

**AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT**

**District/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.

*(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)*

Individual awards in excess of \$200 must be expressly approved by the Governing Board. (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 demonstrate, in accordance with the means adopted by the State Board of Education, mastery of the curriculum in mathematics, English language arts, science, United States history, and two other subject matter areas selected by the student. (Education Code 51451, 51452; 5 CCR 876)

*(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)*

*(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)*

*(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)*

*(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)*

*(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)*

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. (Education Code 51454)

*(cf. 5125 - Student Records)*

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 demonstrate, in accordance with state criteria, proficiency in English and at least one other language, which may include American Sign Language. A student whose primary language is other than English shall also attain the required proficiency level on the state test of English language proficiency. (Education Code 51461)

**AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT** (continued)

*(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)*  
*(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)*  
*(cf. 6174 - Education for English Learners)*

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)

**Scholarship Fund**

The Superintendent shall serve as chief executive officer of the scholarship fund and as chairperson of the district committee established to administer the fund. The committee shall meet at least once each fiscal year and at other such times as it may be called into session by the Superintendent. (Education Code 35311, 35312)

Scholarship funds shall be deposited, administered, and audited in accordance with Education Code 35314 and 35318.

*(cf. 3400 - Management of District Assets/Accounts)*  
*(cf. 3460 - Financial Reports and Accountability)*

The Superintendent or designee shall establish criteria, procedures, and deadlines for student applications for scholarships from the fund. As applicable, the Superintendent or designee may require the student to submit letters of recommendation or other supplementary materials providing evidence of the student's accomplishments and/or need.

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

**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.