



Policy 5126: Awards For Achievement

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 08/09/2017 | **Last Revised Date:** 01/27/2021 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 09/16/2026

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

No fee or other cost shall be charged to any student in relation to any requirements in qualifying for or receiving any district achievement awards.

District/School Awards

Student awards may include verbal recognition, a letter, a certificate, a Board resolution, public ceremony, trophy, gift, plaque, or monetary gift. The Board shall establish a budget for this purpose. (Education Code 44015)

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

Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

At graduation from high school, 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)

State Seal of Biliteracy

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, as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 51460-51464).

District Awards for Biliteracy

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

The Superintendent or designee shall present the State Seal of Civic Engagement to each 11th or 12th grade 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 51470-51475)

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.

Scholarship and Loan Fund

The Board shall establish and maintain a scholarship and loan fund which shall 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)

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)

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.

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 as specified in Board Policy 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Requests. (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)

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 Governing Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
5 CCR 11517.6-11519.5	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 51007	Equitable access to programs designed to strengthen technological skills
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 51470-51475	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

California Department of Education Publication
California Department of Education Publication
Website
Website
Website
Website

Description

[State Seal of Biliteracy FAQs](#)
[SSCE Implementation Guidance](#)
[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)
[Californians Together](#)
[CSBA](#)
[California Department of Education](#)

Cross References

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4156.2
4256.2
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[Student Records](#)
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[Graduation Ceremonies And Activities](#)
[Positive School Climate](#)

Cross References

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