



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

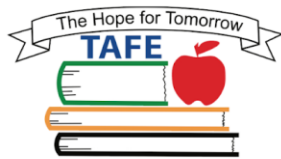
NOTE: General rules and regulations apply to all competitive events and are in addition to each event's specific guidelines.

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.
- Students whose teacher leader fail to register for the conference or competitive events before the deadline will not be allowed to attend or compete.



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- 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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GOAL SETTING

MIDDLE SCHOOL and SPECIAL EDITION ONLY

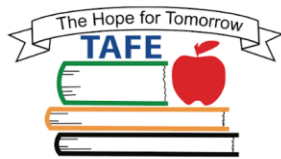
Entries Per Chapter	2
Type of Event	Individual
State Competition	Yes
Prescored Event	No
National Competition	No

OBJECTIVE: To provide students with an opportunity to find out what career will fit their interests and abilities best, research the suggested career choices, choose and research one career that most interests the student, and set goals to attain a career in their selected career choice. To provide students with an opportunity to practice their presentation skills and communicate the results of their career search to their peers and adults.

OVERVIEW: Background: As we know life doesn't always work out how we plan. The career a person chooses without any prior knowledge of their interests and abilities could be a choice that will burden them for the rest of their working career. By taking aptitude tests and filling out career surveys, people can find out what profession is most suitable for each individual's interests and abilities. Then, choose a career that will be more rewarding. This contest is an individual event in which students will use resources provided on the internet such as surveys, aptitude tests, and questionnaires to discover what profession/career would be most suitable to their interests and abilities. The student will then research the career and set goals that will lead to the chosen career and present their findings to judges as a slide deck presentation. The presentation should encapsulate the basics of the career as well as key milestones, education needed, and goal process/plan. 2 Participants must prepare a display board that will be used in the oral presentation to present their findings.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES:

- **Goal Setting**
 - Each chapter may submit up to 2 entries per division (MS, JV, Varsity)
 - One student will present.
 - Preparation and presentation must be done solely by the contestant.
 - **Display**
 - The project will be illustrated on a board no larger than 36" x 48"
 - Name of contestant
 - Name of school, school district, town/city
 - Title of display (should include career)
 - Must contain artifacts from all areas of the project.
 - Tests, surveys, aptitude tests, and/or questionnaires to discover what profession and career would be most suitable for interests, abilities, and skills.
 - Research one career chosen from the suggested careers.
 - Description of the career
 - Job outlook
 - Type of education and/or training is required for the chosen career
 - Licenses or certifications required
 - Pay range



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- Opportunities for advancement
- Career Plan
 - Short Term Goals
 - Long Term Goals
- **Presentation Closing**
 - The contestant will have five (5) minutes to give their presentation and will be stopped at the end of five (5) minutes. The timekeeper will give a one (1) minute warning after four (4) minutes have passed, and a thirty (30) second warning when thirty (30) seconds are remaining. At the end of five (5) minutes, a STOP sign will be held up and contestants will be asked to stop.
 - Contestant will use their display board to present the following:
 - Name
 - Name of school, school district, town/city
 - Title of display
 - Results from tests, surveys, and/or questionnaires
 - Research of career chosen from suggested careers
 - Career Plan
 - Reflection on benefits of the project
 - Following the presentation, the judges will have five (5) minutes for questioning. This is an opportunity for the judges to ask questions to correct any judging errors before final scores are awarded.
 - Contestants will take their display with them after the presentation.

COMPETITION JUDGES' INFORMATION

- **Both Area and State:**
 - The judging panel will consist of 1-2 adults and 1 student.
 - The contestants will have five (5) minutes to give their presentations and will be stopped at the end of five (5) minutes. The timekeeper will give a one (1) minute warning after four (4) minutes have passed, and a thirty (30) second warning when thirty (30) seconds are remaining. At the end of five (5) 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 rubric. If something was missing 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 display and the presentation.
 - Students who score between 90-100 will advance to State.

GOAL SETTING

DETAILED SCORING RUBRIC

Instructions Followed		
	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Board does not exceed 36"X 48"	4	0
Name of Contestant displayed	2	0
Name of school, district, city displayed	2	0
Title of Display	2	0

Artifacts			
	Accomplished 5 - 4	Proficient 3	Developing 2 - 1
Description of career	Tasks are clearly, completely explained	Tasks descriptions are either not clear or are incomplete	Tasks descriptions are both not clear and are incomplete
Job outlook	Cites credible sources to make realistic forecasts for various geographic areas and an extended time	Either cites questionable sources or fails to cite sources or makes unrealistic forecasts or forecasts for limited geographic areas or for a limited time	Either cites questionable sources or fails to cite sources and makes unrealistic forecasts and for limited geographic areas and for a limited time
Education/ training required	Includes educational ranges (such as undergraduate and graduate degrees) and options of types of institutions (such as traditional campus and distant/online opportunity) includes tuition ranges	Omits one of the following: • Educational options (such as undergraduate and graduate degrees) • Types of institutions (such as traditional campus and distant/online opportunity) • Tuition ranges	Omits two or all of the following: • Educational options (such as undergraduate and graduate degrees) • Types of institutions (such as traditional campus and distant/online opportunity) • Tuition ranges
Licensures or certifications required	Identifies process for obtaining license/certificates as differentiated by three or more states/ territories/ District of Columbia	Identifies process for obtaining license/certificates as differentiated by two states/ territories / District of Columbia	Identifies process for obtaining a Texas Teaching Certificate only
Pay range	Salaries given for 2 to 3 geographic areas and for entry level and advanced experience and degrees	Salaries given for 1 or 2 geographic areas and for only entry level or advanced experience or degrees	Salaries given for only 1 geographic area and for either entry level or advanced experience or degrees
Opportunities for advancement	Includes conventional and unconventional promotion possibilities and identifies necessary actions for fruition	Includes only conventional promotion possibilities and identifies necessary actions for fruition	Includes only conventional promotion possibilities but does not identifies necessary actions for fruition

Career Plan			
	Accomplished 5 - 4	Proficient 3	Developing 2 - 1
Short Term Goals	Clearly identifies immediate concrete actions that can be taken to achieve goal	Vaguely identifies immediate concrete actions that can be taken to achieve goal	Only hints at immediate concrete actions that can be taken to achieve goal

Design of Project			
	Accomplished 5 - 4	Proficient 3	Developing 2 - 1
Good use of color, texture, lettering	Skillfully incorporates color, texture and lettering choices	Unskilled incorporation of color, texture and lettering choices	Little to no consideration of color, texture and lettering choices
Professional quality	Worthy of consideration for publication	Some modification needed before publication	Considerable modification needed before publication

Student Presentation			
	Accomplished 5 - 4	Proficient 3	Developing 2 - 1
Introduced presenter's name, name of school, school district, and city	Presenter's name; name of presenter's; school; district and city are clearly articulated without prompting	One of the the following are omitted: presenter's name; school; district and city, or are given only after judge's prompting	Two of the following are omitted: presenter's name; names of presenters; school; district and city, or are given only after judge's prompting
	Accomplished 10 - 8	Proficient 7 - 4	Developing 3 - 1
State title of display	Title of display clearly articulated without prompting	Title of display articulated only after judge's prompting	Title of display not clearly articulated even after judge's prompting
Presented results for interest tests, surveys and/or questionnaires	Presented results for 3 of more of interest tests, surveys and/or questionnaires	Presented results for only 2 of interest tests, surveys and/or questionnaires	Presented results for only 1 of interest test, survey and/or questionnaire
Presented research on career	Concisely and logically articulates project process, results and conclusion	Articulates project process, results and conclusion but may not be concise or presentation does not flow logically	Either does not articulate project process, results or conclusion or flow not concise or presentation does not proceed logically
Presented career plan	Clearly specifies career objective (s) based on research and personal assessments with feasible, sequential short and long term goals	Career objective(s) not completely clear or not based on research and/or personal assessments or short and long term goals either not feasible, or sequential	Career objective(s) not clear and not based on research and/or personal assessments and short and long term goals either not feasible, or sequential

GOAL SETTING

FEEDBACK & TALLY SHEET

Instructions Followed			
	Adheres	Does Not Adhere	Score
Board does not exceed 36"X 48"	4	0	
Name of Contestant displayed	2	0	
Name of school, district, city displayed	2	0	
Title of Display	2	0	

Artifacts				
	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing	Score
Description of career	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Job outlook	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Education/ training required	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Licensures or certifications required	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Pay range	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Opportunities for advancement	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	

Career Plan				
	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing	Score
Short Term Goals	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	

Design of Project				
	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing	Score
Good use of color, texture, lettering	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
Professional quality	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	

Student Presentation				
	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing	Score
Introduced presenter's name, name of, school, school district, and city	5 - 4	3	2 - 1	
State title of display	10 - 8	7 - 4	3 - 1	
Presented results for interest tests, surveys and/or questionnaires	10 - 8	7 - 4	3 - 1	
Presented research on career	10 - 8	7 - 4	3 - 1	
Presented career plan	10 - 8	7 - 4	3 - 1	

FINAL SCORE	/ 100	ACTUAL TIME	Minutes	Seconds	TOTAL	

Student Feedback	