

FALL RIVER JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Policy 5126
Students

Awards For Achievement

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 purpose of such awards shall be consistent with school goals.

Student awards may include verbal recognition, a letter, a certificate, a Board resolution, public ceremony, trophy, gift, and plaque or cash gift.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for the appropriate selection of student award recipients.

Merit Diplomas

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: The district may award a Golden State Seal Merit Diploma to students who demonstrate mastery of the high school curriculum. Previously, the Golden State Examination (GSE) was used to demonstrate mastery; however, AB 1266 (Ch. 573, Statutes of 2003) repealed Education Code 60650-60652, thus prohibiting the administration of the GSE. Pursuant to 5 CCR 876, as added by Register 2004, No. 17, scaled scores from the California Standards Test (CST) will now be used, in addition to previously earned GSE scores, to demonstrate mastery for receipt of the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of governing boards
35310-35319 Scholarship and loan funds
44015 Awards to employees and students
51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
876 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California Department of Education, Golden State Seal Merit Diploma: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/meritdiploma.asp>
CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
(6/98) 7/04

Policy adopted: 10/1/79

Policy revised: 5/4/88, 11/2/05

Regulation 5126

STUDENTS

Awards for Achievement

Academic Recognition: The Board values excellence and wishes to inculcate in students the desire to do their best in all things. It shall be the policy of this Board, therefore, to recognize outstanding academic accomplishment.

Selection Criteria for Valedictorian/Salutatorian

The Governing Board authorizes the recognition of the following achievements in each school of the district at the end of each school year: the graduate with the highest academic average, based upon a 5.0 grading scale, valedictorian; and the graduate with the second highest academic average, based upon a 5.0 grading scale, salutatorian.

Grade averages should be based upon the following (R 5121):

A	100 – 90%	Outstanding Achievement	4.0 grade points
B	89 – 80%	Above Average Achievement	3.0 grade points
C	79 – 70%	Average Achievement	2.0 grade points
D	69 – 60%	Below Average Achievement	1.0 grade points
F	59 – 50%	Little or No Achievement	0
I		Incomplete	0

For Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

A	100 – 90%	Outstanding Achievement	5.0 grade points
B	89 – 80%	Above Average Achievement	4.0 grade points
C	79 – 70%	Average Achievement	3.0 grade points
D	69 – 60%	Below Average Achievement	2.0 grade points

The following standards and procedures will be used district-wide in the selection of valedictorian and salutatorian for each graduating class:

1. Any member of the graduating class who has met the Districts graduation requirements in addition to the UC/CSU A-G requirements.
2. A candidate must have demonstrated satisfactory school citizenship as defined in policy 6145.
3. If a candidate is new to the district, that student must have been enrolled at the beginning (first day) of the second quarter prior to graduation exercises.
4. All courses that the student has taken for credit toward graduation shall be used in computation of grade average.
5. Grade average is computed by dividing the total number of points received from grades by the total number of courses taken.

6. Computations shall be based upon a student's grades at the completion of the third quarter, prior to the graduation date of the class.
7. The highest ranking student, based upon a 5.0 grading scale, is to be designated as the valedictorian and the second highest ranking student, based upon a 5.0 grading scale, the salutatorian. In those instances where two or more students have an identical grade point average and that grade point average is the highest in their class, they shall be designated co-valedictorians; no salutatorian shall be designated for that class.
8. It shall be left to the discretion of the school principal to determine procedures to designate which graduates will deliver graduation speeches.
9. A committee established by site principal will determine eligibility of candidates for valedictorian and salutatorian and will make recommendation for presentation to the Board of Trustees at the first Board meeting in May.
10. These Administrative Procedures for the selection of valedictorian and salutatorian are to begin with the graduating class of 2012.

Merit Diplomas

To be eligible to receive the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma upon graduation, students shall complete all requirements for a high school diploma and shall demonstrate a mastery of at least six subject areas, four of which shall be mathematics, English language arts, science and United States history, with the remaining two subject areas selected by the student. (Education Code 51451)

To demonstrate mastery of these subject areas, students shall achieve the standards or achievement levels established by the State Board of Education. (Education Code 51452; 5 CCR 876 scaled scores from the California Standards Test (CST), in addition to previously earned Golden State Examination scores, will be used to determine eligibility for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma. In order to earn the merit diploma, 5 CCR 876 provides that students must earn a scaled score of 370 or above on six separate high school level CSTs, not including the Algebra I, General Mathematics, and Integrated Mathematics I CST)

The Superintendent or designee shall affix an insignia to the diploma and transcript of each student awarded the merit diploma. (Education Code 51454)

(6/98) 7/04

Regulation adopted: 3/6/91

Revised and adopted: 10/7/98, 7/16/01, 11/2/05, 12/14/2011