



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)



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS **COMPETITIVE EVENTS**

STUDENT OF THE YEAR \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP

Entries Per School	2
Type of Event	Individual SENIORS ONLY
State Competition	Yes
National Competition	No
Prescored Event	No

OBJECTIVE: To recognize an outstanding, graduating senior for their contributions to the local TAFE chapter

OVERVIEW: Texas Association of Future Educators will recognize an outstanding graduating senior with a scholarship for his or her contribution to the organization. The amount of the scholarship will be \$1000. Local chapters may nominate two scholarship applicants. One state winner will be recognized with the scholarship and the top ten finalists will be recognized with certificates at the Teach Tomorrow Summit.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES:

- General Competitive Events Guidelines must be followed.
- Student(s) nominated by local chapters must meet the following criteria to be considered:
 - **Be a senior.**
 - Be an active member with a minimum of two consecutive years' membership in TAFE. If a member has transferred from another school, the member must provide certification from both schools regarding TAFE involvement.
 - Have a cumulative grade average of 3.0 for freshman, sophomore, and junior years.
 - Complete the official application and attach a transcript and all required attachments and bring to the **Teach Tomorrow Summit and submit it to judges at check-in.**
 - Enroll in an accredited institution of higher education in the summer, fall, or spring following high school graduation.
- All complete applications will be interviewed and scored by a team of judges made up of persons from the educational community including at least one TAFE teacher leader and one TASSP member.
- The top five (5) students with the highest scores will be recognized with a certificate on stage at the Teach Tomorrow Summit.
- The winner will be recognized at the Teach Tomorrow Summit. Payment of the scholarship will be made upon these guidelines.
 - The winning student must provide proof of college or university enrollment to the TAFE state office with an official registration receipt from the post-secondary school.
 - The recipient must furnish their complete name, as well as the address the check is to be sent.
 - The student awarded the scholarship must utilize the scholarship within the academic year 2026-2027. The scholarship will become null and void upon failure to do this.



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Important

To compete in the TAFE Student of the Year Competition, you must register for the event during AREA Registration and **bring your documents to the Teach Tomorrow Summit where you will turn them into the judges at the time of competing.**

COMPETITION JUDGES' INFORMATION

- The judging panel will consist of 1-3 adults. Interview judges will be made up of people from the educational community to include at least one TAFE Advisor and one TASSP member.
- Facilitators will follow the General Instructions for Facilitators.
- Judges will follow the General Instructions for Judges.



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

APPLICATION FORM

Verify all these items are completed prior to submitting:

- ☐ Application Form
- ☐ Leadership Resume (TAFE Activities)
- ☐ Questionnaire Form
- ☐ High School transcript showing grades through 2ND six weeks of senior Year
- ☐ Recommendation from TAFE Teacher Leader
- ☐ Recommendation from other school personnel

Name: _____ Email: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

High School Name: _____ School Phone: _____

School District: _____

GPA (4pt. scale) _____ Class Rank _____ Class Size _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name: _____

Name of TAFE Teacher Leader: _____

Signature of Teacher Leader: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Signature of Principal: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Important

Three (3) copies of this TAFE Student of the Year Application Form must be completed, brought with you to competition, and given to judges.



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

LEADERSHIP RESUME

Student Name: _____

School: _____

Put a checkmark beside the TAFE activities in which you have participated, and leadership positions held during high school. If you have participated in the activity for more than one year, mark the corresponding boxes beside the activity. The other is a category of activity that may not be listed on the form. Write it in but use only one line per activity.

ACTIVITY	YEARS				ACTIVITY	YEARS			
	9	10	11	12		9	10	11	12
LOCAL ACTIVITY					STATE ACTIVITY				
Local President					State President				
Local Vice-President					State Vice-President				
Local Secretary					State Secretary				
Local Treasurer					State Historian				
Local Historian					State Officer Candidate				
Member					Attended Teach Tomorrow Summit				
Community Service					Presented Breakout Session - Group Leader				
Community Service					Attended Summer Leadership Workshop				
Community Service					State & Area Officer Training Workshop				
Committee Chairman					Other				
Committee Member					NATIONAL ACTIVITY				
Other					Attended National Conference				
Other					Presented Breakout Session - Group Leader				
AREA ACTIVITY					National Ambassador				
Attended Fall Conference					National Officer Candidate				
Presented Breakout Session - Group					National Officer				
Other					Other				



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

TAFE TEACHER LEADER'S RECOMMENDATION (REQUIRED ATTACHMENT)

Student Name: _____

School: _____

Signature of Teacher Leader _____

Date: _____

1. How long have you known the applicant?
2. How reliable is the applicant? Give examples of ways the applicant has demonstrated reliability.
3. How does this student interact with peers? How well does the student work with the TAFE Chapter?
4. Has he/she shown initiative or self-motivation? (Explain)
5. If given a task, does the student follow through and show dependability? (Explain)
6. Do you believe the student would make an outstanding teacher? (Explain)
7. Is there anything we should know about this student other than what is listed above?



Student Name: _____ **School:** _____

Signature **Date:**

Title _____ **School District:** _____

- STUDENT OF THE YEAR – Updated May 2025**



School:

1. What do you feel has been your greatest accomplishment as a member of TAFE?
2. What have you learned by being involved in TAFE? How will you apply what you have learned?
3. Why do you want to be a teacher?
4. Describe any special circumstances related to TAFE that you feel this Selection Committee should know or anything about yourself that has not been expressed in the application.



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STUDENT OF THE YEAR PREVIEW QUESTIONS

THE STUDENT WILL BE INTERVIEWED ON 4 OF THE 20 QUESTIONS BELOW.

1. What do you believe makes a great teacher? Why?
2. Why do you want to be a teacher?
3. When you become a teacher how will you measure success in your students?
4. Discuss your opinion on the importance of a teacher being thought of as a friend. Do you think it is necessary that students like you? Why?
5. Discuss one idea you will implement in your classroom to motivate students to achieve.
6. What special qualities or talents do you have that will make you a good teacher?
7. It is the first day/week of school. What would you do to create a cohesive culture?
8. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
9. What have you implemented within your chapter to help retain members from year to year?
10. Do you believe volunteering in your community is important? Why?
11. Name one of your greatest qualities and describe a time when this quality was exemplified.
12. Give one example of how you contributed specifically to your TAFE chapter?
13. What outstanding action separates you from your other TAFE chapter members?
14. Why should we choose you as TAFE Student of the Year?
15. What community service project have you completed in TAFE that has made the biggest impact on your personal life?
16. While attending TAFE conferences, what information have you learned that you applied at your internship site?
17. Give an example of when you have taken initiative at your internship site or in your TAFE chapter?
18. How can you describe yourself in one word and why?
19. What do you believe is your greatest accomplishment?
20. Tell me about your most successful recruiting strategy that helped your chapter grow.