

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL EVENTS

(Event specific information begins on page 4)

Failure to follow stated guidelines may result in disqualification of students competing.

For a complete list you can view the [TAFE Policies and Procedures](#).

All students wishing to compete in TAFE or Educators Rising events must complete the following:

- Be an active paid member of Educators Rising for the current school year. **TAFE State dues must be paid in full by November 1st.** View the [EdRising Membership Page](#) for more information.
- Register to attend your TAFE Area Conference or the TAFE Teach Tomorrow Summit.
Registration for the conference does not register your students for competitive events.
- Sign up to compete in competitive events and submit all required materials by the stated deadline on the TAFE Guidelines & Rubrics page located on the [TAFE Website](#).

GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

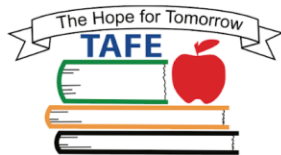
NOTE: General rules and regulations apply to all competitive events and are in addition to each event's specific guidelines.

Eligibility

- Competitors must be a paid, active-level student member of Educators Rising prior to competing at an Area or State Conference.
- Competitors can only compete in 3 events of which no more than 2 can be national events.
 - ELF Test, Student of the Year, and Breakout Session do not count as part of the 3 events.
- Competitive Event entries will not be accepted after the area conference registration closes.
- For Educators Rising National Events:
 - For Competitions at the Area Level: students must have earned 70% of available points first, then the top 5 advance to the Teach Tomorrow Summit
 - For Contests at the Area Level: students must earn 90% of the overall possible points to advance to the Teach Tomorrow Summit.
 - For Competitions at the State Level: students must have earned 80% of available points first, then the top 10 advance to the Educators Rising Conference.
 - For Contests at the State Level: students must earn 97% of the overall possible points to advance to the Educators Rising National Conference.
 - ***Students may only compete in one event max, at the Educators Rising Conference.***

Competitive Event Entries

- All submitted materials must reflect original work from the 2025-2026 school year. Materials that may have been created or submitted in previous years are **ineligible**. All competitors must complete a [Statement of Originality](#) form for each event they are participating in.
- Each competitive event guideline will identify what materials are required for submission prior to the conference. Failure to submit required materials by the deadline will result in point deductions. Files should be uploaded using the competitor's **FORM ID found on the TTS Database**.
- All video files that are submitted in advance must be uploaded to [YouTube](#).



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

Levels of Competition

- The breakdown of grades noted below is used to designate levels for competitive event entries. Not all competitive events are open to all divisions. Please refer to the event guidelines to check the divisions eligible to compete in that event. Teams consisting of students from varying grade levels should be registered in the level of the most senior member. **Students who do not compete in their correct division will be disqualified.**
 - **Middle School** - Grades 7 & 8
 - **Junior Varsity** - Grades 9 & 10
 - **Varsity** - Grades 11 & 12
 - **Collegiate** - Undergraduate Students, not dual credit high school students
 - **Special Edition** - This is for students who have an IEP. It is specifically designed to accommodate special needs students who require accommodation(s) to compete.

Substitutions

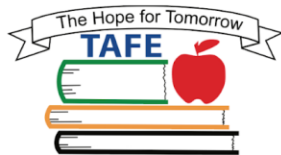
- Substitutions for individual events are not accepted, once registration has closed.
- Substitutions are allowed into team or dual events only, after registration has closed.
 - Events with more than one competitor can be substituted if at least one of the competitors was in the original group. A substitute must complete the [Competitive Event Change Form](#).
 - Substitutions into team or dual events must keep the entry in the same division, if not, this will result in a disqualification of the team or dual event.
- The number of competitors that compete in each level of competition is what is allowed to advance to the next level of competition.
- Failure to notify the competitive events team of a substitution may result in disqualification of the team or dual event.

Technology

- Students are required to bring their own device to Area and State conferences for competitive events. The devices must be checked prior to leaving home to make certain they can access wi-fi outside the district.
- All devices should be adequately charged before arriving at their competition room.
- No phones will be allowed in planning rooms.
- Wi-Fi is not always available at each conference location. Competitors need to have all videos, and presentations downloaded, so they are accessible without the internet.
- Screens/projectors are only guaranteed to be provided at the State conference.
 - Competitors will need to provide their own connectors/dongles to connect their computers to projectors.
- All presentations, presentation resources or videos should be available for offline use. Internet access may not be available at all locations.

Conference Registration, Attendance, & Participation in Events

- Teacher leaders must log in to the TAFE website and register for the conference they are attending. **Registration for the conference does not register your students for competitive events.** Please follow the instructions provided on the [TAFE Website](#) to register for competitive events.



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

- Students whose teacher leader fail to register for the conference or competitive events before the deadline will not be allowed to attend or compete.
- Competitors should observe professional dress as defined by the [Dress Code Compliance Form](#). Students will not be allowed to compete if they are not compliant with the dress code. By attending any TAFE sponsored event or conference, you agree to be compliant with the dress code.
- **Judges scores are final - TAFE does not have an inquiry period for scores, all scores are final. Teacher Leaders, Chaperones, and Parents are prohibited from approaching judges or competitive events headquarters to discuss scoring or feedback.** If a school/district is found in violation of this, they will lose IN GOOD STANDING status with the TAFE association. All questions or concerns should be brought to the attention of the officers and/or TAFE Staff putting on the event.
- The schedule of competitors will be followed as closely as possible. Please understand events can run behind and/or ahead of schedule throughout the day. Please be sure and follow all forms of TAFE communication so you do not miss the opportunity to compete.

Designation of Awards

- Students will receive awards based on the number of points scored on the event rubric. All State Qualifiers will be recognized on screen during the Closing General Session at Area Conferences and National Qualifiers, State Only Contests receiving Gold Certificates, and State Only Competitions Top 5 at the Teach Tomorrow Summit Closing General Session. The following awards will be given at Area & State Conferences:
 - **National Qualifier** (Varying criteria - State Conference Only)
 - **State Qualifier** (Area conference Only)
 - **Gold Certificate** (90% to 100% of total points awarded only at State)
 - **Silver Certificate** (80% to 89% of total points awarded only at State)
 - **Bronze Certificate** (70% to 79% of total points awarded only at State)
 - **Did Not Place** (0% to 69% of total points awarded only at State)

Area TAFE Conference To-Do List

- Register for your area conference (**October 1- 15, 2025**)
- Register for competitive events (**October 1 - 15, 2025**)
- **For Bulletin Board and Project Visualize, submit a photo and summary sheet for an Originality Pre-Submission no later than the day before your area conference.**

State TAFE Conference To-Do List

- Register to attend the TAFE State Conference (**December 10, 2025 - January 30, 2026**)
- Submit Prescored materials by **January 30, 2026 @ 5:00pm**
- Register for a time to compete at the TAFE State Conference (**January 26-30, 2026**)



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTATION

Entries Per Chapter	1
Type of Event	Contest (Team of 2-6)
State Contest	Yes
National Contest	No
Prescored Event	Yes, for Area and State

OBJECTIVE: To allow students an opportunity to demonstrate their teaching skills by planning, preparing and presenting a 40-minute breakout session that is aligned with one of the TAFE TRAFLES.

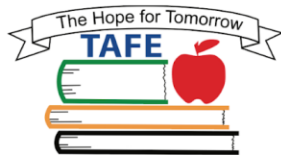
OVERVIEW: This contest is a team event where members work together to plan, prepare, and present a 40-minute breakout session. The lesson taught, presented, or facilitated must align with one of the TAFE TRAFLES. Teams that score 90-100 at their area conference will advance to present their breakout session at the TAFE Teach Tomorrow Summit.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

- **Breakout Session**

- Each chapter may submit 1 entry for the area conference.
- Two to six students may present the breakout session.
- The team must score at least a 90 to qualify to advance to state to present their breakout session.
- After receiving the Judge's Rubrics, the state qualifiers can make any needed corrections before going to state.
- Prior to the Area/State
 - Students must plan and prepare a 40-minute breakout session that aligns with one of the seven TRAFLES areas. The areas are below.

▪ Teaching/Trainin g	▪ Fundraising
▪ Recreational	▪ Leadership
▪ Appreciation (Teacher/Staff)	▪ Education Awareness
	▪ Service
- A description of the session must be submitted to the TAFE State office by October 31st for publishing and accurately describe the session. It entices conference participants to attend.
 - A brief outline of the session must be submitted for review. Minimum requirements include an introduction, body, and closing.
 - Prior to Start of Presentation

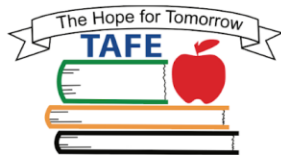


TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

- The set-up is complete, so the session can begin on time. All resources are in place (technology set; materials sorted, counted, and bagged for ease of distribution or display, etc.)
- At least one team member greets participants as they enter the presentation room.
- During Presentation
 - Introduction: Chapter name, team members, city, state, title of session, goals and objective stated prominently at the beginning of the presentation.
 - The presentation must include accurate and up-to-date content and follow a logical sequence.
 - All members of the presentation team should be knowledgeable about the material covered and have equally active roles, whether speaking, assisting participants, managing materials, etc.
 - Session should include multiple strategies to maximize engagement between presenter(s) and participants as appropriate.
 - Presenters should use professional speaking techniques.
 - Management of logistics such as time, materials, transitions, etc. should be smooth. Movement of participants into groups or activities should be seamless.
 - Presenters should exhibit professionalism throughout the session.
- Presentation Closing
 - Appropriate time is allowed for questions. (They may be answered throughout the presentation or at the end.) If time is allowed at the end for questions, and no one asks questions, the team needs to be prepared to fill in with appropriate material to fill the rest of the time.
 - The session must have closing remarks and not just end abruptly.
 - The session must fit the 40-minute time frame.

CONTEST JUDGES' INFORMATION

- Both Area and State:
 - ***If a school has a team competing in this event, the teacher leader and a student from their chapter must judge in this event.***
 - The judging panel will consist of 1-2 adults.
 - The contestants will be judged against a standard of excellence rather than against each other.
 - Judges will use the Breakout Session Contest Rubric to score the breakout session team, and they will follow the guidelines set up by their event managers.



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS **COMPETITIVE EVENTS**

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTATION

Proposal Form-must be submitted online by October 31st

Breakout Session Helpful Information

Conference Objectives

TAFE's goal is to offer a variety of exciting and interactive workshops for students and teacher leaders. In addition to professional development in areas related to teaching (such as brain-based instruction, tips for classroom management, etc.), TAFE would like to encourage students to think about how to use technology to teach all learners.

Conference Audience

Jr. High school students through college seniors and their TAFE chapter Teacher Leaders

Workshop Formats

Sessions will be 40 minutes long. Please consider a variety of formats for your presentation before you decide what would work best. Interactive sessions engage the audience. Students' workshop evaluations have clearly indicated that they are most engaged in sessions that involve them in hands-on activities or discussions. Lecturing with a PowerPoint slideshow won't hold their attention, so we will select proposals that will engage the audience. Please consider these formats for your workshop:

- **Debate:** Two or three debaters hold clearly differing points of view. A chairperson with a prepared set of questions moderates the session. This could work well with students as debaters

and a Teacher Leader as moderator. Topics could include different aspects of No Child Left Behind, pros and cons of high stakes testing, etc.

- **Demonstration:** This is a demonstration of a useful teaching tool or concept. The audience will come away with an understanding of how it is used but will not have any hands-on opportunities to try the tool or apply the concept.
- **Panel:** This format focuses on an issue facing the field of education. Groups of two or three students or Teacher Leaders will offer short presentations on the panel's topic, allowing sufficient time for a question-and-answer session with the audience.
- **Collaborative learning:** This includes a presentation and discussion, with most of the session devoted to discussion and feedback. Presenters bring targeted questions on their topic to pose to the participants. This is ideal for networking and in-depth discussion on one topic.
- **Skill building workshop:** The presenter(s) teaches the participants a specific skill needed by teachers (or TAFE Teacher Leaders) and includes at least one exercise to let the participants practice the skill, perhaps in small groups.
- **Make and Take:** This is a hands-on how-to session. The audience will have opportunities to make and/or apply useful teaching tools.

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTATION

DETAILED SCORING RUBRIC

Prior to Area or State		
	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
The session is aligned to TRAFLES, which is identified in the session description.	5	0
A description of session was submitted to area/state office by the deadline for publishing and accurately describes the session. It entices conference participants to attend.	5	0
A brief outline of the session was submitted to the area/state office by the deadline for review. Minimum requirements include an introduction, body and closing.	5	0

Before the Presentation		
	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Set-up is complete so the session can begin on time. All resources are in place (technology set, materials sorted, counted, bagged, etc.)	5	0
At least one team member greets participants as they enter the presentation room.	5	0
The session has obvious closure and does not end abruptly.	10	0
The session fits the 40 minute time frame.	10	0

During the Presentation			
	Accomplished 5 - 4	Proficient 3	Developing 2 - 1
Introduction of Chapter Name, Team Members, City, State and Title of session.	Team clearly states chapter name, team members' names , city, state and title of session toward the beginning and are given without prompting from the judges.	Team states only 3 of: chapter name, team members, city, state or title of session or given only after prompted by the judges.	Team members either failed to state 3 or more of: chapter name, team members, city, state and title of session and did so only after prompted by the judges.
Stated Goals	Goals clearly stated and aligned with session activities and/or informations.	Goals only implied or not clearly aligned with session activitiesand/or informations	Goals either not stated or activities not aligned with session activities and/or information
Stated Objectives	Objectives are measurable and clearly stated and are aligned with session activities and/or information.	Objectives not measurable or only implied or or not clearly aligned with session activities and/or information	Objectives fail to meet two or more standards: not measurable, clearly stated, not aligned with activities and/or information

The presentation follows a logical sequence.	Session begins with a motivating introduction followed by appropriate activities/information in the body of the session and logically concludes with highlights of important points (note: this may be interactive with participants) Transitions between segments of session smooth.	Session lacks either a motivating introduction or appropriate activities/information in the body of the session or has an abrupt conclusion that does not fully highlight important points (note: this may be interactive with participants) Or the transitions between session segments not completely smooth	Session lacks two or more of the following elements: a motivating introduction; appropriate activities/information in the body of the session or conclusion that highlights important points (note: this may be interactive with participants); and/or the transitions between session segments not smooth
The presentation includes accurate and up-to-date content. Presenters are knowledgeable about material covered.	Information and activities expertly reflect T.R.A.F.L.E.S stated with current content.	Information and activities either dated or does not expertly reflect T.R.A.F.L.E.S.	Information and activities are dated and does not expertly reflect T.R.A.F.L.E.S
All support materials are accurate and error free.	Slides and handouts (if used) have no intrusive errors.	Slides and handouts(if used) have few noticeable errors.	Slides and handouts (if used) have noticeable intrusive errors.
Session includes multiple strategies to maximize engagement between presenter(s) and participants as appropriate.	Strategies appropriate for visual, auditory, and kinesthetic/tactile learners	Strategies not appropriate for one of the types of learners: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic/tactile	Strategies appropriate for only one of learner types: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic/tactile

Presentation Closing			
	Accomplished 10 - 8	Proficient 7 - 4	Developing 3 - 1
Appropriate time is allowed for questions. (Questions may be answered throughout the presentation rather than the end.)	Adequate time allowed for questioning.	Time for questioning is not sufficient to allow for complete answers.	There is time allowed for questions.
Materials (handouts, slide decks, patterns, digital files and more) are shared with participants when appropriate.	There are adequate materials for each participant to have materials to take back to campus to share	There are adequate materials to share with each school, but not enough materials for each participant.	There are inadequate materials to share with either each school or each participant.

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTATION

FEEDBACK & TALLY SHEET

Prior to Area or State			
	Adheres	Does Not Adhere	Score
The session is aligned to TRAFLES, which is identified in the session description.	5	0	
A description of session was submitted to area/state office by the deadline for publishing and accurately describes the session. It entices conference participants to attend.	5	0	
A brief outline of the session was submitted to the area/state office by the deadline for review. Minimum requirements include an introduction, body and closing.	5	0	

Before the Presentation			
	Adheres	Does Not Adhere	Score
Set-up is complete so the session can begin on time. All resources are in place (technology set, materials sorted, counted, bagged, etc.)	5	0	
At least one team member greets participants as they enter the presentation room.	5	0	
The session has obvious closure and does not end abruptly.	10	0	
The session fits the 40 minute time frame.	10	0	

During the Presentation				
	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing	Score
Introduction of Chapter Name, Team Members, City, State and Title of session.	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Stated Goals	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Stated Objectives	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
The presentation follows a logical sequence.	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
The presentation includes accurate and up-to-date content. Presenters are knowledgeable about material covered.	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
All support materials are accurate and error free.	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Session includes multiple strategies to maximize engagement between presenter(s) and participants as appropriate.	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	

Presentation Closing				
	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing	Score
Appropriate time is allowed for questions. (Questions may be answered throughout the presentation rather than the end.)	10 - 8	7 - 4	3 - 1	
Materials (handouts, slide decks, patterns, digital files and more) are shared with participants when appropriate.	10 - 8	7 - 4	3 - 1	

FINAL SCORE	/ 100	ACTUAL TIME	Minutes	Seconds	TOTAL	

Student Feedback	