

**Policy 5126: Awards For Achievement**

**Adopted Date: 12/13/2023**

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.

**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 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. (Education Code 51460-51464)

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 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 51470-51474)

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. (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)

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### 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	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	<a href="#">Prohibition of discrimination</a>
Ed. Code 35160	<a href="#">Authority of governing boards</a>
Ed. Code 35310-35319	<a href="#">Scholarship and loan funds</a>
Ed. Code 44015	<a href="#">Awards to employees and students</a>
Ed. Code 51243-51245	<a href="#">Credit for private school foreign language instruction</a>
Ed. Code 51450-51455	<a href="#">Golden State Seal Merit Diploma</a>
Ed. Code 51460-51464	<a href="#">State Seal of Biliteracy</a>
Ed. Code 51470-51474	<a href="#">State Seal of Civic Engagement</a>
Ed. Code 52164.1	<a href="#">Assessment of English language skills of English learners</a>
Gov. Code 54950-54963	<a href="#">The Ralph M. Brown Act</a>

**Management Resources**

California Department of Education  
Publication  
Website  
Website  
Website  
Website

**Description**

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

**Cross References****Code**

0410

0415

1150

1220

1220

1260

3290

3400

3400

3460

3460

4156.2

4256.2

4356.2

5022

5022

5113.1

5113.1

5113.11

5113.12

5113.12

5121

5121

5125

5125

**Description**

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[Citizen Advisory Committees](#)

[Citizen Advisory Committees](#)

[Educational Foundation](#)

[Gifts, Grants And Bequests](#)

[Management Of District Assets/Accounts](#)

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[Financial Reports And Accountability](#)

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[Student And Family Privacy Rights](#)

[Student And Family Privacy Rights](#)

[Chronic Absence And Truancy](#)

[Chronic Absence And Truancy](#)

[Attendance Supervision](#)

[District School Attendance Review Board](#)

[District School Attendance Review Board](#)

[Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement](#)

[Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement](#)

[Student Records](#)

[Student Records](#)

5127	<a href="#"><u>Graduation Ceremonies And Activities</u></a>
5137	<a href="#"><u>Positive School Climate</u></a>
6141.4	<a href="#"><u>International Baccalaureate Program</u></a>
6141.5	<a href="#"><u>Advanced Placement</u></a>
6142.2	<a href="#"><u>World Language Instruction</u></a>
6142.2	<a href="#"><u>World Language Instruction</u></a>
6142.4	<a href="#"><u>Service Learning/Community Service Classes</u></a>
6143	<a href="#"><u>Courses Of Study</u></a>
6143	<a href="#"><u>Courses Of Study</u></a>
6146.1	<a href="#"><u>High School Graduation Requirements</u></a>
6146.11	<a href="#"><u>Alternative Credits Toward Graduation</u></a>
6146.11	<a href="#"><u>Alternative Credits Toward Graduation</u></a>
6158	<a href="#"><u>Independent Study</u></a>
6158	<a href="#"><u>Independent Study</u></a>
6159	<a href="#"><u>Individualized Education Program</u></a>
6159	<a href="#"><u>Individualized Education Program</u></a>
6162.51	<a href="#"><u>State Academic Achievement Tests</u></a>
6162.51	<a href="#"><u>State Academic Achievement Tests</u></a>
6172	<a href="#"><u>Gifted And Talented Student Program</u></a>
6172	<a href="#"><u>Gifted And Talented Student Program</u></a>
6174	<a href="#"><u>Education For English Learners</u></a>
6174	<a href="#"><u>Education For English Learners</u></a>
6181	<a href="#"><u>Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice</u></a>
6181	<a href="#"><u>Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice</u></a>
6183	<a href="#"><u>Home And Hospital Instruction</u></a>
6184	<a href="#"><u>Continuation Education</u></a>
6184	<a href="#"><u>Continuation Education</u></a>
9140	<a href="#"><u>Board Representatives</u></a>