

**BOARD POLICY 5126: AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT**

**Comparison Matrix**

Section: Students

**SUMMARY OF UPDATE**

**Summary of Update:** Policy updated to add that a budget be established for the purpose of student awards, and that no fee or other cost be charged to any student in relation to any requirements in qualifying for or receiving any district achievement awards. Additionally, policy updated to separate out the State Seal of Biliteracy material from district established awards for biliteracy, and to clarify that the Governing Board may prohibit the district committee which administers the district's scholarship and loan fund from accepting any donation under conditions it finds incompatible with the fund's intents and purposes as specified in Board Policy 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Requests.

| CURRENT VERSION |         |             | REVISED VERSION   | CSBA MODIFICATIONS and/or NOTES  |  |
|-----------------|---------|-------------|---|--|--|
| PARA            | Section | Sub-Section | June 7, 2016  |  | March 2024   |
| 1               |         |             | The Governing Board encourages excellence as a goal for all students and wishes to publicly recognize students for exemplary achievements in academic, athletic, extracurricular or community service activities. | The Governing Board encourages excellence as a goal for all students and wishes to publicly recognize students for exemplary achievement in academic, artistic, extracurricular, athletic, and community service activities. | CSBA NOTE: Generally, state law requires that the educational program be made available to all students, regardless of their socioeconomic background. For example, Education Code 51455 and 51464, prohibit districts from charging students a fee or other cost in relation to any requirements in qualifying for or receiving the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma or the State Seal of Biliteracy. Additionally, Education Code 51007 requires that all students enrolled in the state's public elementary and secondary schools, regardless of their socioeconomic background, have equitable access to educational programs designed to strengthen technological skills. The following paragraph reflects the intent of these laws. For more information regarding the promotion of equity in district programs and activities, see BP 0415 - Equity. |
|                 |         |             |   | No fee or other cost shall be charged to any student in relation to any requirements in  | <b>New paragraph added</b>   |

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|   |  |  | qualifying for or receiving any district achievement awards.  |   |
|   |  | <b><u>District/School Awards</u></b>   | <b>No change</b>  |   |
| 1 |  | Student awards may include verbal recognition, a letter, a certificate, a Board resolution, public ceremony, trophy, gift, plaque or cash gift.                    | Student awards may include verbal recognition, a letter, a certificate, a Board resolution, public ceremony, trophy, gift, plaque, or monetary gift. The Board shall establish a budget for this purpose. | CSBA NOTE: Education Code 44015 authorizes the Governing Board to give district-level awards to students for "excellence" and mandates that the district adopt rules and regulations implementing any such awards program. See the accompanying administrative regulation for language implementing this mandate.<br><br>Pursuant to Education Code 44015, when such an awards program is established in a district, the Board is required to budget funds for this purpose, but may authorize awards from funds under its control regardless of whether budgeted funds have been provided or the budgeted funds are exhausted. |
| 2 |  | The Superintendent or designee shall develop criteria for the selection of student award recipients.   | <b>No change</b>  |   |
|   |  | <b><u>Golden State Seal Merit Diploma</u></b>  | <b>No change</b>  |   |
| 1 |  | At graduation from high school, special recognition shall be awarded to those students whose academic achievements in core curriculum areas have been outstanding. | At graduation from high school, students whose academic achievements in core curriculum areas have been outstanding shall receive special recognition.  | CSBA NOTE: The following optional section is for use by districts that maintain high schools. Education Code 51450-51455 establish the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma which may be awarded by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) and the State Board of Education to students identified as demonstrating mastery of the high school core curriculum. See the accompanying administrative regulation for eligibility criteria.   |
| 2 |  | The Superintendent or designee shall identify high school students who have demonstrated mastery of the high school curriculum                                     | The Superintendent or designee shall identify graduating high school students who have demonstrated mastery of the high school  |   |

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|  |  |  | qualifying them for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma. | curriculum qualifying them for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma.  |  |
|  |  |  |  | <b>State Seal of Biliteracy</b>  | <b>New paragraphs added</b>  |
|  |  |  |  | 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, as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. | CSBA NOTE: The following optional section is for use by districts maintaining one or more high schools. Education Code 51460-51464 establish the State Seal of Biliteracy, a voluntary program which recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English. The SPI has created an insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of eligible students which can be obtained by completing a State Seal of Biliteracy insignia request form, available on the California Department of Education's (CDE) website. See the accompanying administrative regulation for eligibility criteria for the award. |
|  |  |  |  | <b>State Seal of Civic Engagement</b>  |  |
|  |  |  |  | The Superintendent or designee shall present the State Seal of Civic Engagement to each 11th or 12th grade student who demonstrates excellence in civics education and   | CSBA NOTE: The following optional section is for use by districts that recognize students who have demonstrated excellence in civics education and participation and an  |
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|  |  |  | <p>participation and has demonstrated an understanding of the U.S. Constitution, the California Constitution, and the democratic system of government.</p>   | <p>understanding of the U.S. Constitution, the California Constitution, and the democratic system of government. Education Code 51470-51475 establish the State Seal of Civic Engagement, a voluntary program which encourages and creates pathways for students in elementary and secondary schools to become civically engaged in democratic governmental institutions at the local, state, and national levels.</p> <p>The SPI has created an insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of eligible students which can be obtained by completing a State Seal of Civic Engagement insignia request form, available on CDE's website. See the accompanying administrative regulation for eligibility criteria for the award.</p> <p>Education Code 51475 established the California Serves program which provides grants to eligible districts with the goal of expanding access for students to obtain a State Seal of Civic Engagement through service learning.</p> |
|  |  |  | <p>All district students shall be afforded the opportunity to earn the State Seal of Civic Engagement, regardless of their background, communities, or experiences. No student shall be denied such opportunity based on academic ability, alternative school setting, or unique or unconventional expression of civic engagement.</p> | <p>CSBA NOTE: The following paragraph reflects information on CDE's website emphasizing that the criteria are written to ensure that no student is excluded from the opportunity to earn the State Seal of Civic Engagement based on academic ability, alternative school settings, or unique or unconventional expressions of civic engagement.</p>   |
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