

Texas FFA Association
Policy Handbook
Section 1: Active Membership Eligibility
Revised 1/15/25

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 receive 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 agriculture, food and natural resources innovative course taught by the agriculture, food and natural resources instructor; or
 - (3) any other career and technical education course in an approved statewide agriculture, food and natural resources program of study taught by an agriculture, food and natural resources instructor.
- (b) All courses taught as a part of an agriculture, food and natural resources program of study must include a documented Supervised Agricultural Experience. The Texas FFA Association reserves the right to verify or audit any program of study claimed for membership eligibility purposes.
- (c) Middle school students enrolled in agriculture, food and natural resources classes, regardless of local or high school credit, must be submitted as active members. Active members in local credit classes are not eligible to pursue the Greenhand FFA Degree or compete in the Greenhand Division of Leadership Development Events, however they may participate in all other competitive events pursuant to the event rules.
- (d) After completing one full high school credit of agriculture, food and natural resources course(s) within a single membership year, 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 August 1 and

conclude the following July 31. After re-enrolling and earning one full credit of agriculture, food and natural resources course(s), a student will be eligible to maintain one more year of membership without re-enrollment provided an approved, documented SAE is in place.

- (e) To participate in any contest or event as a member of Texas FFA or as a representative of a Texas FFA chapter, individuals must be in good standing according to the organization's membership criteria. Participants must also comply with the University Interscholastic League (UIL) 'no pass, no play' guidelines including maintaining passing grades during grading periods and adhering to UIL-established timelines for eligibility restoration.
- (f) ***More rigorous enrollment standards which apply to competitive events such as CDEs and LDEs supersede this policy and are enumerated in the respective handbooks.***
- (g) Local departments may establish more stringent membership requirements. Districts and areas may also adopt enrollment guidelines applying to officers of those associations.