

Berkeley Unified School District

Board Policy

Board Policy 5126.1

Awards for Achievement – Seal of Biliteracy

Education Code 44015 authorizes the Governing Board to give awards to students for “excellence.” Before any awards are given under the authority of this law, the Board is mandated to adopt rules and regulations implementing the awards program.

In order to recognize and encourage linguistic proficiency and cultural literacy, the district shall present a Seal of Biliteracy award to each graduating high school student who demonstrates proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English.

The Superintendent or designee shall approve applications for the award based on a review of student qualifications in accordance with district-established criteria.

The School Board encourages excellence as a goal for all students and wishes to publicly recognize students for exemplary achievements in academic, extracurricular, or community service activities. In addition to the Seal of Biliteracy, to recognize and encourage the pursuit of proficiency in English and another language, the district shall present bilingual and biliteracy pathway awards at the end of elementary, middle, and high school.

Student awards may include verbal recognition at a public ceremony plus a letter, certificate, trophy, transcript notation, gift, and/or plaque.

Adopted: June 1, 2011