

Texas FFA Association
Commission on Realignment
FINAL PLAN

Section 33.3(f) Texas FFA Association, Policy Handbook, directs the duly constituted Commission on Area Realignment to publish a timeline which accommodates public input and creation of a final plan. After 60 days of public comment, the commission convened via conference call, which was made accessible to all stakeholders and finalized an alignment plan which includes the following:

- (1) A proposed amendment to the Texas FFA Association Bylaws, Article IV, Section A, which describes the area administrative subdivisions. The plan also includes a graphical representation of the proposal and supporting data, which was part of the commission's deliberation.
- (2) A proposed amendment to the bylaws which is the manifestation of the commission's recommendation in its preliminary report concerning a policy mechanism which would provide local chapters an avenue through which they could petition the board for relief of financial hardship created by alignment which seriously impedes student engagement or which creates risks to student safety. The text of this proposed amendment is purposely narrow so as to never remove from the student delegates the authority and duty of approving permanent alignments. The commission's intent is never to usurp the power of the delegates in this matter, but to provide some degree of flexibility to enable the Texas FFA Association to address the needs of local chapters and the students they serve. This component also includes a draft of possible companion language to this bylaw language. While it is not within the purview of the commission revise board policies, this body was in agreement that stakeholders needed this language to provide additional context.
- (3) A proposed amendment to Texas FFA Association Bylaws, Article IV, Section B., defining the county identity of local chapters whose parent school districts cross county lines. This amendment is a direct result of feedback received in the public comment period. According to the Texas Comptroller, every 66.92 seconds, a new Texan is added to the population (1,291 per day) and as school districts expand to accommodate this historic influx, many have built campuses in adjacent counties, across these borders from the district headquarters. The commission concurs that school districts must not be divided and that all stakeholder should have assurance that this will not be done in any future procedure.
- (4) Finally, the plan calls for an amendment to Texas FFA Policy Handbook 33.4, adding language which creates a policy "trigger" that keeps the issue of area alignment in the spotlight. Texas now has 5.23 million public school students, a population which continues to swell, and in some parts of the state, the growth is nearly exponential. In other Texas regions, population is stagnant or in decline. Together, these opposing forces threaten to create imbalance and in some case, hamper Texas FFA's capacity to equitably serve all students. The proposed policy language simply creates an automatic board agenda item when prescribed thresholds are breached.

I thank the members of the commission for their tireless efforts in this historic enterprise and I thank the Texas FFA Board of Directors for their confidence in me to tackle this potentially thorny, contentious issue.

Jerome Tymrak
Chairman

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 1
To the Texas FFA Association Bylaws

Related to Article IV: District and Area Associations

Amending the following subsections as follows:

Section A.

- (1) Insert “Hardeman” after Hansford;
- (2) Insert “Concho” after Coke; “Edwards” after Ector; “Kimble” after Kent; “Menard” after Martin and “Val Verde” after Upton;
- (3) Strike Austin, Brazos, Burleson, Colorado, Fayette, Grimes, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Milam, Montgomery, Robertson, Waller, Washington and Wharton and insert “and” before Harris;
- (4) Strike Hardeman and insert “Mills” and “Montague” after Knox; “Parker” after Palo Pinto and “Wise” after Wilbarger;
- (5) Strike Montague, Parker and Wise;
- (7) Strike Bastrop, Caldwell, Concho, Edwards, Gonzales, Kimble, Menard, Mills, Travis, Val Verde and Williamson;
- (8) Strike Bell and Falls;
- (10) Strike Calhoun, Dewitt and Victoria;

And creating the following subsections:

- (11) Area XI consisting of the following Texas counties: Austin, Caldwell, Calhoun, Colorado, Dewitt, Fayette, Gonzales, Grimes, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda, Montgomery, Victoria, Waller, Washington and Wharton;
- (12) Area XII consisting of the following Texas counties: Bastrop, Bell, Brazos, Burleson, Falls, Lee, Milam, Travis, Robertson, Williamson,

Rationale: Pursuant to the directives of section 33, Texas FFA Association Policy Handbook, the Board of Directors initiated a focus group and study concerning the benefits of an area realignment and as a result, inaugurated the realignment process described in the policy. A commission constituted as described in the policy, consisting of ten teacher representatives, elected by their respective area associations, an event provider representative elected by the Agricultural Consortium of Texas, two agriculture/agribusiness representatives of the board of directors, a VATAT representative and a student officer representative established and published a timeline, held a meeting in Austin on December 10-11, submitted and preliminary report to the board of directors and took input over a 60-day comment period. Based on projected membership and participation growth and stakeholder feedback, the commission, in a telephone conference call which was accessible to all interested parties, developed a new alignment which is described in this amendment and submitted it to the board of directors.

ARTICLE IV. AREA AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

Section A. The ten Areas of the Texas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America shall be:

(1) Area I consisting of the following Texas counties: Armstrong, Bailey, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Cochran, Collingsworth, Cottle, Crosby, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Floyd, Gray, Hale, Hall, Hansford, **Hardeman**, Hartley, Hemphill, Hockley, Hutchinson, King, Lamb, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Moore, Motley, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher and Wheeler;

(2) Area II consisting of the following Texas counties: Andrews, Borden, Brewster, Coke, **Concho**, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Dawson, Ector, **Edwards**, El Paso, Fisher, Gaines, Garza, Glasscock, Haskell, Howard, Hudspeth, Irion, Jeff Davis, Jones, Kent, **Kimble**, Loving, Lynn, Martin, **Menard**, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, Schleicher, Scurry, Sterling, Stonewall, Sutton, Terrell, Terry, Tom Green, Upton, **Val Verde**, Ward, Winkler and Yoakum;

(3) Area III consisting of the following Texas counties: ~~Austin, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, and Harris, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Milam, Montgomery, Robertson, Waller, Washington and Wharton;~~

(4) Area IV consisting of the following Texas counties: Archer, Baylor, Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Clay, Coleman, Eastland, Erath, Foard, Hamilton, **Hardeman**, Jack, Knox, **Mills, Montague**, Palo Pinto, **Parker**, Runnels, Shackelford, Stephens, Taylor, Throckmorton, Wichita, Wilbarger, **Wise** and Young;

(5) Area V consisting of the following Texas counties: Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Hunt, Kaufman, **Montague, Parker**, Rockwall, Tarrant and **Wise**;

(6) Area VI consisting of the following Texas counties: Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Hopkins, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood;

(7) Area VII consisting of the following Texas counties: Bandera, **Bastrop**, Bexar, Blanco, Burnet, **Caldwell**, Comal, ~~Concho, Edwards~~, Gillespie, **Gonzales**, Guadalupe, Hays, Kendall, Kerr, **Kimble**, Kinney, Lampasas, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, Medina, **Menard, Mills**, Real, San Saba, **Travis**, Uvalde, **Val Verde, Williamson** and Wilson;

(8) Area VIII consisting of the following Texas counties: Anderson, **Bell**, Bosque, Coryell, Ellis, **Falls**, Freestone, Henderson, Hill, Hood, Johnson, Limestone, McLennan, Navarro and Somervell;

(9) Area IX consisting of the following Texas counties: Angelina, Chambers, Cherokee, Hardin, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler and Walker;

(10) Area X consisting of the following Texas counties: Aransas, Atascosa, Bee, Brooks, **Calhoun**, Cameron, **Dewitt**, Dimmit, Duvall, Frio, Goliad, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kenedy, Kleburg, La Salle, Live Oak, Maverick, McMullen, Nueces, Rufugio, San Patricio, Starr, **Victoria**, Webb, Willacy, Zapata and Zavala;

(11) Area XI consisting of the following Texas counties: Austin, Caldwell, Calhoun, Colorado, Dewitt, Fayette, Gonzales, Grimes, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda, Montgomery, Victoria, Waller, Washington and Wharton;

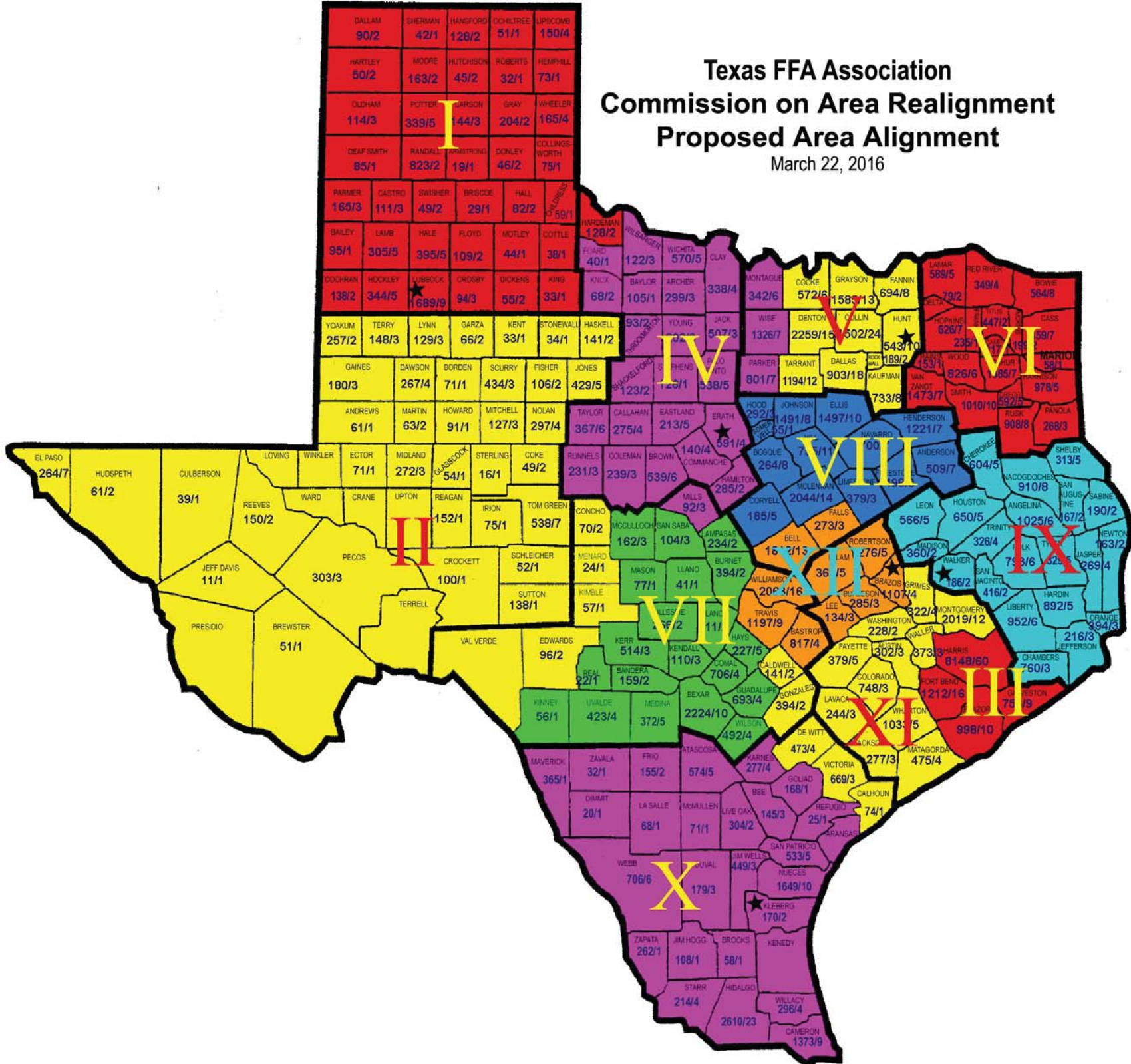
(12) Area XII consisting of the following Texas counties: Bastrop, Bell, Brazos, Burleson, Falls, Lee, Milam, Travis, Robertson and Williamson.

Impacts to be further researched:

- **Advisory committee structure (Award and Degree) ASF, CDE, LDE, Scholarship, SDE)**
- **Area coordinator leadership and training**
- **Area governing document development, establishment of financial policies and bank accounts**
- **Career Development Events: (identification of area providers; increase in state qualifiers)**
- **Career Development Events: Wildlife assignment to appropriate biological region**
- **District alignment/realignment within new and reconstituted areas**
- **John Justin “Standard of the West” Award**
- **National delegate allocation (done per area)**
- **Star Awards and finalists**
- **State leadership conference and area leadership conference support**
- **State Leadership Development Events: (20 qualifiers to 24)**
- **Scholarship Selection (finalists and minimum scholarships per area)**
- **Speaking Development Events (20 to 24 qualifiers)**
- **State Convention Committees**
- **State Award and Degree Selection Committees**
- **State Officer Team (10 to 12 officers)**
- **State Officer Nominating Committee**
- **State officer travel team schedule/travel coordinator**
- **VATAT Board of Directors and VATAT Conference logistics**

Texas FFA Association Commission on Area Realignment Proposed Area Alignment

March 22, 2016



Proposed Area Alignment

| Area | Chapters | Membership | | | | | | | | | | | | *as of Dec 18 | |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| | | 2009-10 | % | 2010-11 | % | 2011-12 | % | 2012-13 | % | 2013-14 | % | 2014-15 | % | 2015-16 | % |
| 1 | 93 9.0% | 4053 | 5.4% | 4714 | 5.8% | 5305 | 6.1% | 6142 | 6.4% | 6749 | 6.5% | 6857 | 6.2% | 7107 | 6.3% |
| 2 | 87 8.4% | 3710 | 5.0% | 3948 | 4.8% | 4005 | 4.6% | 4251 | 4.4% | 4612 | 4.4% | 5569 | 5.1% | 5547 | 4.9% |
| 3 | 97 9.3% | 6635 | 8.9% | 7915 | 9.7% | 9212 | 10.6% | 9670 | 10.1% | 10462 | 10.0% | 11197 | 10.2% | 11063 | 9.8% |
| 4 | 95 9.2% | 6916 | 9.3% | 7298 | 8.9% | 7378 | 8.5% | 8067 | 8.4% | 8764 | 8.4% | 8702 | 7.9% | 8585 | 7.6% |
| 5 | 116 11.2% | 7197 | 9.7% | 8350 | 10.2% | 8511 | 9.8% | 9276 | 9.7% | 9715 | 9.3% | 10214 | 9.3% | 11803 | 10.4% |
| 6 | 92 8.9% | 7831 | 10.5% | 9241 | 11.3% | 9403 | 10.8% | 10421 | 10.9% | 10815 | 10.3% | 11512 | 10.5% | 12064 | 10.6% |
| 7 | 63 6.1% | 5540 | 7.4% | 5705 | 7.0% | 5966 | 6.9% | 6723 | 7.0% | 7456 | 7.1% | 7680 | 7.0% | 8054 | 7.1% |
| 8 | 89 8.6% | 7340 | 9.9% | 7738 | 9.4% | 7836 | 9.0% | 8722 | 9.1% | 9845 | 9.4% | 9938 | 9.1% | 10504 | 9.3% |
| 9 | 85 8.2% | 7988 | 10.7% | 8352 | 10.2% | 8697 | 10.0% | 9501 | 9.9% | 9859 | 9.4% | 10591 | 9.6% | 11357 | 10.0% |
| 10 | 95 9.2% | 7218 | 9.7% | 7799 | 9.5% | 8733 | 10.0% | 9843 | 10.3% | 10641 | 10.2% | 10900 | 9.9% | 10760 | 9.5% |
| 11 | 60 5.8% | 5102 | 6.9% | 5879 | 7.2% | 6087 | 7.0% | 5794 | 6.1% | 7510 | 7.2% | 8222 | 7.5% | 8287 | 7.3% |
| 12 | 66 6.4% | 4863 | 6.5% | 5027 | 6.1% | 5814 | 6.7% | 7197 | 7.5% | 8070 | 7.7% | 8392 | 7.6% | 8260 | 7.3% |
| Total | 1038 | 74393 | | 81966 | | 86947 | | 95607 | | 104498 | | 109774 | | 113391 | |
| Minimum | 60 | 3710 | | 3948 | | 4005 | | 4251 | | 4612 | | 5569 | | 5547 | |
| Average | 86.5 | 6199.4 | | 6830.5 | | 7245.6 | | 7967.3 | | 8708.2 | | 9147.8 | | 9449.3 | |
| Maximum | 116 | 7988 | | 9241 | | 9403 | | 10421 | | 10815 | | 11512 | | 12064 | |

Proposed Area Alignment

| Area | Chapters | Affiliation | | Membership Growth (2009-2015, 5 years) | | | | Delegates | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|--|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| | | 2015-16 | % | Total | Avg / Year | % per Year | % of State | 2014-15 | % |
| 1 | 93 9.0% | 45 | 48.4% | 2804 | 560.8 | 11.1% | 7.9% | 186 | 6.7% |
| 2 | 87 8.4% | 40 | 46.0% | 1859 | 371.8 | 8.5% | 5.3% | 159 | 5.8% |
| 3 | 97 9.3% | 12 | 12.4% | 4562 | 912.4 | 11.0% | 12.9% | 280 | 10.1% |
| 4 | 95 9.2% | 41 | 43.2% | 1786 | 357.2 | 4.7% | 5.0% | 228 | 8.3% |
| 5 | 116 11.2% | 40 | 34.5% | 3017 | 603.4 | 7.3% | 8.5% | 264 | 9.6% |
| 6 | 92 8.9% | 46 | 50.0% | 3681 | 736.2 | 8.0% | 10.4% | 277 | 10.0% |
| 7 | 63 6.1% | 19 | 30.2% | 2140 | 428 | 6.8% | 6.0% | 190 | 6.9% |
| 8 | 89 8.6% | 39 | 43.8% | 2598 | 519.6 | 6.2% | 7.3% | 248 | 9.0% |
| 9 | 85 8.2% | 40 | 47.1% | 2603 | 520.6 | 5.8% | 7.4% | 261 | 9.4% |
| 10 | 95 9.2% | 37 | 38.9% | 3682 | 736.4 | 8.6% | 10.4% | 268 | 9.7% |
| 11 | 60 5.8% | 22 | 36.7% | 3120 | 624 | 10.0% | 8.8% | 197 | 7.1% |
| 12 | 66 6.4% | 26 | 39.4% | 3529 | 705.8 | 11.5% | 10.0% | 205 | 7.4% |
| Total | 1038 | 407 | 39.2% | 35381 | 7076.2 | 8.1% | 100% | 2763 | |

Proposed Area Alignment

| Area | Membership | | Growth (last 5 years) | | Est Membership - 5 yr | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | 2014-15 | % of State | Total | Avg / Year | Total | % of State |
| 1 | 6857 | 6.2% | 2804 | 560.8 | 9661 | 6.7% |
| 2 | 5569 | 5.1% | 1859 | 371.8 | 7428 | 5.1% |
| 3 | 11197 | 10.2% | 4562 | 912.4 | 15759 | 10.9% |
| 4 | 8702 | 7.9% | 1786 | 357.2 | 10488 | 7.2% |
| 5 | 10214 | 9.3% | 3017 | 603.4 | 13231 | 9.1% |
| 6 | 11512 | 10.5% | 3681 | 736.2 | 15193 | 10.5% |
| 7 | 7680 | 7.0% | 2140 | 428 | 9820 | 6.8% |
| 8 | 9938 | 9.1% | 2598 | 519.6 | 12536 | 8.6% |
| 9 | 10591 | 9.6% | 2603 | 520.6 | 13194 | 9.1% |
| 10 | 10900 | 9.9% | 3682 | 736.4 | 14582 | 10.0% |
| 11 | 8222 | 7.5% | 3120 | 624 | 11342 | 7.8% |
| 12 | 8392 | 7.6% | 3529 | 705.8 | 11921 | 8.2% |
| Total | 109774 | 100% | 35381 | 7076.2 | 145155 | 100% |

Proposed Area Alignment

| Area | Chapters | Dist. LDE Teams | | | | Area CDE Teams | | | | Lonestars | |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------|-------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| | | 2014-15 | % | 2015-16 | % | 2013-14 | % | 2014-15 | % | 2014-15 | % |
| 1 | 93 9.0% | 471 | 9.1% | 505 | 9.1% | 313 | 8.9% | 324 | 8.8% | 214 | 9.0% |
| 2 | 87 8.4% | 349 | 6.7% | 405 | 7.3% | 220 | 6.2% | 229 | 6.2% | 83 | 3.5% |
| 3 | 97 9.3% | 449 | 8.7% | 584 | 10.5% | 312 | 8.9% | 318 | 8.6% | 250 | 10.5% |
| 4 | 95 9.2% | 566 | 10.9% | 570 | 10.2% | 411 | 11.7% | 412 | 11.2% | 183 | 7.7% |
| 5 | 116 11.2% | 560 | 10.8% | 631 | 11.3% | 355 | 10.1% | 391 | 10.6% | 241 | 10.1% |
| 6 | 92 8.9% | 505 | 9.7% | 516 | 9.2% | 334 | 9.5% | 334 | 9.1% | 202 | 8.4% |
| 7 | 63 6.1% | 298 | 5.7% | 294 | 5.3% | 247 | 7.0% | 261 | 7.1% | 192 | 8.0% |
| 8 | 89 8.6% | 443 | 8.5% | 474 | 8.5% | 344 | 9.8% | 339 | 9.2% | 210 | 8.8% |
| 9 | 85 8.2% | 499 | 9.6% | 465 | 8.3% | 283 | 8.0% | 339 | 9.2% | 200 | 8.4% |
| 10 | 95 9.2% | 320 | 6.2% | 410 | 7.3% | 276 | 7.8% | 288 | 7.8% | 186 | 7.8% |
| 11 | 60 5.8% | 408 | 7.9% | 409 | 7.3% | 199 | 5.6% | 222 | 6.0% | 231 | 9.7% |
| 12 | 66 6.4% | 322 | 6.2% | 316 | 5.7% | 230 | 6.5% | 227 | 6.2% | 199 | 8.3% |
| Total | 1038 | 5190 | | 5579 | | 3524 | | 3684 | | 2391 | |

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 2
To the Texas FFA Association Bylaws
Related to Article IV: District and Area Associations

Amending Article IV, by adding a new section C establishing enabling language for the board of directors to create policy which enables a local chapter to petition for relief of economic hardships which impede student participation or hazards to student safety created by the chapter's area alignment, moving the current section C (district associations) to section D and creating excepting language in section A, which references the new section C.

ARTICLE IV. AREA AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

Section A. Except as allowed pursuant to Section C of this Article, the ten Areas of the Texas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America shall be:

(1) Area I consisting of the following Texas counties: Armstrong...

Section B. Area Re-Alignments: The Texas FFA Association Board of Directors shall review area alignments contained in these bylaws and consider an area realignment resolution at least every ten years.

Section C. In accordance to policies and procedures established by the board of directors, a chapter, by means of a resolution of the school district's board of trustees, may petition the board of directors to be assigned to an adjacent area association. Should the board of directors grant an area reassignment request, the reassignment shall be considered temporary and will be referred to the Area Realignment Commission in any subsequent realignment to consider whether such assignment may be recommended to made permanent.

Section D. District Associations: Each area association shall have district associations...

Rationale: The Texas FFA Association seeks to maximize student engagement in FFA as an integral part of the agriculture, food and natural resources instructional program and to remove barriers to participation. Furthermore, student safety In its report to the Board of Directors, Texas FFA Commission on Realignment reached a consensus that a policy mechanism that allowed a local program to seek reassignment as a solution to barriers or hazards created by its area alignment. The proposed amendment describes a resolution offered by the school district's board of trustees, making the decision to seek this solution a school district decision. The language also provides only two reasons for petitioning for re-assignment: "a financial hardship which significantly impedes student participation or poses a serious safety hazard." In relationship to the financial hardship, the petitioning school district would need to present evidence of both hardship and its impact on participation. Related to safety, it would be incumbent upon the petitioner to provide evidence that the concerns rise to the level of "serious." The Texas FFA Association Board of Directors would be tasked with developing the companion policies and procedures. However, the proposed bylaw language is intentionally narrow and creates a substantial evidentiary burden to any potential petitioner as a means to blunt any perception that the provision could be used as a an end-run realignment by the board of directors.

A number of commenters indicated that they could be supportive of such a proposal if they were privy to the accompanying policy language. While such policy language is exclusively in the board's purview, the staff created a potential draft of such a policy, and is including it in this proposal:

Section 33.5 Temporary Area Reassignments

Section A. Pursuant to Texas FFA Association Bylaws, Article IV, Section C, a chapter may petition the State FFA Board of Directors for the purpose of seeking temporary reassignment to an adjacent area administrative subdivision for the purpose of relief from a financial hardship which significantly impedes student participation or poses a serious student safety hazard. The substance of such requests must clearly document the chapter's current area alignment as a causal factor in stated hardships and hazards and that such stated hardships and hazards are permanent, unique to the agricultural education program (not being faced by similar student programs on that campus) and cannot be sufficiently remedied by any other solution. Requests for temporary area re-assignment for the purpose of gaining competitive advantage shall not be considered.

Section B. Petitions for temporary reassignment must be addressed to the chairman of the board of directors and submitted to the Executive Director. Petitions submitted at least ten working days before a quarterly board meeting will be heard by the board and submitted to a board committee or commission for investigation and recommendations to be presented at the following quarterly meeting. Deliberations concerning temporary area reassignment petitions shall include a public comment period of not less than 30 calendar days.

Section C. Should the board of directors grant a temporary area reassignment petition, such action shall be announced to the student delegates convened at the state FFA convention, take effect the following academic year and remain in effect until the transition period following the next area realignment, at which time the Realignment Commission formed on behalf of the Board of Directors and the delegates may opt to make such assignment permanent. Disposition of district or area offices held by members in a chapter receiving a temporary re-assignment shall be addressed by each respective district or area pursuant to provisions of its constitution, bylaws and adopted and published policies.

Section D Because the area reassignment is considered temporary, transfer of area assets pursuant to Texas FFA Policy Handbook, Section 33.4(f) shall not apply. Should the transfer to the adjacent area become permanent in the following alignment, the last three membership years in the previous area will be used to determine transfer of assets.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3
To the Texas FFA Association Bylaws
Related to Article IV: District and Area Associations

Amending Article IV, subsection B by adding new language which prohibits the splitting of school districts in the realignment process in cases where school district crosses a county line, which may be used as an area border in a realignment.

ARTICLE IV. AREA AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

Section B. Area Re-Alignments: The Texas FFA Association Board of Directors shall review area alignments contained in these bylaws and consider an area realignment resolution at least every ten years. *Area realignments shall not divide school districts into separate area associations. For the purpose of area alignment, chapters shall be associated with the county in which the school district is headquartered.*

Rationale: One of the consequences of burgeoning student populations and sprawling school districts is that many of these districts, once defined by one or a few campuses, now have campuses across county lines from the district's historical base and headquarters. The idea that potentially, school districts and their member FFA chapters could be torn asunder in the realignment process created some angst in the realignment feedback. While the proposed language may be deemed by some to be more appropriate in board policy, it was believed that this language warranted placement in the bylaws, making it impossible to suspend and difficult to change. Given public and permanent nature of the bylaws the amendment is intended to further foster confidence in any future realignment process.

Commission Recommendation
Regarding the addition of language to the board-adopted policy,
Texas FFA Association Policy Handbook, 33.4

Adding the following as 33.3(c) and relettering the subsequent subsections:

(c) Should any area administrative subdivision reach an active membership of 18,000 or constitute 15 percent or more of the total membership, the board shall, in its first quarter meeting, post as an action or discussion item, the prudence of considering an area realignment procedure.

Rationale: The intent of the commission is to create an automatic mechanism for the board of directors to examine the current state of balance amongst the area subdivisions. This does not obligate the board to initiate an actual realignment, but creates a recurring action or discussion item should the conditions described in the policy continue to exist. At that point the board may study the numbers and choose to postpone action, commission a study group or initiate a realignment. However, it would keep the issue in the front of the collective mind of the board of directors. The number 18,000 as a threshold represents what is considered to be the outer limits of what can be reasonably accommodated in terms of student participation in the association's various competitions, award programs or leadership development opportunities. It is understood that as populations and program paradigms shift, the 18,000 value could be adjusted by the board.