

## **Students**

### **AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT**

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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.

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 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: (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

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. (Education Code 51454)

The Superintendent or designee shall submit an insignia request form to the California Department of Education in sufficient time to allow for 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. (Education Code 51461)

Proficiency in English shall be demonstrated by meeting one 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 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

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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: (Education Code 51461)

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
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
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,

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assesses speaking, reading, and writing in a language other than English at the proficient level or higher

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. (Education Code 51461)

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. (Education Code 51463)

### State Seal of Civic Engagement

To be eligible to receive the State Seal of Civic Engagement, an 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student shall meet district requirements for all of the following state-established criteria:

#### Academic Excellence

1. Demonstrate competency in civic knowledge and academic engagement through coursework aligned to democratic principles. Students must earn a final grade of C or better in one qualifying course (U.S. History, American Government, Geography, Ethnic Studies, or equivalent PCC coursework) or successfully complete credit recovery on relevant civics-related content.
2. Demonstrate civic-minded character and responsible participation in school and/or community life. Students must submit a letter of recommendation or signed recommendation form from a teacher, advisor, or community leader that provides evidence of the student's civic-minded character traits (e.g., initiative, responsibility, leadership, ethical behavior, commitment to improving the school or community).

#### Capstone and Civic Engagement

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1. Complete at least one informed civic engagement project that addresses a real-world civic issue relevant to the school, local community, state, nation, or global context. Students must submit and publicly present a research paper, presentation, or other project that (a) identifies a civic problem, (b) demonstrates understanding of the scope and impact of the issue through research using credible sources, (c) takes meaningful action to contribute to a solution, and (d) includes self-reflection on the growth in the student's civic knowledge and/or the impact of the student's civic engagement project.
2. Demonstrate civic involvement through community service and/or extracurricular activities. Eligible participation includes activities such as participation in student government, service organizations, advocacy groups, or clubs, youth leadership programs, or one or more hours of volunteer work with civic or community organizations. Activities should reflect an authentic connection to the student's civic development and community involvement.

### Notifications

The Superintendent or designee shall annually distribute information about eligibility requirements for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma, State Seal of Bilingualism, State Seal of Civic Engagement, and/or any district awards programs to students at the applicable grade levels.

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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**

5 CCR 11517.6-11519.5

5 CCR 1632

5 CCR 876

Ed. Code 220

Ed. Code 35160

Ed. Code 35310-35319

Ed. Code 44015

Ed. Code 51007

Ed. Code 51243-51245

#### **Description**

*English Language Proficiency Assessments for California*

*Alternative credits toward graduation for foreign language instruction in private school*

*Golden State Seal Merit Diploma*

[Prohibition of discrimination](#)

[Authority of governing boards](#)

[Scholarship and loan funds](#)

[Awards to employees and students](#)

*Equitable access to programs designed to strengthen technological skills*

[Credit for private school foreign language instruction](#)

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<i>Ed. Code 51450-51455</i>	<a href="#"><u>Golden State Seal Merit Diploma</u></a>
<i>Ed. Code 51460-51464</i>	<a href="#"><u>State Seal of Biliteracy</u></a>
<i>Ed. Code 51470-51475</i>	<a href="#"><u>State Seal of Civic Engagement</u></a>
<i>Ed. Code 52164.1</i>	<a href="#"><u>Assessment of English language skills of English learners</u></a>
<i>Gov. Code 54950-54963</i>	<a href="#"><u>The Ralph M. Brown Act</u></a>
<b>Management Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>California Department of Education Publication</i>	<i>State Seal of Biliteracy FAQs</i>
<i>California Department of Education Publication</i>	<i>SSCE Implementation Guidance</i>
<i>Website</i>	<a href="#"><u>CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services</u></a>
<i>Website</i>	<a href="#"><u>Californians Together</u></a>
<i>Website</i>	<a href="#"><u>CSBA</u></a>
<i>Website</i>	<a href="#"><u>California Department of Education</u></a>

### Cross References

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Description</b>
0410	<a href="#"><u>Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities</u></a>
0415	<a href="#"><u>Equity</u></a>
1150	<a href="#"><u>Commendations And Awards</u></a>
1220	<a href="#"><u>Citizen Advisory Committees</u></a>
1220	<a href="#"><u>Citizen Advisory Committees</u></a>
1260	<a href="#"><u>Educational Foundation</u></a>
3290	<a href="#"><u>Gifts, Grants And Bequests</u></a>
3400	<a href="#"><u>Management Of District Assets/Accounts</u></a>
3400	<a href="#"><u>Management Of District Assets/Accounts</u></a>
3460	<a href="#"><u>Financial Reports And Accountability</u></a>
3460	<a href="#"><u>Financial Reports And Accountability</u></a>
4156.2	<a href="#"><u>Awards And Recognition</u></a>
4256.2	<a href="#"><u>Awards And Recognition</u></a>
4356.2	<a href="#"><u>Awards And Recognition</u></a>
5022	<a href="#"><u>Student And Family Privacy Rights</u></a>
5022	<a href="#"><u>Student And Family Privacy Rights</u></a>
5113.1	<a href="#"><u>Chronic Absence And Truancy</u></a>
5113.1	<a href="#"><u>Chronic Absence And Truancy</u></a>
5113.11	<a href="#"><u>Attendance Supervision</u></a>
5113.12	<a href="#"><u>District School Attendance Review Board</u></a>
5113.12	<a href="#"><u>District School Attendance Review Board</u></a>
5121	<a href="#"><u>Grades/ Evaluation Of Student Achievement</u></a>
5121	<a href="#"><u>Grades/ Evaluation Of Student Achievement</u></a>
5125	<a href="#"><u>Student Records</u></a>

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5125	<a href="#"><u>Student Records</u></a>
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>

### Regulation

**Approved:** June 25, 2013

**Revised:** 9/17; 5/24; 04/2026

### PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pasadena, California