

Policy 5126: Awards For Achievement

Status: DRAFT

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The Governing Board encourages excellence as a goal for all students and wishes to publicly recognize students for unique or exemplary achievements in academic, **artistic**, extracurricular, **athletic**, and or 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** cash 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, 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)

State Seal of Biliteracy Award

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 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 11517.6-11519.5	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 References

	Description
California Department of Education Publication	State Seal of Biliteracy FAQs
California Department of Education Publication	SSCE Implementation Guidance
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
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
1220	Citizen Advisory Committees
1220	Citizen Advisory Committees

1260	Educational Foundation
3290	Gifts, Grants And Bequests
3400	Management Of District Assets/Accounts
3400	Management Of District Assets/Accounts
3460	Financial Reports And Accountability
3460	Financial Reports And Accountability
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
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5125	Student Records
5125	Student Records
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities
6141.4	International Baccalaureate Program
6141.5	Advanced Placement
6142.4	Service Learning/Community Service Classes
6143	Courses Of Study
6143	Courses Of Study
6146.1	High School Graduation Requirements
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation
6158	Independent Study
6158	Independent Study
6159	Individualized Education Program
6159	Individualized Education Program
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6174	Education For English Learners
6174	Education For English Learners
6183	Home And Hospital Instruction
6184	Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education
9140	Board Representatives