district schools. (Education Code 35310, 35315)

(cf. 1260 - Educational Foundation)

(cf. 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests)

Note: If the district establishes a committee to administer the scholarship and loan fund, or if the number of Board members who serve on the committee constitutes a majority of the Board, the committee is required to comply with open meeting laws pursuant to Government Code 54950-54963 (the Brown Act). See AR 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees and BB 9130 - Board Committees.

The district's scholarship and loan fund shall be administered by a district committee composed of Board members, the Superintendent, and such other community, staff, administrative, and/or student representatives as determined by the Board. (Education Code 35310)

Note: If the district chooses to establish and maintain a scholarship and loan fund, it is **mandated** pursuant to Education Code 35310 to develop rules and regulations specifying the term of office and method of selection of the community, faculty, administrative, and student representative members of the committee appointed to administer the fund. The following paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice.

The Board shall select its own representatives to the committee. Staff, community, and/or student representatives shall be selected by the Superintendent. Members of this committee shall serve two-year terms.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 9140 - Board Representatives)

The committee may accept gifts, donations, and bequests made for the purposes of the fund and may prescribe conditions or restrictions on these gifts and bequests. If the donor imposes any conditions, the committee shall review the conditions and make a recommendation to the Board

as to the compatibility of such conditions with the intent and purpose of the fund. The Board may prohibit the committee from accepting any donation under conditions it finds incompatible with the fund's intents and purposes. (Education Code 35313)

The Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board at least annually regarding the status and activity of the fund. (Education Code 35319)

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

[51470-51474 State Seal of Civic Engagement](#)

52164.1 Assessment of English language skills of English learners

GOVERNMENT CODE

[54950-54963 Brown Act open meeting laws](#)

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

876 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

1632 Credit for private school foreign language instruction

~~11510-11516 Assessment of English language development~~

[11517.6-11519.5 English Language Proficiency Assessments for California](#)

Management Resources:

[CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS](#)

[SSCE Implementation Guidance](#)

WEB SITES

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

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

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

PERRIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Perris, California

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