

Supplemental Memorandum

To: STATE BOARD MEMBERS **Date:** March 28, 2003

From: Geno Flores, Deputy Superintendent, Assessment and Accountability Branch

Re: ITEM #11

Subject: GOLDEN STATE EXAMINATION (GSE) PROGRAM: INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, UPDATE ON THE GSE PROGRAM.

Proposed Plan for Award of Golden State Recognition Program, including the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

Through 2002, students qualified for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma by scoring at the recognition level or above on six GSEs. These included the GSEs in either Reading/Literature or Written Composition, the GSE in U.S. History, one mathematics GSE, one science GSE, and two GSEs of the student's choice.

As of spring 2003, all GSEs except the Reading and Writing GSEs and the High School Mathematics GSE are suspended. As a result, Golden State Seal Merit Diploma Program must be modified if it is to continue.

The following is an outline of a recommended modified Golden State Diploma Program.

In its broadest outlines, the Golden State Diploma would not change. Students would still have to score at required performance levels on six examinations. These examinations would still include one examination in U.S. History, one in the area of English-language arts, one in mathematics, one in science, and two of the student's choice. Beginning in 2003, however, students could qualify for the Golden State Diploma by scoring at required levels on a combination of GSEs and California Standards Tests (CSTs) that cover subject matter formerly covered by the suspended GSEs. Specifically, students could qualify by meeting the following requirements:

- score at recognition or above on either the GSE in Reading or the GSE in Writing each of which is now combined with the related CST;
- score at the required performance level on the grade 11 History/Social Science CST (United States History and Geography);
- score at recognition or above on the GSE in High School Mathematics or at the required performance level on one of the following mathematics CSTs:
 - Algebra 1
 - Algebra II
 - Geometry
 - Integrated Mathematics 1, 2, or 3
- score at the required performance level on one of the following science CSTs:
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics

- Earth Sciences
- Integrated Science I, II, III, or IV
- score at the required performance level on two examinations of the student's choice. To meet this requirement, the student could choose from among the following:
 - any examinations listed above that have not been used to meet another GSE requirement
 - the grade 10 History/Social Science CST

GSEs in Economics, Government/Civics, and Second-year Spanish Language are among those being suspended this spring. Since no CSTs correspond to these GSEs, these subject areas would no longer be included in the Golden State Diploma Program.

Analyses would have to be undertaken to determine which scale-score levels on the CSTs would correspond to recognition, honors, and high honors levels on the GSEs.

Following scoring of the GSEs and CSTs each year, the California Department of Education (CDE) would post on its Internet web site the GSE scale-score levels required to qualify for GSE recognition, honors, and high honors and the CST scale scores required to qualify for the equivalent GSE performance levels. Districts would continue to maintain the records necessary to determine which students qualify for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma. The District Superintendent will submit a list of Diploma recipients to the CDE, certifying that only appropriate students will be receiving the awards. Certificate recipients for each examination will be identified for the District as part of the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) results.

An electronic color-copy of the Golden State Diploma and individual test award certificates would be provided to districts. Districts could enter the name of the qualifying student, the name of the school, the date, and any other information needed to complete the diploma. They could then print a color-copy of the diploma for the student.