

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, extracurricular, or 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

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

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.

The Superintendent or designee shall identify 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 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)

Biliteracy Award

The district may 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)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

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

52164.1 Assessment of English language skills of English learners

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

876 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

1632 Credit for private school foreign language instruction

11510-11516 California English Language Development Test

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

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

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

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

Policy
adopted: February 23, 1999
revised: August 14, 2012

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California

AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT**Golden State Seal Merit Diploma**

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 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. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

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, including 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

(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)

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 meet all the following criteria: (Education Code 51461)

AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

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
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 or an International Baccalaureate examination with a score of 4 or higher

(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)

- b. Successfully complete a four-year high school course of study in a foreign language, attaining an overall GPA of 3.0 or above in that course of study

(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)

- c. 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 level 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. (Education Code 51461)

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language 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)

Notifications

The Superintendent or designee shall annually distribute information about eligibility requirements for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma and State Seal of Biliteracy.

Regulation
approved: August 14, 2012

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California