

Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

The Golden State Seal Merit Diploma (GSSMD) insignia is awarded jointly by the California State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to recognize students who have demonstrated mastery of the high school curriculum in at least six subject areas.

Each local educational agency that confers high school diplomas is required by state law to identify students who qualify and to affix the GSSMD insignia to the diploma and transcript of each qualifying graduate.

Approximately 100,000 graduates receive a GSSMD insignia affixed to their high school diploma each year.

Students must meet the eligibility requirements in the following subjects:

- **English language arts**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **U.S. history**
- **Two subject matter areas selected by the student**



Additional information can be found on the California Department of Education GSSMD web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/meritdiploma.asp>.