

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

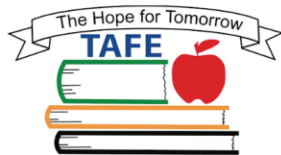
NOTE: General rules and regulations apply to all competitive events and are in addition to each event's specific guidelines.

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](#).



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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

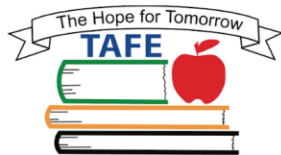
- Substitutions for individual events are not accepted, once registration has closed.
- Substitutions are allowed into team or dual events only, after registration has closed.
 - Events with more than one competitor can be substituted if at least one of the competitors was in the original group. A substitute 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.



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- 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

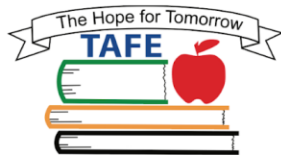
- Students will receive awards based on the number of points scored on the event rubric. All State Qualifiers will be recognized on screen during the Closing General Session at Area Conferences and National Qualifiers, State Only Contests receiving Gold Certificates, and State Only Competitions Top 5 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)



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CHAPTER YEARBOOK CONTEST

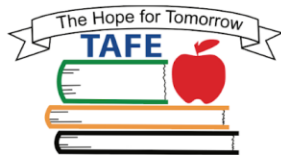
Entries Per Chapter	1
Type of Event	Team (2-4 members may present)
State Competition	Yes
National Competition	No
Prescored Event	No

OBJECTIVE: To develop chapter creativity, teamwork, time management, public speaking, and organization. To create a historical record of the projects and activities of the chapter that can be used to promote TAFE.

OVERVIEW: This contest is a team event where members work together to create a historical record of their chapter's projects and activities throughout the year. The yearbook events that can be included are the chapter's participation in the previous year's Teach Tomorrow Summit and all the events up to the current year's Teach Tomorrow Summit. Participants must prepare a **Chapter Yearbook** and an **oral presentation** describing the activities of the chapter and summarizing the projects.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

- **Yearbook**
 - Each chapter may submit 1 entry for the area competition.
 - Two to four students may present the book, but all students who present must have an equal part in the presentation.
 - Chapters must indicate on their conference registration form the number entering this event.
 - Registration will be handled according to each area's guidelines.
 - It is understood that all Chapter Yearbooks may not be complete by the area conference. The Chapter Yearbook must be bound and have a labeled placeholder for every missing artifact and a date as to when it will be added. The Chapter Yearbook must be at least 75% complete to qualify for state.
 - After receiving the Judge's Rubrics, the state qualifiers can make any needed corrections before going to state.
 - The Chapter Yearbook should relate to and meet the needs of the member's school and chapter. The book should have a timeless quality that could be appreciated by future members.
 - The number of photographs is not limited. It should represent only chapter projects and activities verified by newspaper articles, chapter minutes, photographs, etc.
 - At least one page representing area activities and at least one page representing state activities with date, description and two or more photos with captions included.



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- The Chapter Yearbook should follow the same order as the judging form and can be used to create the table of contents.
- At least one project or activity page must be included in each of the TRAFLES categories. Each activity must show the TRAFLES category, name, date, and description of project, and two or more photos with captions.
 - Teaching / Classroom Participation Activities
 - Recreational or Social Activities
 - Appreciation Activities (Teacher/Staff)
 - Fund Raising Activities
 - Leadership Activities
 - Education Awareness Activities
 - Service Activities
- Chapter Yearbook will not exceed a standard maximum size of 22" x 28" x 4" (thick). The measurement of 4" will be taken at the binding and will include the binding. Measurements will be taken at the event registration. If the Chapter Yearbook is larger than the dimensions, it will not be judged. Chapter Yearbooks may be handmade or purchased.
- The artwork should frame the activities and not make up for the lack of projects or activities.
- Items in the Chapter Yearbook may be purchased, hand designed, stenciled, die cut or computer generated.
- Yearbooks may be hard copy or electronic.
- Presentation
 - Students presenting an electronic yearbook must provide their own laptop to present the portfolio.
 - Contestants will be given up to 10 minutes to present their Chapter Yearbook. At the end of 10 minutes, contestants will be stopped.
 - The presentation must include a description of the chapter activities and a summary of the projects.
 - Following the presentation, the judges will have 5 minutes for questioning. This is an opportunity for the judges to ask questions to correct any judging errors before final scores are awarded.

CONTEST JUDGES' INFORMATION

- **Both Area and State:**

- When students arrive to register their Chapter Yearbook, the contest facilitator should measure the book before registering the contestants. If the yearbook is larger than the standard maximum size of 22" x 28" x 4" (thick), the yearbook will be disqualified. The measurement of 4" will be taken at the binding and will include the binding.
- The judging panel will consist of 1-2 adults and 1 student. (It is suggested that there be a panel of judges for every 10 yearbooks.)
- Before the presentation portion, the judges will be given five (5) minutes to score the yearbooks.
- The contestants will have ten (10) minutes to give their presentations and will be stopped at the end of the ten (10) minutes. The timekeeper will give a one (1) minute



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warning after nine (9) minutes have passed, and a thirty (30) second warning when thirty (30) seconds are remaining. At the end of ten (10) minutes, a STOP sign will be held up and contestants will be asked to stop.

- After the presentation, judges will have five (5) minutes to ask questions and finish their rubrics. If something was missed during the presentation, this is time to ask questions and get clarification.
 - The contestants will be judged against a standard of excellence rather than against each other.
 - The same set of judges must judge the yearbook and the presentation.
- **Area:**
 - Chapter Yearbooks that are 75% complete qualify for state.
 - Facilitators will follow the guidelines set up by their area.
 - **Both Area and State:**
 - Facilitators will follow the General Instructions for Facilitators.
 - Judges will follow the General Instructions for Judges.

CHAPTER YEARBOOK

DETAILED SCORING RUBRIC

Cover, Title, and Table of Contents		
	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Cover Color Scheme, artwork and theme	3	0
Title Page with school name, address, chapter size and school size	3	0
Table of Contents including page numbers	3	0

Chapter Operations		
	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Opening Sections with letter from the Teacher Leader with signature	3	0
Description of Cover Theme	3	0
Chapter and Operations- including agendas, minutes, reports, officers and representatives	3	0

Projects, Activities, and Participation		
	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Area Activities	3	0
State Activities (previous year)	3	0
Teaching/Classroom Participation	3	0
Recreation/Social Activities	3	0
Appreciation Activities (Teacher/Faculty)	3	0
Fundraising Projects	3	0
Leadership Activities	3	0
Education Awareness Activities	3	0
Service Projects	3	0

Mechanics			
	Accomplished 5 - 4	Proficient 3	Developing 2 - 1
Grammar and Spelling	Void of intrusive grammar and spelling errors.	Few noticeable grammar and spelling errors.	Noticeable intrusive grammar and spelling errors.
Same Order as judging form	Chapter Yearbook is in the order of the feedback and tally sheet/detailed scoring rubric.	Chapter Yearbook is mostly in the order of the feedback and tally sheet/detailed scoring rubric.	Chapter Yearbook has many pages out of order of the feedback and tally sheet/detailed scoring rubric.

Creativity			
	Accomplished 5 - 4	Proficient 3	Developing 2 - 1
Embellishment	Decorations and/or Ornamentations contribute in a meaningful way to theme and information	Some Decorations and/or Ornamentations do not contribute in a meaningful way to theme or information	Decorations and/or Ornamentations either do not contribute in a meaningful way or distracts from theme and information
Neatness	Adhesives (tape, glue, etc.) not visible; cut edges of paper straight and smooth; meticulousness/care in assembling book apparent	Adhesives (tape, glue, etc.) somewhat visible; some cut edges of paper not straight and smooth. Care in assembling book not apparent	Adhesives (tape, glue, etc.) obviously visible; many cut edges of paper not straight and smooth. Little or no care in assembling book
Overall Creativity	Unique implementation of creative/imaginative ideas	Inspired from other sources and not totally unique	Obvious implementation of other sources and does not reflect students' own ideas

Student Presentation			
	Accomplished 5 - 4	Proficient 3	Developing 2 - 1
Introduction of presenters and chapter	Names of presenters; school; district and city are clearly articulated	Two or three of the following are omitted: Names of presenters; school; district and city, or are given only after judges prompting	Four or all of the following are omitted: Title of project; Names of presenters; school; district and city, or are given only after judges prompting
Theme and Content Description	Theme and content clearly explained	Theme or content not completely explained	Theme and content not clearly explained
Construction Description	Team members explains the construction process in a knowledgeable way that demonstrates familiarity with chapter projects	Team members explanation of the construction processor limited or lacks knowledge of chapter projects	Team members explanation of the construction processor limited and lacks knowledge of chapter projects
Knowledgeable response to questions	Team members fully respond with complete sentences	Some responses incomplete or not answered in complete sentences	Responses incomplete and not answered in complete sentences
Enthusiastic	Energetic interest in book is apparent	Little energy or interest in book is apparent	No energy or interest in book is apparent; lackluster presentation
Posture upright and professional & Eye Contact	All members stand upright with shoulders back. Members maintain appropriate eye contact with judges	Most but not all members stand upright with shoulders back. Some members do not maintain appropriate eye contact with judges	Most members do not stand upright with shoulders back. Most members members do not maintain appropriate eye contact with judges

CHAPTER YEARBOOK

FEEDBACK & TALLY SHEET

Cover, Title, and Table of Contents

	Adheres	Does Not Adhere	Score
Cover Color Scheme, artwork and theme	3	0	
Title Page with school name, address, chapter size and school size	3	0	
Table of Contents including page numbers	3	0	

Chapter Operations

	Adheres	Does Not Adhere	Score
Opening Sections with letter from the Teacher Leader with signature	3	0	
Description of Cover Theme	3	0	
Chapter and Operations- including agendas, minutes, reports, officers and representatives	3	0	

Projects, Activities, and Participation

	Adheres	Does Not Adhere	Score
Area Activities	3	0	
State Activities (previous year)	3	0	
Teaching/Classroom Participation	3	0	
Recreation/Social Activities	3	0	
Appreciation Activities (Teacher/Faculty)	3	0	
Fundraising Projects	3	0	
Leadership Activities	3	0	
Education Awareness Activities	3	0	
Service Projects	3	0	

Mechanics

	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing	Score
Grammar and Spelling	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Same Order as judging form	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	

Creativity

	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing	Score
Embellishment	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Neatness	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Overall Creativity	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	

Student Presentation

	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing	Score
Introduction of presenters and chapter	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Theme and Content Description	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Construction Description	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Knowledgeable response to questions	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Enthusiastic	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Posture upright and professional & Eye Contact	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	

FINAL SCORE

/ 100

ACTUAL TIME

Minutes Seconds

TOTAL

Student Feedback