

**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 make 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 Board of Trustees. (Education Code 44015)

Golden State Seal Merit Diplomas

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 shall demonstrate mastery of the curriculum mathematics, English language arts, science and U.S. history, with the remaining two subject 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
  - 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

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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)

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain appropriate records to identify students who earned the Golden State Seal the merit diploma and shall affix an insignia to the high school diploma and transcript of each student. (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 a high level of, proficiency in English and at least one other language, which may include American Sign Language, by meeting all of state-establish 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
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

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- b. Successful completion of a four-year high school course of study or equivalent 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. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

To be eligible to receive the State Seal of Biliteracy, a student whose primary language is other than English shall also attain the level which demonstrates 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 qualify for the award and shall affix the insignia to the diploma or transcript of each student who earns the award. (Education Code 51463)

**State Seal of Civic Engagement**

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:

- 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

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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. (Education Code 51473)

**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 Approved: 03/10/21

ORCUTT UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Orcutt, California