

**Students**  
**AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT**

**AR 5126 (a)**

**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.

Individual awards in excess of \$200 must be expressly approved by the Board. (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, 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
- 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

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)

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. (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 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

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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, demonstrated through one of the following methods: (Education Code 51461)

1. Passage of a world language Advanced Placement (AP) exam with a score of 3 or higher or an 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 high school course of study or equivalent in a world language 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, at a minimum, 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

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)

## **Students**

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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)

#### **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
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)

#### **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.

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

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designee may require the student to submit letters of recommendation or other supplementary materials providing evidence of the student's accomplishments and/or need.

**Notifications**

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

Regulation Approved: 06/05/24

ORCUTT UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Orcutt, California