

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

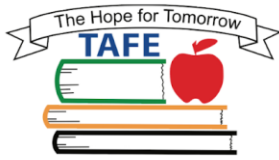
- Substitutions for individual events are not accepted, once registration has closed.
- Substitutions are allowed into team or dual events only, after registration has closed.
 - Events with more than one competitor can be substituted if at least one of the competitors was in the original group. A substitute 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.
- Students whose teacher leader fail to register for the conference or competitive events before the deadline will not be allowed to attend or compete.



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

- 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

PORTFOLIO CONTEST

Entries Per Chapter	10 entries
Type of Event	Individual
State Competition	Yes
National Competition	No
Prescored Event	No

OBJECTIVE: To assist TAFE members in compiling a dynamic record of their qualifications, experiences, and professional growth.

OVERVIEW: Members will prepare a portfolio in hard copy **OR** electronic format. Following the contest guidelines, students will bring a hard copy to the area (state) contest or make a digital copy of the portfolio accessible to the judges on a laptop via a web-based format or flash drive. Members will give an oral presentation that provides an overview of the sections, summarizing the students' skills and experiences. Students may prepare and/or present individually or with an assistant.

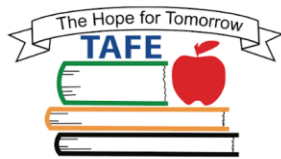
CONTEST GUIDELINES:

- **Portfolio**

- One student per portfolio. Preparation and presentation must be done solely by the contestant.
- Portfolios submitted at the area competition must be 75% complete and should have placeholders (labeled pages or designated spaces) with a description of the information or artifact to be added, and when it will be added.
- Students can choose to use either the Hard Copy Portfolio or the Electronic Portfolio format.
- The portfolio contents are to be prepared following the criteria established on the Judges' Scoring Sheet. (See Judges' Scoring Sheet)

- **Presentation**

- Students presenting an electronic portfolio must provide their own laptop to present the portfolio.
- The contestant will be given up to 5 minutes to present his/her portfolio. At the end of 5 minutes, the contestant will be stopped.
- The presentation must open with the name of the presenter, name of the chapter and school, and the city.
- The presentation must include an overview of the sections, summarizing the students' skills and experiences. (See judges' sheets.)
- 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 awards are made.
- The contestant will take portfolio with him/her at the conclusion of his/her presentation.



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

CONTEST JUDGES' INFORMATION

- **Both Area and State:**
 - The judging panel will consist of 1-2 adults. (It is suggested that there be a panel of judges for every 10 portfolios.) It is recommended that student judges be competitors in this competition because they are familiar with the requirements of the competition.
 - The contestant will have 5 minutes to give his/her presentation and will be stopped at the end of 5 minutes. The timekeeper will give a 1-minute warning after 4 minutes have passed, and when 30 seconds are remaining. At the end of 5 minutes, the timekeeper will say, "STOP," and the contestant will stop the presentation.
 - After the presentation, judges will have 5 minutes to ask questions and finish their scoring sheet. If something was missing during the presentation, this is the time to get clarification. Each judge will prepare a Judge's Rubric for each competitor.
 - Each contestant will be judged against a standard of excellence rather than against each other.

PORTFOLIO

DETAILED SCORING RUBRIC

Portfolio		
	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Hard Copy - Provided in a loose-leaf binder. The contents will be word-processed except for artifacts such as certificates, samples of student work from lessons presented, etc.	3	0
Electronic - Must be provided on a flash drive or accessed from a web-based application and presented on a laptop provided by the competitor. Artifacts must be viewable and in a non-editable format such as a pdf.		
Hard Copy - Cover page in binder	3	0
Electronic - Opening/Welcome page		
Hard Copy - Table of Contents (Includes bolded headings below)	3	0
Electronic - Navigation Page (Includes bolded headings below)		
Introduction	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Title Page with Name, Chapter Name, City, and State	5	0
Hard Copy - Letter of introduction which includes explanation about why you are pursuing education as a career	5	0
Electronic - Short paragraph about you including why you are pursuing a career in education. Optional items to personalize page such as educational quote(s), professional photo, personal video, etc.		
Professional Information	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Resume (Required)	4	0
Letter of Reference #1 (Required)	4	0
Letter of Reference #2 (Required)	4	0
Philosophy of Education (Required)	4	0
Optional items #1 (Optional) (academic highlights, interests, hobbies, professional pictures, etc.)	1	0
Optional items #2 (Optional) (academic highlights, interests, hobbies, professional pictures, etc.)	1	0
Practical Teaching Experiences	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Lesson Plan (Required)	5	0
Experience Reflection (Required)	5	0
Captioned Photo (Required)	5	0
Optional Materials #1 (Optional) (lesson support materials, evaluations, captioned photos, video of teaching experiences, etc.)	1	0
Optional Materials #2 (Optional) (lesson support materials, evaluations, captioned photos, video of teaching experiences, etc.)	1	0

Optional Materials #3 (Optional) (lesson support materials, evaluations, captioned photos, video of teaching experiences, etc.)	1	0
Optional Materials #4 (Optional) (lesson support materials, evaluations, captioned photos, video of teaching experiences, etc.)	1	0
Optional Materials #5 (Optional) (lesson support materials, evaluations, captioned photos, video of teaching experiences, etc.)	1	0

Classroom Management Plan	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Stated Rules	3	0
Stated Consequences	3	0
Stated Rewards	3	0
Optional Materials #1 (Optional) (handling attendance, tardy slips, excuses, distributing/returning supplies, collecting assignments, forming groups/coop learning, transitions/dissmissals, other management practices)	1	0
Optional Materials #2 (Optional) (handling attendance, tardy slips, excuses, distributing/returning supplies, collecting assignments, forming groups/coop learning, transitions/dissmissals, other management practices)	1	0
Optional Materials #3 (Optional) (handling attendance, tardy slips, excuses, distributing/returning supplies, collecting assignments, forming groups/coop learning, transitions/dissmissals, other management practices)	1	0
Optional Materials #4 (Optional) (handling attendance, tardy slips, excuses, distributing/returning supplies, collecting assignments, forming groups/coop learning, transitions/dissmissals, other management practices)	1	0
Optional Materials #5 (Optional) (handling attendance, tardy slips, excuses, distributing/returning supplies, collecting assignments, forming groups/coop learning, transitions/dissmissals, other management practices)	1	0

Communication Skills Must include a minimum of 2 of the following: Letters to parents/w receipt tag, Volunteer Requests, Flyer Announcing Event, Student Affirmation Letter, Enrichment or Tutoring Letter or other written communication.	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Communication Artifact #1	3	0
Communication Artifact #2	3	0

Technology Skills At least 5 applications or technology tools are featured. Must include the following: Logo/Icon of the application is included (A hyperlink is hidden in logo to direct user to product.) Evidence of educational use such as a screenshot or photo of students engaged using product from each app/tool must be included. A short caption or description explaining the use must be included with each app/tool.	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Technology Artifact #1	2	0
Technology Artifact #2	2	0
Technology Artifact #3	2	0
Technology Artifact #4	2	0
Technology Artifact #5	2	0

Honors/Awards Include at least two artifacts with descriptions. These might include: Photo of plaques or trophies, certificates, medals judge's commentaries, scholarships won, college acceptance letters, honor roll, athletic awards related to your education history.	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Honor/Award Artifact #1	3	0
Honor/Award Artifact #2	3	0

Leadership Activities Include Name of Leadership Organizations in which you are active, Dates of Membership, Office(s) Held, Description of Activities, Captioned Photo, or Other Support Artifacts.	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Leadership Activity #1	3	0
Leadership Activity #2	3	0
Leadership Activity #3	3	0

Presentation

	Adheres	Does Not Adhere
Student introduced their self	2	0
Student was familiar with contents of the Portfolio and described the content in a coherent fashion	2	0
Student made regular eye contact with all judges	2	0
Student posture was upright and professional during presentation	2	0
Student was able to respond to questions in a knowledgeable fashion	2	0

PORTFOLIO

FEEDBACK & TALLY SHEET

Portfolio Content			
	Adheres	Does Not Adhere	Score
Hard Copy - Provided in a loose-leaf binder.	3	0	
Electronic - Provided on a flash drive or accessed from a web-based application.			
Hard Copy - Cover page in binder	3	0	
Electronic - Opening/Welcome page			
Hard Copy - Table of Contents	3	0	
Electronic - Navigation Page			

Introduction	Adheres	Does Not Adhere	Score
Title Page with Name, Chapter Name, City, and State	5	0	
Hard Copy - Letter of introduction	5	0	
Electronic - Short paragraph about you			

Professional Information	Adheres	Does Not Adhere	Score
Resume (Required)	4	0	
Letter of Reference #1 (Required)	4	0	
Letter of Reference #2 (Required)	4	0	
Philosophy of Education (Required)	4	0	
Optional items #1 (Optional)	1	0	
Optional items #2 (Optional)	1	0	

Practical Teaching Experiences	Adheres	Does Not Adhere	Score
Lesson Plan (Required)	5	0	
Experience Reflection (Required)	5	0	
Captioned Photo (Required)	5	0	
Optional items #1 (Optional)	1	0	
Optional items #2 (Optional)	1	0	
Optional items #3 (Optional)	1	0	
Optional items #4 (Optional)	1	0	
Optional items #5 (Optional)	1	0	

Classroom Management	Adheres	Does Not Adhere	Score
Stated Rules	3	0	
Stated Consequences	3	0	
Stated Rewards	3	0	
Optional items #1 (Optional)	1	0	
Optional items #2 (Optional)	1	0	
Optional items #3 (Optional)	1	0	
Optional items #4 (Optional)	1	0	
Optional items #5 (Optional)	1	0	

Communication Skills	Adheres	Does Not Adhere	Score
----------------------	---------	-----------------	-------

