

**Texas FFA Association
Policy Handbook**

Section 1: Active Membership Eligibility

3-29-2010

1.1 Operational Premises

(a) The FFA Organization is an integral part of agricultural education, a leadership development program for students of agriculture, food and natural resources programs. FFA programs are intended to be applied activities related to the classroom and laboratory instructional programs, individual supervised agricultural experience programs and the leadership, personal and career development component of the agricultural education delivery model. Thus, membership guidelines should reflect this philosophy and support enrollment in agriculture, food and natural resources courses.

1.2 Constitutional Authority

National FFA Constitution, Section C. To be eligible for active membership in a chartered FFA chapter, a student must be enrolled in a secondary Agricultural Science and Technology program. To retain membership, a student must:

1. *Be enrolled in a least one Agricultural Science and Technology course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study; either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is to gain experience in agriculture related careers.*
2. *Show an interest in the affairs of the Association by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership, and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.*
3. *Pay all current District, Area, State and National dues by the date determined by the chapter.*
4. *Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the Texas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America.*

1.3 Membership Eligibility

(a) A student may establish initial membership by enrolling in an approved agriculture, food and natural resources course. An approved agriculture, food and natural resources course shall be any course in the agriculture food and natural resources cluster, approved innovative course taught by the agriculture, food and natural resources instructor or any career and technical education course approved by the State Board of Education to be taught by an agriculture, food and natural resources instructor. A course not considered part of the agriculture, food or natural resources cluster or one of the courses approved by the State Board of Education for delivery by agriculture, food and natural resources instructors, but part of a recognized agriculture, food and natural resources pathway shall be considered a qualified course for membership and participation provided that the pathway has been declared by the teacher upon the student's entry into the program and filed at that time via the state roster management system.

(b) After completing two consecutive semesters for high school credit, a student may maintain continuous membership for a maximum of one membership year while not enrolled in a course provided they maintain an approved supervised experience program which is documented in an approved agriculture, food and natural resources record book. Pursuant to state and national constitutions, the membership year shall begin September 1 and conclude the following August

31. For the purposes of this policy, two one-semester classes taken concurrently count as two consecutive classes semesters. After re-enrolling and completing one agriculture, food and natural resources course, a student will be eligible to maintain one more year of membership without re-enrollment provided an approved, documented SAE is in place.

(c) Local departments may establish more stringent membership requirements. Districts and areas may also adopt enrollment guidelines applying to officers of those associations.

(d) *More rigorous enrollment standards which apply to competitive events supercede this policy and are enumerated in the respective handbooks.*

1.4 Course Substitution for Active Membership

(a) A local advisor may petition to substitute a non-agriculture, food and natural resources class for an agriculture, food and natural resources course provided that:

(1) the course is taught by the teacher recognized by the district as a certified agriculture, food and natural resources instructor.

(2) the student has an approved supervised agricultural experience program which correspond to instructional objectives of existing agriculture, food and natural resources coursework and aligned to the classroom curriculum.

(3) the local advisor completes all required paperwork at the time of roster submission.

(b) An agriculture, food and natural resources teacher may petition for a course substitution waiver at the time of roster submission by submitting the following documentation:

- (1) Verification by a campus or district administrator that the certified agriculture, food and natural resources instructor(s) is/are teaching the class.
- (2) A list of students who are in the class and desiring membership.
- (3) The approved SAE activities which are going to be used to document a supervised experience program which is required by the constitution. These activities shall closely match the TEKS for the course being taught.
- (4) A waiver shall be issued to verify approval of the substitution for participation, recognition and scholarship purposes. It shall be the responsibility of the local advisor to maintain records of such substitutions.

(c) All such substitutions shall be reviewed by the Executive Director. The Texas FFA Association shall reserve all discretionary authority concerning the approval of any class substitution. Approval may be contingent on specified conditions or amendments to the request; all such conditions or amendments must be addressed for the substitution to remain valid.