

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](#).



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

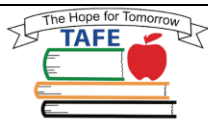
- Substitutions for individual events are not accepted, once registration has closed.
- Substitutions are allowed into team or dual events only, after registration has closed.
 - Events with more than one competitor can be substituted if at least one of the competitors was in the original group. A substitute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



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

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

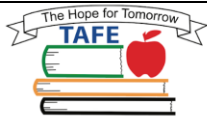
- Students will receive awards based on the number of points scored on the event rubric. All State Qualifiers will be recognized on screen during the Closing General Session at Area Conferences and National Qualifiers, State Only Contests receiving Gold Certificates, and State Only Competitions Top 5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



OUTSTANDING CHAPTER CONTEST

Entries Per School	1
Type of Event	Chapter
State Competition	Yes
National Competition	No
Prescored Event	Yes, Prescored for State

OBJECTIVE: To recognize an outstanding TAFE chapter for their contributions to future educators.

OVERVIEW: Texas Association of Future Educators will recognize outstanding TAFE chapters for their contributions to future educators. The completed forms and all required documents must be sent to the TAFE state office to be considered for this award. **We are not offering the Educators Rising version of this event. Educators Rising has a rule state for any competition/contest not offered at your state-level, "students may register to compete in those events at the Educators Rising National Conference."**

COMPETITION GUIDELINES:

- All complete applications received will be scored by a selection committee.
- Chapters must attend one of the following: Teach Tomorrow Summit, or Area Conference.
- All schools that achieve at least 500 points will be recognized as Outstanding TAFE Chapters and will be recognized as the Outstanding TAFE Chapter and will receive special recognition on stage at the Annual Teach Tomorrow Summit.
- Schools receiving 400 - 499 points will be recognized with an Honorable Mention certificate.
- The state office will appoint a committee of judges to score each of the applications.



OUTSTANDING CHAPTER CRITERIA

I. TAFE Objectives (100 points maximum)	
A. General Objectives.....	20
B. Specific Objectives.....	40
C. Projects Meet Specific Objectives	40
II. Projects (225 points maximum)	
A. Teaching.....	25
B. Recreational or Social.....	25
C. Faculty Appreciation.	25
D. Fundraising.	25
E. Leadership.....	25
F. Education Awareness	25
G. Service	25
H. Bonus.....	5-50
III. TAFE Operations (include chapter samples) (90 points maximum)	
A. Agenda for each meeting.....	10
B. Minutes for each meeting.....	10
C. Budget and Financial Reports.....	10
D. Project Evaluation.....	10
E. Committee Structure	10
F. Website	45
IV. State Participation (590 points maximum)	
A. Membership.....	15
B. Teach Tomorrow Summit	
1. Attendance	25
2. Led a Breakout Session	15
3. Contest Judge Provided.	15
C. Completion of State Project/Contests (10 points each)	10-370
<i>BONUS – assisted in starting a new TAFE Chapter.....</i>	<i>20</i>
D. State Officer Candidate	15
E. State Officer School.....	20
F. Teacher Leaders’ Workshop	
1. Attendance	25
2. Led a Breakout Session	15



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

V. Area Participation (95 points maximum)

- A. Area Officer School. 30
- B. Attendance at Area Conference 15
- C. Host an Area Event..... 20
- D. Attendance at other Area Meetings (10 points each) 10-30

VI. Evaluation (10 points maximum)

- Evaluation by Principal or three teachers (required)..... 10
- Total possible points.....1100**

500 points must be earned to be recognized as an Outstanding Future Educators Chapter.

400 - 499 points will be recognized with an Honorable Mention certificate.

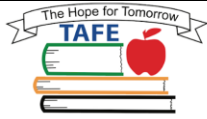
***Must attend one of the following: Teach Tomorrow Summit, or Area Conference.**

IN COMPLETING THE ATTACHED FORMS, PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- **No one project can receive dual points.**
- **No pictures are to be included in the entry.**

Important

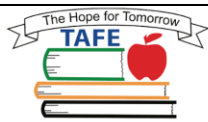
To compete for the Outstanding Chapter Award, complete the attached **Nomination Form** and attach any necessary documentation have it **SUBMITTED by January 30, 2026.**



**OUTSTANDING CHAPTER APPLICATION
 NOMINATION FORM**

Please use this form and attach extra pages if necessary.

1. Objectives: (100 points maximum)	Possible Points
A. State the general objectives for the TAFE chapter	20
B. State specific objectives for the current year.	40
C. For each specific objective listed in B., list one project that the chapter does to meet that objective	40
2. Projects (225 points maximum) <i>List only one project for each category.</i>	Possible Points
A. Was there a Teaching Project? Briefly describe.	25
B. Was there a Recreational or Social Project? Briefly describe.	25
C. Was there a Teacher/Staff Appreciation Project? Briefly describe.	25
D. Was there a Fundraising Project? Briefly describe.	25
E. Was there a Leadership Project? Briefly describe.	25
F. Was there an Educational Awareness Project? Briefly describe.	25
G. Was there a Service Project? Briefly describe.	25
H. Were there any additional projects? Add additional documents and list and briefly describe each. (5pts. Each/maximum 10)	5-50



**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS
COMPETITIVE EVENTS**

3. TAFE Operations (90 points maximum)		Possible Points
A. Attach a sample agenda. <i>Explain who prepares it and how well it's followed in a meeting.</i>		10
B. Attach a sample of the minutes from one of the chapter meeting.		10
C. Attach copy of the chapter budget.		5
D. Attach a copy of the chapter treasurer's reports. <i>Do not enclose copies of school ledger.</i>		5
E. Explain the process for evaluating projects.		5
F. Attach a copy of one of the evaluation forms.		5
G. Committee Structure: List chapter committees, describe how they are formed and how well they run.		5
Bonus:		
a. Does your chapter have a website/web page on the school website?		25
b. Does it have an active link to the state website?		10
c. Has the website been updated in the past three months?		10
Website URL:		
4. State Participation: (580 points)		Possible Points
A. Membership: Were the TAFE chapter dues received at the State Office by October 1.		15
B. Chapter attended Officer Training Workshop?		25
Teach Tomorrow Summit		
C. Chapter attended the Teach Tomorrow Summit the previous year?		25
D. Chapter lead a breakout session (non-competing) at the Teach Tomorrow Summit last year.		15
E. Chapter provided a judge for the previous year's conference.		15
F. Mark the state projects chapter members are participating in this year. You receive 10pts. Max for each event. Does not count double for multiple events.		370
Breakout Session		Inside Our Schools
Chapter Yearbook		Inside Our Schools Spanish
Children's Literature K-3		Job Interview
Children's Literature K-3 Spanish		Lesson Planning and Delivery ARTS
Children's Literature Pre-K		Lesson Planning and Delivery CTE
Children's Literature Pre-K Spanish		Lesson Planning and Delivery Humanities
Creative Lecture		Lesson Planning and Delivery Spanish
Differentiated Lesson		Lesson Planning and Delivery STEM
E.L.F Testing		Outstanding Chapter
Educators Rising Leadership Award		Portfolio
Educators Rising Moment		Professional Development
Educators Rising Moment Spanish		Project Visualize
Ethical Dilemma		Public Speaking
Exploring Education Administration Careers		Public Service Announcement
Exploring Non-Core Teaching Careers		Researching Learning Challenges
Exploring Support Services Careers		TAFE Student of the Year
Interactive Bulletin Board		TAFE Teacher of the Year
Impromptu Lesson		Teacher Created Materials
Impromptu Speaking		



**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS
COMPETITIVE EVENTS**

Bonus	Possible Points
a. Assisted in starting a new chapter. Name of School:	20
b. Mentored a new TAFE Teacher Leader. Name of Teacher Leader:	20
G. State Officer Candidate: The Chapter has submitted paperwork to be a state officer candidate?	15
H. Does the chapter presently hold a state office?	20
Teacher Leaders' Workshop	
a. Did the chapter Teacher Leader attend the Teacher Leaders' Workshop this year?	25
b. Did chapter Teacher Leader lead a breakout session at the Teacher Leaders' Workshop?	15
5. Area Participation (95 points maximum)	Possible Points
A. Does the chapter hold an Area Office Position? Office:	30
B. Did the chapter attend an Area Conference?	15
C. Did the chapter host an Area Event? (Fall workshop, etc.)	20
D. Attendance at other Area Meetings: (Fall workshop, etc.) 10 pts. each	10-30
List Meetings:	
6. Principal/Teacher Evaluation (10 points maximum)	Possible Points
A. Please use the attached evaluation form to get the principal or three teachers to complete an evaluation.	10
7. Chapter Information All Schools that achieve 500 points or more will be recognized on stage as Outstanding Future Educator Chapters. All schools that achieve between 400-499 points will receive an honorable mention certificate in your awards packet.	
We Certify to the best of our knowledge the information on this form is true.	

Teacher Leader Name

Teacher Leader Email

Teacher Leader Signature

Principal Signature

Student President Name

Student President Signature

Name of School

School Address

