



Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16
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BOARD AGENDA ITEM

ITEM NO: 4.2

BOARD MEETING DATE: Tuesday, March 11, 2025

NEW BUSINESS ITEM: Approval of Amendment to the High School Academic Recognition Process for 2025-2026 (Action Item)

SUBMITTED BY: Sheryl Castro, Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment

PRESENTED BY: Sheryl Castro, Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment

We are bringing back the proposal for the high school Academic Awards program for the 2025-2026 school year to clear up some misinformation that was stated at the prior two readings. This program was approved at the January 28 board meeting but, approval was based on information that was not accurate. Therefore, we are presenting it now with the accurate information for your approval.

Academic Awards

The current program eligibility criteria that are in effect through SY2024-2025 are outlined below. The eligibility criterion about which inaccurate information was shared in the January meetings is highlighted in yellow.

- Students must be enrolled in at least six classes that determine GPA. (A "P" grade is not used to determine grade-point average.) **Exemption: Seniors who are Peer Mentors -which is P/F- will have quarter GPAs based on their other five CFHS classes.
- Students must be enrolled at CFHS for the first three consecutive quarters of the school year.
- Students must have a weighted 4.0 GPA **for each of the first three quarters of the school year**, as identified on the school calendar.
- Students may not have a grade below a "B" at any of the first three quarters.

Students in grades 9-11 will be awarded their letter or pin during the spring Academic Awards Ceremony. Students in grade 12 who earn an Academic Letter will be recognized at the Senior Honors Ceremony in May.

The high school Academic Letter program will change in 2025-2026 as follows:

Academic Recognition

Students in grades 9, 10, and 11 who meet the eligibility requirements outlined below will receive the following academic awards:

- Silver Award: 4.0 or above weighted GPA
- Blue Award: 3.75-3.99 weighted GPA

Students in grades 9, 10, and 11 must be enrolled in at least six classes that determine GPA. (A "P" grade is not used to determine grade point average.) Eligibility will be determined by averaging the student's first and second semester GPAs within a given academic year. A student may earn this distinction in each of grades 9, 10, and 11. Eligible students will be notified of their achievement over the summer and will be invited to a celebratory ceremony at the beginning of the school year.

Seniors in grade 12 who have a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or better over their previous seven (7) semesters will be recognized with a Silver or Blue Award at the Senior Honors Ceremony in May.

The changes proposed for this award are meant to reduce the confusion that students and families have about which semesters count for eligibility at a given grade level. I stated that the criteria for the 2024-2025 school year as the last semester of freshman year and the first semester of sophomore year. This is different than what is listed in the course guide.

Additionally, at the January meeting, I stated that freshman year "essentially doesn't count" toward the eligibility criteria for academic recognition. I should have provided the clarification that, as a result of the confusion surrounding how eligibility is determined, some students hold the misperception that part of freshman year doesn't count.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: I move the governing board approve the high school Academic Awards program, as presented, for implementation in the 2025-2026 school year.