



Ohio
FBLA

OHIO FBLA CHAPTER PLANNING GUIDE

ERIC MCGARVEY, STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OHIO FBLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ohio FBLA Chapter Planning Guide

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Welcome Letter

Dear Ohio FBLA Advisers & Chapter Leaders.

We are excited to kick off the 2023-24 school year with all of you as we continue to grow Ohio FBLA! This past summer we were well represented with nearly 100 student competitors at the National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, in addition to advisers and chaperones! This was twice the number of attendees from the previous year. Special congratulations to all of our national competitors including the following students who placed in their events:

- Dominic Allie, Daniel Chen, Owen Shiver - E-Business, Walnut Hills High School
- Kimaya Mundhe – Introduction to Business Procedures
- Ella Fernandes - Introduction to Business Presentation, William Mason High School
- Priyhan Divakar, Prabhat Majji, Amogh Navada - Introduction to Social Media Strategy, William Mason High School
- Sanvi Jha - Marketing, William Mason High School
- Melissa Davis - Sales Presentation, Thomas W. Harvey High School
- Advika Vijay, Heidi Yan – Middle Level Marketing Mix Challenge, Toledo Area Middle School Chapter

We hope to send an even larger delegation to Orlando this coming June, 2024!

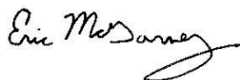
The biggest update for the 2023-2024 is the new [FBLA Connect](#) portal! The new system makes it much easier to register and pay for members, conduct local chapter management and communications, and allow a one-stop hub for members to engage with the Business Achievement Awards (BAAs) and other programs.

Chapters are also encouraged to participate in The Stock Market Game and other national programs. Also, remember that the **Ohio Achievement Accelerator** program is available to those students reaching the final level of the BAAs. This program is designed to supplement student BAA achievements to prepare our students for the workforce of the future with resume and portfolio development, local chapter industry mentorships, opportunities for job shadowing, internships and the chance to earn transcript seals and certifications related to their program achievements.

In addition to state and national programming your state officers will continue to offer on-demand local officer and Key Player training while our volunteer leadership team will be available to support our local advisers.

The State Leadership Conference in Columbus is just a few months away. If you haven't already done so, please act now to register and pay for your members, elect or appoint local officers and identify Key Players so they may work together to lead chapter events and activities. The Chapter Planning Guide is full of important information and is supported with additional resources made available on our website and the national site. Please contact myself or anyone on our team anytime you have a question or need additional support. As always, thank you for your commitment to FBLA and our students.

Sincerely,



Eric McGarvey
Ohio FBLA State Director/Adviser

MESSAGE FROM THE STATE OFFICER TEAM

Hello Ohio FBLA Members and Advisers!

We are thrilled to have you all for another amazing year of Ohio Future Business Leaders of America. As a whole, our goal is to connect students, advisors, and community members together to develop leaders across the state. The State Officer Team has worked diligently to ensure maximum engagement for those involved with Ohio FBLA. We hope to unite the members of Ohio FBLA with the rest of the FBLA community and embody the 2023-2024 theme: Together We Achieve. To accomplish the plans we have mentioned, we have curated a Program of Work to help Ohio FBLA reach its true potential. Our primary goals include:

1. Promote FBLA to new chapters throughout the state to increase state chapter membership by 29%.
2. Create a sense of community in FBLA by promoting national programs.
3. Creating more organized chapter meetings by providing a curriculum.
4. Increasing our social media presence and engagement in order to promote upcoming events.
5. Foster relationships with local businesses and corporations in order to reach mutual benefits

The State Officer Team is ecstatic to connect with all of our members, advisors, and alumni to take advantage of the community that Ohio FBLA has provided for us. We hope you stay in touch with us as we roll out all of the different activities, events, and resources that we have created and compiled. We are excited to serve you this membership year and can't wait to see all of your accomplishments as we become the Future Business Leaders of tomorrow!

The Ohio FBLA 2023-2024 State Officer Team

Hamsagayatri “Hamsa” Tadpatri – President

Hamsa, a senior at William Mason High School, has held roles as the Ohio FBLA Vice President of External Affairs and Treasurer, and she is embarking on her fourth year of involvement in FBLA. She is eager to bring about a transformation in Ohio FBLA, with a particular focus on revamping the State Leadership Conference. Beyond her FBLA commitments, Hamsa loves going on night drives while blasting her favorite songs.

Manya Mehta - Vice President of External Affairs

Manya is a junior from Solon and looks forward to assisting the team to make sure the upcoming state conference and competitive events program is a success for all involved. She is also a member of Key Club and Student Council at Solon!

Aliya Merchant - Vice President of Membership

Aliya Merchant, Vice President of Membership - Aliya is a senior from Lakota West High School. She is entering her third year in FBLA and is serving her second term as a state officer. She is excited to meet new people and learn more about the business world! Outside of FBLA, Aliya loves to watch kdrama's, read, and travel!

Jialing “Jenny” Zhu - Northern Region Vice President

Jenny is a senior from Solon High School, this is her third year in FBLA and her second year serving as a State Officer. She is looking forward to meeting all the new and current chapters from all over Ohio! Outside of FBLA, Jenny loves to play video games, travel, and she is on the USA National Kung Fu Team!

Elina Bishoyi - Central Region Vice President

Elina is a senior at William Mason High School. She is serving her first year as an Ohio FBLA State Officer and is entering her third year in FBLA. She is excited to meet and work with FBLA members from the Central Region! Outside of FBLA, Elina enjoys playing in her school's marching band and trying new foods!

Ally Bissman - Southern Region Vice President

Ally is a senior at Lebanon High School. She is currently the Lebanon Chapter President of two years and serving her second term as a state officer. She is looking forward to getting members connected to FBLA programs and developing leaders across the state. Outside of FBLA, she likes to play guitar.

Kaitlin Wang - Secretary

Kaitlin is a junior at Solon High School. She is entering her second year in FBLA and is serving her first term as a state officer. She is excited to network with members from all over! Outside of FBLA, Kaitlin is a dancer and enjoys public speaking.

Srikar Koduru - Treasurer

Srikar, a senior, has been part of FBLA since his freshman year. He wants to help Ohio FBLA grow even further and become a business education powerhouse. He is also involved at school as part of the Civil Air Patrol, HOSA and more!

Avaneesh Konda - Reporter

Avaneesh is a junior at William Mason High School. This is his 3rd year in FBLA and is serving his first term as a state officer. He is looking forward to meeting people from around Ohio! Outside of FBLA, Avaneesh loves to play ping pong!

Kimaya Mundhe - Webmaster

Kimaya is a junior at Walnut Hills High School. She is entering her second year in FBLA as a local chapter president and is serving her first term as a state officer. She is looking forward to planning the State Leadership Conference and hosting workshops! Outside of FBLA, Kimaya is a managing editor for her school's newspaper.

Noah Thammavong - Historian

Noah is a senior at Lebanon High School. He is entering his third year in FBLA and is serving his first term as a state officer. He is looking forward to creating lasting memories during the State Leadership Conference and getting to meet new people. Outside of FBLA, Noah loves to snowboard and play pickleball.

Dave Pandey - Parliamentarian

Dave is a junior at William Mason High School. He is serving his first year as an Ohio FBLA State Officer and is entering his third year in FBLA. He is excited to meet people from all around Ohio! Outside of FBLA, Dave loves to play video games, travel to new places and play volleyball!



Important Information (Overview)

Membership Dues – All Divisions (HS, MS, Collegiate)
\$20 (\$10 national and \$10 state); Local dues are at the discretion of the local chapter.

NOTE: A chapter must have a separate Middle-Level charter to be able to pay ML dues for Grades 5-8 members (Grade 9 for members in specified junior high building). Members must be part of a ML chapter to compete at the ML SLC.

Registering Members and Paying Dues

Register members and pay or renew dues online at [FBLA Connect](#). If a credit card is not used at the time members are entered, an option will be available to have an invoice sent to the school for payment with a check. Please make sure you receive confirmation of this. Paid state/national dues must be on record with the national office for students to participate in programming (including the BAAs) and no later than January 22nd to be eligible to compete at both the ML and HS State Leadership Conference and/or run for state office. All outstanding invoices must be PAID to the national office by March 1st for students to compete at the National Leadership Conference.

New or Reactivating Chapters

If you know of a potential new chapter or chapter that would like to reactivate, please ask the main point of contact to complete the Chapter Activation form via the national Web site at <https://www.fbla.org/start-or-reactivate-a-chapter/>. **NOTE:** Charter and Reactivation fees for the 2023-2024 year have been waived by the National Office! Contact Eric McGarvey at emcgarvey@ohiofbla.org to get started!

Additional Resources

In addition to state level resources found at ohfbla.org please utilize the following national resources for chapter management and student success:

- The [Adviser Resources Page on the National Site](#) will provide you with a number of resources including and Adviser Guide and National Chapter Management Handbook and competitive event resources.
- The Ohio FBLA Fundraising Guide – Curated by past and current state officers and volunteer staff. It includes national fundraising partners, local chapter fundraising ideas and email or letter templates for local chapter and individual conference fee registration sponsorship. Have a great idea for fundraising you'd like to share with other chapters? Let us know! Please find this guide in the resource section of our site or reach out to Eric at emcgarvey@ohiofbla.org.
- National Center Monthly Implementation Guides – Sent out by email monthly with priorities and reminders for the month ahead.

2023-2024 State and National Theme: “TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE!” All active and newly activated or reactivated chapters should have received a welcome kit by mail that includes a poster representing this year’s theme along with additional programming materials. If you have not received your mailing, please submit a ticket with the national center to receive one using this link: <https://fbla.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>.

State Website

The Ohio FBLA Web site is www.ohfbla.org. Ohio FBLA administers an Ohio FBLA Facebook page, Twitter, and Instagram. Snapchat Stories will be used for conferences only. Members and advisers can search Facebook for Ohio FBLA. We strongly encourage current and formermembers and advisers to follow the Ohio FBLA Social Media Campaign this year on Twitter @OhioFBLA as well as on Instagram @OhioFBLA.

Ohio FBLA Competitive Event Handbook (CEG)

This Competitive Event Handbook for FBLA and FBLA Middle Level will be available on the Ohio FBLA Web site with all competitive event updates by early November.

NOTE: These are the guidelines that will be used for the FBLA State Leadership Conferences. These guidelines should be printed and shared with members as they prepare for STATE competition in February.

Do you know of any students that want to join but do not have a chapter at their school? No problem! Students may join their division’s Virtual Chapter to stay engaged in the program, gain access to all of our educational opportunities, and attend our State Leadership Conference. Ohio FBLA is committed to providing a compelling value for our Virtual Members. Our dedicated Virtual Chapter advisers will keep students connected to all of our offerings while working with them to start a chapter at their school.

Key Players

Please identify two chapter representatives to serve as Key Players (ideally a Sophomore or Junior). Our Key Players get hands on leadership experience as well as provide critical student feedback on our programs. Each chapter should designate two (2) liaisons between the State Officer Team and the Local Chapter. Please email Hamsa Tadpatri at htadpatri@ohiofbla.org with the student’s Name, School Name, Grade, and Email Address to receive further information on this excellent program.

Ohio FBLA Important Dates (2023-2024)

Note: All submission deadlines are 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) unless otherwise indicated. Dates are subject to change. **OHIO FBLA DATES ARE COLORED BLUE.**

November

November 8	Shaping Success Submissions Due for Champion Chapter
November 9	Service Season begins for Champion Chapter Fall LifeSmarts Competition Ends; Fall Virtual Business Management & Personal Finance Challenges End
November 10-11	NFLC Providence, RI
November 15	American Enterprise Day
November 17	March of Dimes World Prematurity Day
November 17-18	NFLC Dallas, TX

December

December 4	Ohio FBLA Spring Leadership Conference Registration Opens State Officer Application Released
December 15	Fall Stock Market Game ends
December 31	Early Bird Membership Registration Deadline

January

January 1	Spring Stock Market Game Registration Opens
January 10	Service Season Submissions Due for Champion Chapter
January 11	CTE Celebration begins for Champion Chapter
January 8	Ohio FBLA On-Time Conference Registration Deadline
January 22	Deadline for member dues to be paid in order to be eligible to compete at SLC Ohio FBLA SLC Late Registration Deadline (LAST DAY TO REGISTER COMPETITORS, NO EXCEPTIONS)
January 27	Written Reports, Prejudged Materials, State Officer Application, & Darlene Allen Scholarship Application deadline
January 29	Online Testing Window Opens & Production Materials Sent Performance Event Virtual Window Begins (details sent out within the week) Spring LifeSmarts Challenge Begins
January 31	Spring Virtual Business Management & Business Personal Finance Challenges Begin

February

February 1-29	National Career and Technical Education Month
February 9	First Lead4Change Challenge Deadline
February 11-17	FBLA Week
February 12	Spring Stock Market Game Begins
February 17	Ohio SLC Payment Deadline Production Event Upload Deadline Online Testing Window Closes
February 22 nd & 23 rd	Ohio FBLA State Leadership Conference
February 23	Spring LifeSmarts Competition Ends; Spring Virtual Business Management & Personal Finance Challenges End
February 28	CTE Celebration Submissions Due for Champion Chapter

March

March 1	National Dues Deadline to Compete and Vote at NLC NLC Orlando Registration Opens
March 8	Spring Stock Market Game Registration Deadline

April

April 1	National Award Submission Deadline: Chapter, State, Membership Recognition Awards; FBLA – National Technical Honor Society Scholarship Application Deadline; National Bylaw Amendment Proposal Submission Deadline
April 15	Deadline to Apply for: Distinguished Business Leader Scholarship & NLC Scholarship
April 19	Spring Stock Market Game ends
April 27	Spring State Officer Summit

May

May 1	Champion Plus Submission Deadline
May 3	BAA Capstone Submission Deadline for Competitive Review
May 9	National Society of High School Scholars Travel Grant Application Deadline
May 10	Second Deadline for Lead4Change
May 15	National officer candidate application: receipt deadline
May 30	BAA Deadline for NLC Recognition

June/July

June 29 – July 2	National Leadership Conference (FBLA & ML) – Orlando, FL
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Future Business Leaders of America (HIGH SCHOOL) Information

HS Chapter Recognition

Your chapter is eligible for membership achievement awards and may also enter any of the local chapter events at the SLC. Chapter events include American Enterprise Project, Battle of the Chapters, Community Service Project, Local Chapter Annual Business Report, SpellingBee and Largest Chapter.

Champion Chapter is a series of membership engagement-focused challenges that chapters may complete for national recognition. By completing activities, chapters accrue points. Completing activities across four sections (to accrue points) will result in ChampionChapter recognition, with a banner for the adviser's classroom/meeting space or school award case. Additional incentives such as ribbons at conferences, national recognition in publications, and plaques are available. Levels include Summer Starter, Shaping Success, Service Season and CTE Celebration. Please pay attention to quarterly deadlines.

Champion Chapter Overview, Tracking Forms & Submission Form Links – [Click Here](#) (FBLA Membership Site)

HS Individual Recognition

The easiest way for your HS members to become engaged members is to get them registered, paid and working on individual recognition. Please get them started immediately on the Business Achievement Awards. Access to the BAAs is through the FBLA Connect portal. Students that began the BAAs last year may pick up where they left off. Ohio FBLA will supplement this program for students seeking to complete all four levels with the Ohio Achievement Accelerator program. Students that have started the Capstone Level should contact State Adviser, Eric McGarvey for details.

Students may also begin mapping out their plans to compete individually and in team events at the State Leadership Conference being held in February. The [national competitive events page](#) has resources to help students choose their events. In Ohio members may participate in up to five pre-judged or objective test events plus one live or performance events. This is in addition to presenting any chapter events (see above). More information on Ohio FBLA competitive events will be included in the Competitive Events Guide released in October.

Additional opportunities to participate in national partner recognition events may also be located here:

Middle School: <https://www.fbla.org/divisions/fbla-middle-level/education-programs/>

High School: <https://www.fbla.org/divisions/fbla/fbla-education/>

Collegiate: <https://www.fbla.org/divisions/collegiate/pbl-education-programs/>

State Leadership Conference

High School SLC

When: Thursday, February 22nd through Friday, February 23rd

Conference Location and Lodging: Crown Plaza North- Worthington

Cost: Registration and Lodging are combined for ALL SLC Attendees and includes:

- Lodging and Applicable Taxes
- Testing Fees
- Conference Workshops and Social Activity
- Conference Credentials and T-Shirt
- Lunch and Dinner on Thursday
- Awards Banquet on Friday

On Time Registration Rates (Register by January 8th)

TWO NIGHTS (Arriving Wednesday, February 21st)

Quad: \$215 Per Person

Triple: \$240 Per Person

Double: \$275 Per Person

Adviser/Chaperone Double: \$230 Per Person

Adviser/Chaperone Single: \$310 Per Person

ONE NIGHT (Arriving Thursday, February 22nd)

Quad: \$185 Per Person

Triple: \$200 Per Person

Double: \$215 Per Person

Adviser/Chaperone Double: \$170 Per Person

Adviser/Chaperone Single: \$195 Per Person

Late Registration Rates (Registered between January 8th and January 22nd)

TWO NIGHTS (Arriving Wednesday, February 21st)

Quad: \$240 Per Person

Triple: \$265 Per Person

Double: \$300 Per Person

Adviser/Chaperone Double: \$255 Per Person

Adviser/Chaperone Single: \$335 Per Person

ONE NIGHT (Arriving Thursday, February 22nd)

Quad: \$210 Per Person

Triple: \$225 Per Person

Double: \$240 Per Person

Adviser/Chaperone Double: \$195 Per Person

Adviser/Chaperone Single: \$220 Per Person

Registration & Testing Deadlines

Blue Panda SLC Registration Portal Open: December 4th at
<https://app.gobluepanda.com/>

On-Time Registration Deadline: January 8th

Late Registration Deadline (LAST DAY TO REGISTER & BE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE): January 22nd

NOTE: Non-competing attendees are welcome to register after this deadline based on room availability.

Conference Payment Deadline: February 16th

Written Reports, Pre-Judged Materials, State Officer Applications and any Uploads
Deadline: January 27th

Online Testing Window (home site/school site): January 29th – February 16th

Production (Spreadsheet Application, Word Application, Etc.) Event Upload Deadline: February 17th

NOTE: OH FBLA staff will distribute production tests after receiving registration and no later than January 31st.

Ohio FBLA Competitive Events Guide (CEG): This document developed by the State Office contains all the information regarding our state awards program and competitive event regulations. This includes descriptions of every event offered (including national and state events as well as national and state recognition events). This document is typically released with or soon after this Chapter Planning Guide is distributed.

Nationals has updated all Competitive Event descriptions along with providing additional resources. These may be found here:

Middle School: <https://www.fbla.org/divisions/fbla-middle-level/competitive-events/>

High School: <https://www.fbla.org/divisions/fbla/fbla-competitive-events/>

Collegiate: <https://www.fbla.org/divisions/collegiate/pbl-competitive-events/>

FBLA-Middle Level (MIDDLE SCHOOL) Information

Calling all Middle School students!

FBLA-Middle Level is an amazing opportunity to build important foundational business skills through a program designed for middle school students. These skills continue to build as they progress from Middle Level to FBLA, then the collegiate division and beyond.

Ohio FBLA recognizes the special co-curricular educational opportunities these programs provide to our students and is committing to growing this incredible program.

Are you interested in bringing FBLA-Middle Level to your school or a school near you? Please reach out to State Director/Adviser, Eric McGarvey, at emcgarvey@ohiofbla.org today! Our State Leadership Team is here to support you. There are many limited-time programs in place to help, including but not limited to, waived chapter activation/re-activation fee (\$20 savings!).

No FBLA at your school or college? No problem! Join your division's Virtual Chapter to stay engaged in the program, gain access to all of our educational opportunities, and attend our State Leadership Conference. Ohio FBLA is committed to providing a compelling value for our Virtual Members. Our dedicated Virtual Chapter advisers will keep you connected to all of our offerings!

ML Chapter Recognition

More information on Middle Level national programming may be found at <https://www.fbla.org/divisions/fbla-middle-level/>

Middle Level State Leadership Conference (ML SLC)**When:** Thursday, February 22nd 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Registration Opens at 9 a.m.)**Conference Location:** Crown Plaza North- Worthington**Cost:** \$75 for each attendee which includes lunch, conference & testing fees.**Lodging:** Please contact Eric McGarvey if your ML chapter wishes to book rooms**Registration & Testing Deadlines**Blue Panda SLC Registration Portal Open:
December 4th <https://app.gobluepanda.com/>On-Time Registration Deadline: January 8thLate Registration Deadline (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER & BE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE**): January 22nd**NOTE:** Non-competing attendees are welcome to register after this deadline based on room availability.**Conference Payment Deadline:** February 16thWritten Reports, Pre-Judged Materials and any Uploads Deadline: January 27th**Online Testing Window (home site/school site):** January 29th – February 16th

FBLA-Collegiate Level Information

Calling all Middle School students!

FBLA Collegiate is dedicated to inspiring and developing the next generation of leaders by preparing members for careers in business and business related fields.

Are you interested in bringing the Collegiate Level to a two or four year college/university near you? Please reach out to State Director/Adviser, Eric McGarvey, at emcgarvey@ohiofbla.org today! Our State Leadership Team is here to support growth of the Collegiate division.

There are core themes that run throughout the FBLA Collegiate Roadmap. These themes are:

- Honing 21st century skills
- Developing individual vision and personal brand
- Building relationships with mentors in the business community
- Being a mentor to someone else
- Networking and completing internship experiences
- Understanding that business principles are a part of every sector

By the end of their FBLA Collegiate experience, it is the goal that every member will:

- Demonstrate the ability to lead a team by bringing out the best in team members
- Understand the business development cycle
- Develop a personal brand

Collegiate Programming and Chapter Recognition

More information on Middle Level national programming may be found at <https://www.fbla.org/divisions/collegiate/>

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (NLC)

FBLA High School and Middle School National Leadership Conference

According to the national office, the top FOUR in every event will qualify to represent OhioFBLA at NLC; however, final determination of the number of NLC qualifiers from a school district is dependent upon the chapter adviser and local administration / school district.

When: June 29th – July 2nd 2024

Where: Orlando, Florida

FBLA Collegiate National Leadership Conference

When: June 24th – June 27th 2024

Where: Orlando, Florida

Leadership

The Ohio FBLA State Leadership Team & Staff are all volunteers and each have full time careers while dedicating time to Ohio FBLA and other responsibilities.

Eric McGarvey, State Executive Director & Board Chair - Eric has a rich history with FBLA including being elected to multiple leadership roles. He currently serves on the FBLA National Board of Directors. Mr. McGarvey is honored and excited to serve Ohio FBLA as the State Executive Director and looks forward to working with members, advisers, and supporters in the years ahead. (Contact Eric at emcgarvey@ohiofbla.org)

Karthik Krishnan, Treasurer – Karthik has been involved with FBLA since his high school years. Since then he has served as an FBLA National Officer, 3-time Collegiate National Officer, and as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Organization and Maryland FBLA. Karthik also has supported several states in the efficient execution of the conference and competitive event programs. (Contact Karthik at kkrishnan@ohiofbla.org)

Benjamin Young, Competitive Events Director – Ben is a product of Ohio FBLA with exceptional experience in the program and organizational governance. He is currently a graduate student at Walsh University and works for the City of North Canton.

George “Jr.” Calton, Competitive Events Committee and Coordinator – Jr. has been involved in FBLA from his years as a student through his professional career, serving as a past national officer and National Board Member. Jr. is self-employed with WealthWave and also serves as a National Referee with USA Volleyball.

Melissa Stone, Programs Coordinator – Melissa is a former Ohio FBLA State Officer and passionate advocate for student achievement. She is a graduate of West Virginia University and currently working for Karpinski Engineering in Cleveland, Ohio.

Kobey Simpson, Conference Associate – Kobey is a former Ohio FBLA State Officer and is excited to assist students reach their potential while also supporting the team at the State Conference. Kobey is currently attending The Ohio State University.

Board of Directors:

Eric McGarvey
State Director/Adviser, Chair/President

Frank Back
Lebanon High School, Vice President

Jayne West-McMinn
Hilliard Bradley High School, Secretary & Competitive Events Committee

Karthik Krishnan
Business & Industry, Treasurer

Benjamin Young
Business & Industry, At-Large

Chapter Registration Information

If you have not activated your chapter with National FBLA and entered students in the membership system, you must do that ASAP in order to make sure they are processed and able to take advantage of all resources and programming.

NEW (Improved) Membership Portal!

Returning chapter advisers should have received an invitation to [FBLA Connect](#) in mid-August. This is our new membership portal replacing Impexium and it should make chapter management much easier with streamlined processes and one-stop sourcing for your member's needs. If you haven't logged into FBLA Connect, please do so as soon as possible [using this link](#). Your chapter's account will likely need some attention in order to benefit fully from the new system. There are plenty of training resources available and listed below even if you were not able to attend one of the virtual training sessions.

- [Step by Step Tutorial Videos](#)
- [Quick Guides](#)
- [Step by Step – Registering Members](#)
- [Support Ticket](#)

Highlights of the new FBLA Connect portal powered by GreekTrack include advisers being able to view students in alphabetical order by last name, first name on your Transition Member page. To see the alphabetized list, go to the "Members" tab; click on "Transition Members." Also, students now have immediate access to programming if their dues are being paid by check. Previously, if the invoice was paid by check, students would not become active until the National Center processed the check. There are now three options to pay for invoices: Credit Card (which is preferred), Purchase Order, and "Payment by Mail." For invoices paid by mail or purchase order, payment must be received at the National Center within 60 days of the invoice. If payment is not received, the invoice reverts the student back to unpaid status, and the student is not eligible to participate in FBLA programming.

National Support

Katera Poma
kpoma@fbla.org

Precious Cooper
pcooper@fbla.org

Phone: 800-FBLA-WIN or 703-860-3334

You may also contact State Adviser, Eric McGarvey at emcgarvey@ohiofbla.org

Dress Code

FBLA
DRESS CODE

Projecting a professional image in the workplace is vital for business leaders. It demonstrates seriousness of purpose and respect for clients, colleagues, and others. As Future Business Leaders of America who seek to lead and serve others, participants will dress in business attire and uphold the professional image of the association. Appropriate professional attire is required in all conference areas for all attendees—advisers, members, and guests—at all general sessions, competitive events, exhibits, regional meetings, workshops, and other activities unless otherwise indicated.

Conference name badges are part of the Dress Code and must be worn for all conference functions. For safety reasons, do not wear conference badges outside of the conference area. The Dress Code is gender-neutral.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS



BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL

Business Suit

- Suit pants and jacket
- Blouse (or) collared dress shirt with tie or scarf
- Dress shoes (or) dress boots

Blazer

- Dress pants (or) skirt
- Blazer
- Blouse (or) collared dress shirt with tie or scarf
- Dress shoes (or) dress boots

Dress

- A business dress
- Dress shoes (or) dress boots

Other Professional

- Dress pants (or) skirt
- Blouse (or) collared dress shirt with tie or scarf
- Dress shoes (or) dress boots

BUSINESS CASUAL

- Dress pants, skirt, (or) khakis
- Blouse, collared dress shirt, (or) polo shirt
- Dress shoes (or) dress boots

NOTE: Business Casual is only available during sessions specifically noted in conference materials and is NOT appropriate for competitive events.

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

The following items are prohibited in all conference areas, including competitive events.



- ⊘ Denim or flannel clothing
- ⊘ Shorts
- ⊘ Athletic clothing
- ⊘ Leggings or graphically designed hosiery/tights
- ⊘ Skintight or revealing clothing, including tank tops, spaghetti straps, and mini/short skirts or dresses more than 1" above the knee
- ⊘ Swimwear
- ⊘ Flip flops or casual sandals
- ⊘ Athletic shoes
- ⊘ Industrial work shoes
- ⊘ Hiking boots
- ⊘ Hats
- ⊘ Graphically printed clothing

No dress code can cover all contingencies, so FBLA members must use a certain amount of judgment in their choice of clothing to wear. Members who experience uncertainty about unacceptable attire should ask their local adviser, state leader, or conference staff.

FBLA recognizes that exceptions may need to be made and will work with advisers on a case-by-case basis to accommodate requests. Advisers should indicate the need for exceptions on the special accommodation portion of the registration form. Requests made after registration closes must be made in writing.