

CEC NEWSLETTER

CALIFORNIA SEAL OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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The new California Seal of Civic Engagement, from CA law AB24, will:

- Recognize young people who are participating in and are knowledgeable about our democracy
- Encourage and create pathways for pupils in elementary and secondary schools to become civically engaged in democratic governmental institutions at the local, state, and national levels.

To earn the seal on their diploma, students must demonstrate excellence in civic learning, participation in civic projects, and contribute to their community. Administrators and History/Social Science teachers worked with the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop the criteria. Students who earn this award will have an advantage in job applications, college applications and scholarships. It gives education and community leaders an indication of how many graduates demonstrate civic competence.

“We know that when young people activate their voices, they can be among the strongest change agents in our communities,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond. “Education is the cornerstone of realizing our democratic ideals, and this new seal puts additional tools in students’ hands as they work to shape the future.”

Students should have a voice in deciding the criteria for the new graduation award. Students, schools and community need to identify how youth can participate in service and problem solving, as well as how they can affirm the civic values of responsible citizenship.



CEC will consult with school districts in the Central Valley to help them listen to stakeholders, including students, to draft an effective policy for the awarding the Seal to students. In addition, districts need to revitalize K-12 civic education, provide opportunities for community service and civic engagement. This creates an opportunity for school-community partnerships to supervise student service projects. For more information on the Seal and consulting with CEC please visit our website www.civicedcenter.org