

Texas FFA Association
Policy Handbook
Section 1: Active Membership Eligibility
Revised 1/9/2017

1.1 Operational Premise

Pursuant to Texas Education Code 29.182(b)(3)(D), the FFA Organization is an integral part of agricultural education, a leadership development program for students of agriculture, food and natural resources programs. FFA programs are intended to be applied activities related to the classroom and laboratory instructional programs, individual supervised agricultural experience programs and the leadership, personal and career development component of the agricultural education delivery model. Thus, membership guidelines should reflect this philosophy and support enrollment in agriculture, food and natural resources courses.

Texas Education Code 29.182(b)(3)(D)

Career and technology education is established as a part of the total education system of this state and constitutes an option for student learning that provides a rigorous course of study consistent with the required curriculum under Section 28.002 and under which a student may received specific education in a career and technology program that: (D) includes as an integral part of the program, participation by students and teachers in activities of career and technical student organizations supported by the agency and the State Board of Education...

1.2 Constitutional Authority

National FFA Constitution, Section C. To be eligible for active membership in a chartered FFA chapter, a student must be enrolled in a secondary Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources program. To retain membership, a student must:

- 1. Be enrolled in a least one Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study; either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is to gain experience in agriculture related careers.*
- 2. Show an interest in the affairs of the Association by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership, and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.*
- 3. Pay all current District, Area, State and National dues by the date determined by the chapter.*
- 4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the Texas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America.*

1.3 Membership Eligibility

- (a) A student may establish initial membership by enrolling in an approved agriculture, food and natural resources course. An approved agriculture, food and natural resources course shall be
 - (1) any course in the agriculture food and natural resources cluster;
 - (2) an approved innovative course taught by the agriculture, food and natural resources instructor; or
 - (3) any career and technical education course approved by the State Board of Education to be taught by a agriculture, food and natural resources instructor.
- (b) A course not considered part of the agriculture, food or natural resources cluster or one of the courses approved by the State Board of Education for delivery by agriculture, food and natural resources instructors, but part of a recognized agriculture, food and natural resources pathway or program of study shall be considered a qualified course for membership and participation provided that the pathway has been established by the teacher upon the student's entry into the program and declared in the association's approved SAE record-keeping

system. Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources pathways or programs of study claimed for membership eligibility must constitute a coherent sequence, be consistent with National Agriculture Food and Natural Resources pathways and include a documented Supervised Agricultural Experience. Pathways or programs of study may be declared retroactively should circumstances, such as changes school district staffing, warrant such an accommodation and provided that coursework remains consistent with the provisions of this policy. Amendments to existing pathways or pathways claimed retroactively must be approved by the Executive Director. The Texas FFA Association reserves the right to verify or audit any pathway or program of study claimed for membership eligibility purposes.

- (c) After completing two consecutive semesters for high school credit, a student may maintain continuous membership for a maximum of one membership year while not enrolled in a course provided they maintain an approved supervised experience program which is documented in an approved agriculture, food and natural resources record book. Pursuant to state and national constitutions, the membership year shall begin September 1 and conclude the following August 31. For the purposes of this policy, two one-semester classes taken concurrently count as two consecutive classes semesters. After re-enrolling and completing one agriculture, food and natural resources course, a student will be eligible to maintain one more year of membership without re-enrollment provided an approved, documented SAE is in place.
- (d) Local departments may establish more stringent membership requirements. Districts and areas may also adopt enrollment guidelines applying to officers of those associations.
- (e) ***More rigorous enrollment standards which apply to competitive events supercede this policy and are enumerated in the respective handbooks.***