



# 2025-26 **MIDDLE SCHOOL** SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO COMPETITIVE EVENTS

## COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

Members are now eligible to re-compete in individual and team events, provided that:

- Members placing in the **Top 5** at a prior State Leadership Conference are **ineligible**.
- Members placing in the **Top 10** at a prior National Leadership Conference are ineligible
- Any content (such as slide decks, reports) must be new to the current year.

*This aligns with the national FBLA policy, which allows students to re-compete at a National Conference provided they did not place in the Top 10 at a prior National Leadership Conference. Ohio FBLA Middle Level, which continues to grow, will prohibit those who finished in the Top 5 at a prior SLC (policy is different than high school).*

## COMPETITION EVENT REGISTRATION MAXIMUM

Schools may only register up to four (4) entries in any given Competitive Event

- Each event will be capped at 4 teams or individuals from the same school.
- Chapter events may only have one (1) Entry (*Annual Chapter Activities Presentation, Community Service Presentation*)
- Chapters may only have one (1) entry in each Recognition event.

*This mirrors the high school policy of four per event maximum. Previously, in order to foster more participation, middle school chapters were able to submit unlimited number of competitors in each event. Some events became too weighted with competitors from one school.*

## OBJECTIVE TESTS – NOW ON-SITE AT SLC

**No more remote testing!** All objective testing, including individual events and objective test components for team events, will be held during the State Leadership Conference.

- Students are now limited to competing in **three (3) objective or production tests** (*previously 5*) **plus one (1) performance or role play event**. Chapter events are excluded from this restriction.
- All students will be required to bring/use a laptop computer for their testing.
- Mobile phones will not be allowed for testing. No exceptions.
- Students will be expected to close all other programs on their computer, as deviating from the test to any other program or notification will stop the test and process the score at the time of the deviation.
- Internet access will be provided by the conference.
- For team events, all member(s) must individually test at the same time (*must start at same time*).
- Proctors will be provided at the State Leadership Conference.

*This is new for the 2026 State Leadership Conference. Because all testing will be on-site, limitations are placed on the maximum number of Objective or Production Test events an individual competitor may enter. Please plan on having students bring their own laptop devices. If you have concerns about this policy, please contact Jr. Calton at [jcalton@ohiofbla.org](mailto:jcalton@ohiofbla.org).*

## NEW COMPETITIVE EVENTS

- **Exploring Agribusiness** – *Individual Event, Objective Test*
- **Exploring Accounting & Finance** – *Individual Event, Objective Test*
- **Exploring Animation** – *Team Event, Presentation, requires submission of pre-judged material*
- **Exploring Business Concepts** – *Individual Event, Objective Test*
- **Exploring Business Communication** - *Individual Event, Objective Test*
- **Exploring Customer Service** - *Individual Event, Role Play (no objective test)*
- **Exploring Digital Video Production** - *Team Event, Presentation, requires submission of pre-judged material*
- **Exploring Marketing Concepts** - *Individual Event, Objective Test*
- **Slide Deck Applications** – *Individual Production Event, 1-hour on-site (no objective test)*
- **Spreadsheet Applications** – *Individual Production Event, 1-hour on-site (no objective test)*
- **Word Processing** – *Individual Production Event, 1-hour on-site (no objective test)*

## RETIRED/DELETED COMPETITIVE EVENTS

- **Exploring Computer Applications** – *now split up into 3 different Production Events*
- **FBLA Mission & Pledge**
- **Learning Strategies**

## EVENT NAME CHANGES

In these events, students are ineligible to compete if they placed in the Top 5 at a prior State Conference or in the Top 10 at a prior National Conference under the old event name.

- **Exploring FBLA** – *formerly FBLA Concepts*
- **Exploring Marketing Strategies** – *formerly Marketing Mix Challenge*
- **Exploring Coding & Programming** – *formerly Video Game Challenge*
- **Exploring Management & Entrepreneurship** – *formerly Critical Thinking*
- **Exploring Professionalism** – *formerly Business Etiquette*
- **Exploring Personal Finance** – *formerly Financial Literacy*

## ADDITIONAL ADVISER RESOURCES & LINKS

For the most up-to-date Competitive Events Guidelines, please use the following links:

- **New!** [All-In-One Resource Guide](#) – Middle School - with links to Event Guidelines
  - For PDF, click [HERE](#)
- **New!** [Ohio Competitive Events Website Page](#)
- [2025-26 Topics for Competitive Events](#) – Middle School
- [National FBLA Competitive Events Resources](#) – Middle School – Rating Sheets, national guidelines, key components, knowledge areas and objectives.