

**REGULATION 5126: AWARDS FOR ACHEIVEMENT**

**Comparison Matrix**

Section: Students

**SUMMARY OF UPDATE**

**Summary of Update:** Regulation updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 370, 2023)** which revises the criteria needed to be met for a student to be awarded the State Seal of Biliteracy, and to clarify the eligibility requirements for an English learner to be eligible for the State Seal of Biliteracy.

CURRENT VERSION			REVISED VERSION	CSBA MODIFICATIONS and/or NOTES	
PARA	Section	Sub-Section	June 7, 2016		March 2024
			<b><u>District/School Awards</u></b>	<b>Delete</b>	
1			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.	The Superintendent or designee may appoint an awards committee at each school which may consist of school administrators, staff members, parents/guardians, community members, and student representatives. The committee shall submit recommendations for student awards to the Superintendent or designee for approval.	CSBA NOTE: Education Code 44015 authorizes the Governing Board to give district-level awards to students for "excellence." Before any awards are given under the authority of this law, the district is mandated to adopt rules and regulations implementing the awards program. The Board may delegate the authority to establish criteria for these awards to the Superintendent or designee, as well as a monetary award, except that pursuant to Education Code 44015 each monetary award of more than \$200 must be approved by the Board; see the accompanying Board policy. The following section should be revised to reflect any such rules and regulations adopted by the district.
2			Individual awards in excess of \$200 must be expressly approved by the Governing Board	<b>No change</b>	
			<b><u>Golden State Seal Merit Diploma</u></b>	<b>No change</b>	
1			To be eligible to receive the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma upon high school graduation, a student shall complete all requirements for a	To be eligible to receive the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma upon graduation from high school, a student shall complete all	CSBA NOTE: The following optional section is for use by districts that maintain high schools. Education Code 51450-51455 require the

			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 subject matter areas selected by the student.	requirements for a high school diploma and shall demonstrate mastery of the curriculum in mathematics, English language arts, science, U.S. history, and two other subject matter areas selected by the student by meeting at least one of the following criteria for each subject:	State Board of Education (SBE) to determine the means and the performance standards or achievement levels that demonstrate mastery of the curriculum for the purpose of awarding the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma. Eligibility criteria are published on the California Department of Education (CDE) website and described below.
				1. Mathematics and English language arts	<b>New sections/sub-sections added</b>
				a. A grade of at least B+ or the numerical equivalent in a single course each semester completed in grade 9, 10, or 11	
				b. An achievement level of "Standard Met" or above for the high school Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment	
				2. Science	
				a. A grade of at least B+ or the numerical equivalent in a single course each semester completed in grade 9, 10, or 11	
				b. An achievement level of "Standard Met" or above for the high school California Science Test taken in grade 10 or 11	
				3. U.S. history	
				a. A grade of at least B or the numerical equivalent in the required U.S. history course each semester	
				b. A qualifying score that demonstrates mastery of the subject as determined by the district for an exam produced by a private provider or the district	
				4. Two additional subject areas of the student's choosing	
				a. Any additional qualifying grade or score listed above, earned for the subject of English language arts, mathematics,	

			science, or U.S. history not already used to meet eligibility	
			b. A grade of at least B or the numerical equivalent upon completion of high school courses in other subjects	
			c. A qualifying score that demonstrates mastery of other subjects, as determined by the district, for an exam produced by a private provider or the district	
2		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.	The Superintendent or designee shall maintain appropriate records to identify students who have earned the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma and shall affix an insignia to the high school diploma and transcript of each such student.	
3		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.	<b>No change</b>	CSBA NOTE: CDE requires each district to annually submit one districtwide insignia request on a form provided by CDE. CDE's website encourages districts to submit the request far enough in advance of the graduation ceremony date to allow sufficient time for processing by CDE and for district staff to place the insignias on the diplomas. CDE begins mailing requested insignias the first week of April.
		<b><u>Biliteracy Award</u></b>	<b><u>State Seal of Biliteracy</u></b>	
1		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 states test of English language proficiency.	To be eligible to receive the State Seal of Biliteracy upon graduation, a student shall demonstrate a high level of proficiency in English and at least one other language, which may include American Sign Language.	CSBA NOTE: The following optional section is for use by districts that maintain high schools and choose to recognize graduating students' bilingual/multilingual proficiency with the State Seal of Biliteracy pursuant to Education Code 51460-51464; see the accompanying Board policy. The criteria for a student to be eligible for the State Seal of Biliteracy are specified in Education Code 51451, as amended by AB 370 (Ch. 326, Statutes of 2023), and are reflected below. Districts that

					<p>choose to present biliteracy awards to students at other grade levels may revise the following section to add eligibility criteria for those awards.</p> <p>For further information, see CDE's State Seal of Biliteracy FAQs located on its website.</p>
				Proficiency in English shall be demonstrated by meeting one of the following state-established criteria:	<b>New sections added</b>
				1. Completion of all English language arts requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 in those classes or completion of one or more English language arts courses at a public higher education institution or an independent institution of higher education, as described in Education Code 66010, with a grade equivalent to a grade point average of 3.0 or above	
				2. Passage of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress for English language arts, or any successor test, administered in grade 11, at or above the "Standard Met" achievement level	
				3. Passage of an English Advanced Placement (AP) exam with a score of 3 or higher or an English International Baccalaureate (IB) exam with a score of 4 or higher	
				4. Achievement of a score of 480 or higher on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)	
				Proficiency in one or more languages other than English shall be demonstrated through one of the following requirements:	

				<p>1. Passage of a world language AP exam with a score of 3 or higher, a world language IB exam with a score of 4 or higher, or a world language American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) and an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) with scores of Intermediate Mid or higher</p>	
				<p>2. Successful completion of a four-year course of study of content in a world language at a high school or higher level, attaining an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 in that course of study, and oral proficiency in the language comparable to that required in Item #1 above, successful completion of high school level courses completed in another country in a language other than English with the equivalent of an overall grade point average of 3.0 or above, as verified through a transcript, or completion of one or more world language courses at a public higher education institution or an independent institution of higher education as described in Education Code 66010, with a grade equivalent to a grade point average of at least 3.0 and oral proficiency in the language comparable to that specified in Item #1 above, as verified through a transcript</p>	
				<p>3. If no AP exam or off-the-shelf language test exists, passage of a district language exam that can be certified to meet the rigor of a four-year high school course of study in a given language, and that, at a minimum, assesses speaking, reading, and writing in a language other than English at the proficient level or higher</p>	

			4. If a language is not characterized by listening, speaking, or reading, or for which there is no written system, passage of an assessment on the modalities that characterize communication in that language at the proficient level or higher	
			To be eligible to receive the State Seal of Biliteracy, a student who is an English learner shall, in addition to demonstrating proficiency in English and one or more languages other than English through one of the accomplishments specified above, attain an Oral Language composite score of level 4 on the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California, or any successor English oral language proficiency assessment.	<b>New paragraph added</b> CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 51461, as amended by AB 370, in order to be eligible for the State Seal of Biliteracy English learners are required to receive an Oral Language composite score of level 4 on the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC), rather than in all four domains of the test - reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
2		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.	The Superintendent or designee shall maintain appropriate records to identify high school students who have earned the State Seal of Biliteracy and shall affix the insignia to the high school diploma or transcript of each such student.	CSBA NOTE: CDE requires each district to submit one districtwide insignia request on a form provided by CDE. CDE recommends submitting the online form, which can be found on CDE's website, four weeks prior to the graduation date to allow sufficient time for CDE to mail the insignias and for the district to affix the insignias to the diplomas. CDE will mail the insignias within two weeks of receiving the online request.
			<b><u>State Seal of Civic Engagement</u></b>	<b>New sections added</b>
			To be eligible to receive the State Seal of Civic Engagement, a student shall meet district requirements for all of the following state-established criteria:	CSBA NOTE: The following optional section is for use by districts that choose to present the State Seal of Civic Engagement to 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 pursuant to Education Code 51470-51474; see the accompanying Board policy. The following criteria, adopted

					<p>by SBE in September 2020, are intended to provide districts with a framework for making determinations of student qualifications based on local contexts.</p> <p>CDE's, "SSCE Implementation Guidance," available on its website, offers ideas and considerations for districts in the implementation of the criteria.</p>
				1. Be engaged in academic work in a productive way	
				2. Demonstrate a competent understanding of U.S. and California Constitutions, functions and governance of local governments, tribal government structures and organizations, the role of the citizen in a constitutional democracy, and democratic principles, concepts, and processes	
				3. Participate in one or more informed civic engagement project(s) that address real-world problems and require students to identify and inquire into civic needs or problems, consider varied responses, take action, and reflect on efforts	
				4. Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions through self-reflection	
				5. Exhibit character traits that reflect civic-mindedness and a commitment to positively impact the classroom, school, community and/or society	
				The Superintendent or designee shall maintain appropriate records to identify students who have earned the State Seal of Civic Engagement and shall affix the insignia to the high school diploma or transcript of each such student.	CSBA NOTE: CDE provides the insignias to be affixed to students' diplomas or transcripts indicating the award of the State Seal of Civic Engagement. When ordering the insignias, districts will self-certify that students earned the award based on locally created criteria.

			<b><u>Notifications</u></b>		
			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.	No change	
				The Superintendent or designee shall annually distribute information about eligibility requirements for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma, State Seal of Biliteracy, State Seal of Civic Engagement, and/or any district awards programs to students at the applicable grade levels.	CSBA NOTE: The following optional section may be revised to reflect programs offered by the district.
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