

Last Minute Memorandum

To: STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Date: 5/8/03

From: Judy Pinegar

Re: ITEM #W-16

Subject GOLDEN STATE SEAL MERIT DIPLOMA

[Attached](#) is a revised General Waiver Cover Sheet with Department recommendation for Approval with condition for 15 School Districts to waive *Education Code* (EC) Section 51451.

I have also attached a "SAMPLE" Certification form and a list of Districts that have signed and returned their certification.

GENERAL WAIVER COVER SHEET
CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MAY 2003 AGENDA
Item No. W-16

<p>TITLE: Request by 15 districts to waive <i>Education Code</i> (EC) Section 51451, regarding the method of qualifying this years high school seniors for a Golden State Seal Merit Diploma.</p> <p>CDSIS: See attached list of Districts</p>	<p><u> X </u> ACTION</p> <p><u> </u> INFORMATION</p> <p><u> </u> PUBLIC HEARING</p> <p><u> </u> CONSENT</p>
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RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends:

Approval, on the condition that the districts have certified that all students submitted to Education Data Systems, Inc. (EDS, Inc.) have met either the existing requirements to be eligible for the Golden State Merit Seal Diploma, or the requirements of the 2003 Senior Waiver

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action:

In January 2003, the CDE posted a waiver process for a waiver of **English language arts Golden State Exam (GSE) requirement**, because at the time this was the only exam not available to this years seniors. **The 13 districts submitted a waiver on these earlier waiver forms.**

The current year budget act then eliminates all the other GSE administration for this year. At the April 9, 2003, State Board of Education (SBE) meeting members approved the method described by the California Department of Education for a Golden State Exam “Senior Waiver Process.”

Summary of Key Issue(s):

The Education Code involved in this waiver is:

E.C 51451. A student who meets the following requirements shall qualify for a Golden State Seal Merit Diploma:

- (a) The completion of all requirements for a high school diploma.*
- (b) A demonstration of the mastery of the curriculum in at least six subject matter areas, four of which shall be mathematics, English language arts, science, and United States history, with the remaining two subject matter areas selected by the student.*

The 2003 Senior Waiver criteria are described on the attached “sample” certification, and all districts making a request this time have certified to submit only names of students who have met the requirements of EC 51451, or the 2003 Senior Waiver.

Certification for Purposes of the GSE Senior Waiver “SAMPLE”

Current requirements of E.C. 51451 are as follows. To be eligible for the 2003 Golden State Diploma, seniors must:

- 1) Be receiving a high school diploma from their district.
- 2) Have earned achievement levels of 4 (recognition), 5 (honors), or 6 (high honors) on **six Golden State Examinations including U.S. history; reading/literature or written composition; a mathematics exam; a science exam; and two other exams of the student’s choice.**

GSE subjects included:

Reading/Literature, Written Composition, First-year Algebra, Geometry, High School Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Second-year Coordinated Science, U.S. History, Economics, Government/Civics, Second-year Spanish Language.

2003 Senior Waiver

This waiver is available to seniors who were prevented from meeting the above requirements due to GSE program reductions.

To be eligible for the 2003 Golden State Diploma, seniors must:

- 1) Be receiving a high school diploma from their district.
- 2) Have earned achievement levels of 4 (recognition), 5 (honors), or 6 (high honors) on **four or more** of the six required Golden State Examinations
- 3) Be granted a waiver by the State Board of Education (SBE) to **use ONLY up to two 2002 California Standards Tests (CSTs), with scale scores no lower than 350**, to meet the subject-area requirements identified in Option ONE, number 2. To obtain a waiver, a CST scale score may be used only if the student **has not previously taken the GSE** for which the CST will substitute. The following are the CST’s that may be used for this waiver: Grade 11 English Language Arts, Grade 11 History/Social Science (United States History), High School Mathematics, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Integrated Mathematics 1, 2, or 3, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science.
- 4) Students must still have achieved GSE recognition or CST’s with scale scores no lower than 350 for a **total of six subject matter areas, four of which shall be mathematics, English language arts, science, and United States history**, with the remaining **two subject matter areas selected** by the student.

CERTIFICATION:

• The governing board for _____ District had previously requested a waiver for the “English-language arts exam only” for **SOME** students in this district, however I now acknowledge that only students meeting the criteria of E.C. 51451, or the 2003 Senior Waiver requirements shall be granted the Golden Seal Merit Diploma.

• I request that ALL qualifying 2002-03 graduates in our district be granted a waiver under the criteria of the 2003 Senior Waiver.

• I certify that all students submitted to Education Data Systems, Inc. (EDS, Inc.) have met either the existing requirements to be eligible for the Golden State Merit Seal Diploma, or the requirements of the 2003 Senior Waiver

Superintendent/Designee: _____ Title _____ Date: _____

Golden State Examination Senior Waiver Certification

Waiver #	LEA	Local Board Approval	Certification Received
CDSIS-102-3-2003	Benicia USD	3/20/2003	5/6/2003
CDSIS-7-5-2003	Capistrano USD	4/21/2003	5/7/2003
CDSIS-1-3-2003	Carmel USD	4/24/2003	5/7/2003
CDSIS-19-4-2003	Las Virgenes USD	3/25/2003	5/7/2003
CDSIS-23-32003	Lindsay USD	2/24/2003	5/7/2003
CDSIS-79-3-2003	Los Alamitos USD	3/10/2003	5/6/2003
CDSIS-83-3-2003	Morgan Hill USD	3/10/2003	5/7/2003
CDSIS-20-4-2003	San Dieguito UHSD	2/27/2003	5/7/2003
CDSIS-4-5-2003	San Francisco USD	4/22/2003	5/6/2003
CDSIS-107-3-2003	San Luis Coastal USD	4/1/2003	5/7/2003
CDSIS-4-4-2003	San Ramon Valley USD	3/18/2003	5/6/2003
CDSIS-6-5-2003	Santa Cruz City Schools	4/30/2003	5/7/2003
CDSIS-143-3-2003	Sierra Sands USD	3/20/2003	5/7/2003
CDSIS-24-4-2003	Sutter Union HSD	4/8/2003	5/6/2003
CDSIS-32-4-2003	Wasco Union HSD	4/10/2003	5/7/2003