The Governing Board encourages excellence as a goal for all students and wishes to publicly recognize students for unique or exemplary achievements in academic, extracurricular or community service activities.

The Governing Board is supportive of academic excellence by students. Such excellence is rewarded by placement on honor rolls. The student having the highest academic rank, using a 4.0 scale, in his/her high school graduating class is also honored as the school’s valedictorian, while the student having the second highest rank is selected as the salutatorian. In addition, the District participates in the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) program and the California Junior Scholarship Federation (CJSF).

The Superintendent or designee shall approve or reject proposed trophies, prizes, or other awards from nonschool donors. The purpose of any such proposed award must be consistent with school goals, and criteria for making the award must be either under professional staff control or acceptable to the staff.

At graduation from high school, special recognition shall be awarded to those students whose academic achievements 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)

Student awards may include verbal recognition, a letter, certificate or Board resolution, a public ceremony, or a sum of money.

Such awards shall be rejected when offered primarily to achieve personal or corporate gain and publicity.

**Legal Reference:**

**EDUCATION CODE:**

35160 Authority of governing boards
35310 – 35319 Scholarship and loan funds
44015 Awards to employees and pupils
51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
      Management Resources

**CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES**

620.09 Use of Categorical Funds for Motivation Incentives