

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 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, special recognition shall be awarded to those students whose academic achievements in core curriculum areas have been outstanding.

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)

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

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)

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

Legal Reference: (see next page)

AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

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)

(cf. 1260 - Educational Foundation)

(cf. 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests)

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.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 9140 - Board Representatives)

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)

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 Assessment of English language development

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
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revised: March 29, 2016
revised: May 25, 2021

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California

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 by meeting at least one of the following criteria for each subject: (Education Code 51451, 51452; 5 CCR 876)

1. Mathematics and English language arts
 - 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

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- 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

(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 have earned the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma and shall affix an insignia to the high school 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.

State Seal of Biliteracy

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, by meeting all of the following state-established criteria: (Education Code 51461)

- 1. Completion of all English language arts requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average of at least 2.0 in those classes

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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. Proficiency in one or more languages other than English, demonstrated through one of the following methods:
 - a. Passage of a world language Advanced Placement (AP) exam with a score of 3 or higher or an International Baccalaureate (IB) exam with a score of 4 or higher
 - b. Successful completion of a four-year high school course of study in a world language, 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 on an AP or IB exam
 - c. 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, at a minimum, assesses speaking, reading, and writing in a language other than English at the proficient level or higher
 - d. 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
 - e. Passage of the SAT II world language exam with a score of 600 or higher

(cf. 6141.4 - International Baccalaureate Program)

(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)

(cf. 6142.2 - World Language Instruction)

To be eligible to receive the State Seal of Biliteracy, a student whose primary language is other than English shall also attain the required proficiency level on the state test of English language proficiency on the state's English Language Proficiency Assessments for California. (Education Code 51461)

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Learners)

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 student. (Education Code 51463)

AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

Scholarship and Loan Fund

The Superintendent shall serve as chief executive officer of the scholarship and loan 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 and loan 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 and/or loans 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.

Regulation
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VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California