

**Texas FFA Association
Policy Handbook
Area and District Alignment**

Revised 9/14/15

33.1 Authority

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

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

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

Area IV consisting of the following counties: Hardeman, Wilbarger, Wichita, Clay, Foard, Baylor, Archer, Knox, Young, Throckmorton, Jack, Shackelford, Stephens, Palo Pinto, Taylor, Callahan, Eastland, Erath, Runnels, Coleman, Brown, Comanche and Hamilton;

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

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

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

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

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

Area X consisting of the following counties: Maverick, Zavala, Frio, Atascosa, Karnes, Dewitt, Victoria, Calhoun, Dimmitt, La Salle, McMullen, Live Oak, Bee, Goliad, Refugio, Webb, Duval, Jim Wells, Nueces, San Patricio, Kleberg, Zapata, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, Starr, Hidalgo, Willacy, Cameron and Aransas,

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. District Associations. Each area association shall have district associations apportioned in relationship to membership, number of chapters and other appropriate considerations. Each area association shall consider a district realignment resolution every five years in accordance to policies adopted by the area association. New districts may be formed by the area association with the approval of the State FFA Board of Directors.

33.3 Area Realignments

(a) Pursuant to the mandate of its bylaws, the Texas FFA Association Board of Directors shall examine alignment of its area administrative subdivisions and determine if realignment is beneficial or necessary to fulfill the purposes of the subdivisions as described in the policies of the association. In the first quarter meeting in membership years ending in the number nine, the chairman of the board of directors shall appoint an ad hoc committee to complete a study to determine the needs of the association, related to area alignment. The committee shall issue a report no later than the association's third quarter meeting. Should the board of directors not hold a regular third quarter meeting, the chairman of the board of directors shall convene a special meeting in person or via teleconference to receive the report. The board shall take action on the report at the third or fourth quarter meeting. Should realignment be deemed necessary and/or prudent, the board of directors shall notify the student delegates convened at the state convention and each local chapter via electronic communications of its intent to initiate a realignment process.

(b) The Board of Directors may consider re-alignment outside of these prescribed timelines, but must consider alignment pursuant to the timelines established in this policy.

(c) Texas FFA Association shall realign areas to ensure that, to the extent that it is practical, all members of local chapters are fully franchised in the business of the association, districts and areas are able to hold appropriately competitive contests, award and scholarships selections and elections and that members receive commensurate recognition of achievements and effective leadership development training.

(d) In grouping local chapters for area alignment purposes, Texas FFA may consider:

- (1) Membership history
- (2) Total number of chapters
- (3) Teacher units based on the prevailing number of students required to fund a full time equivalent (FTE).

(4) Competitive event and award participation history

(5) District officer candidate participation

(5) Delegate balance

(6) Other programmatic or demographic data deemed appropriate

(6) Potential hardships including, but not limited to travel conditions created by geological features, metropolitan congestion, distance, time zones or any other undue barriers which may impede student participation beyond what is normally encountered by a particular school.

(e) For area alignment purposes, chapters shall be aligned into groupings which may be adopted by areas as districts subdivisions based in the following criteria:

(1) The new grouping will not require chapters to transverse the entirety major metropolitan areas to participate in district or area functions.

(2) Based on prior history, the grouping will provide for competition that is rigorous, but appropriate for entry and quarterfinal levels.

(3) The grouping can devise an approved delegate allocation that provides for proper representation of members while not allowing for a number of chapters constituting 20% or less of the total number of chapters to hold a majority of delegates.

(f) Alignment shall be conducted by an ad hoc commission composed of the following individuals:

- (1) An elected teacher representative from each area.

- (2) A VATAT officer designated by the VATAT
 - (3) A representative of Career Development Event providers
 - (4) Two business and industry representatives of the Texas FFA Board of Directors
 - (5) A representative of the Board of Student Officers
 - (5) The AFNR CTE Coordinator, Texas Education Agency, Executive Director of the Texas FFA and Executive Director of the VATAT shall be ex-officio members of the commission.
- (g) The chairman of the Realignment Commission shall be elected by the board of directors from the membership of the commission. The nominating committee of the board of directors shall nominate a lone candidate or a slate of candidates for board of directors to consider so that the board may elect a commission chairman prior to October 1. The board may also elect a vice chairman from the membership of the re-alignment commission.
- (f) On or before November 1, the commission shall publish a realignment timeline which accommodates the following:
- (1) 60 day review period of the initial public draft
 - (2) public hearings to accommodate testimony regarding concerns from local programs. Such hearings may be conducted electronically to provide maximum access to all interested stakeholders.
 - (3) presentation of the final plan to the board of directors
 - (4) Notice submitted to all chapters 30 days prior to the state FFA convention. Should the realignment occur on a standard realignment year, the final plan should be considered by the delegates on a year ending in a zero, enabling transition to occur between the zero-year and one-year of the ten-year cycle. Adherence to these timelines is not considered essential.
- (g) Texas FFA staff shall compile membership and participation data disaggregated by district, area, county and chapters.
- (h) Texas FFA staff shall create delegate allocation schemes based on the current state allocation schedule and any other configuration deemed appropriate for discussion and consideration
- (i) The proceedings of the Realignment Commission shall be posted and remain open to the public. The minutes of each meeting shall be posted online.
- (j) Should the Board of Directors fail to approve the final plan, the board shall direct the chairman of the board to convey to the commission the concerns of the board. The commission shall address the concerns and re-submit the revised plan to the board within ten working days.
- (k) The re-alignment plan shall be submitted to the delegates of state convention pursuant to the provisions of the bylaws concerning amendments to the bylaws and delegate business session policies and procedures.

33.4 Transition

- (a) Teachers shall meet in existing area and district subdivisions at the professional development conference to set dates and times for area and district functions for the upcoming membership year, and meet with the new district and areas for the purpose of approving district alignments and electing a district and area transition teams.
- (b) District and area transition teams shall be tasked with the following:
- (1) Finalize district alignments pursuant to state guidelines.
 - (2) Address financial issues related to transfer of assets and establishment of accounts and accounting procedures in accordance to state policies and guidelines
 - (3) Create district and area student officer transition teams and transition plans
 - (4) Work with student officer transition teams to develop draft governing documents and policies.
 - (5) Make arrangements for initial district and area meetings
 - (6) Develop a plan for an area summer leadership conference
- (c) Competitive events, awards, degrees and scholarship selection and all recognitions associated with said programs shall occur in the existing districts in the transition year.

(d) Student officer transition teams shall be composed of existing district or area officers within the boundaries of the new subdivisions and any temporary officers deemed appropriate to elect pursuant to policies and procedures developed and adopted by each respective subdivision.

(e) Each realigned area shall call a meeting at a relatively central location, at which time each of the area's district shall assemble in delegates for the purpose of adopting governing documents, policies, budget and program of activities and to elect student officers for the upcoming school year, nominate area officer candidates and state officer candidates. Following the close of district meetings, the area delegates shall convene to adopt governing documents, budget, policies and program of activities and to elect area officers and state and national officer candidates. The student officer transition teams shall preside at these initial meetings.

(f) A local chapter's share of the liquid financial assets of a subdivision shall be allocated based on percent membership over the previous three membership years. All transfers shall be made no later than August 31 of the transition year. Disputes related to transfer of assets shall be considered by the Executive Director or Executive Board.