

2025–2026 Competitive Events Changes

Middle School



For specific information regarding competitive events guidelines, visit the individual guidelines from [this page](#).

High Level Changes for the 2026 National Leadership Conference

For the Middle School Competitive Events program, the National FBLA Competitive Events Committee carefully analyzed state survey results, state course offerings, and state standards. The Middle School competitive events lineup was reviewed to ensure alignment with High School competitive events and career pathways. To guide our focus on career pathways, the Advance CTE's [Career Cluster Framework](#) was used as a foundational reference to inform the changes outlined in this document.

Overall Changes

- Refreshed rating sheets and streamlined scoring process
- Competencies & Tasks have been updated in some Objective Test events. These are now called Knowledge Areas and Objectives.
- Clarification of use of judge table
- Career Cluster Framework Connections have been added to the educational alignment areas.
- Additional NACE Competencies have been added to the educational alignment areas.

Career Exploration

- Updated Knowledge Areas and Objectives

Exploring Accounting and Finance

- **New Event:** Individual Event, Objective Test
Rationale for Change: Adding this event to address the Financial Services Cluster and FBLA "pathway" to High School Accounting/Finance events.

Exploring Agribusiness

- **New Event:** Individual Event, Objective Test
Rationale for Change: Adding this event to address the Agriculture Cluster and FBLA "pathway" to High School Agribusiness event

Exploring Animation

- **New Event:** Team Event, Presentation with a Prejudge Video
Rationale for Change: Adding this event with a pre-judge project to address the Arts, Entertainment, & Design Cluster and FBLA "pathway" to High School event Digital Animation

Exploring Business Communication

- **New Event:** Individual Event, Objective Test
Rationale for Change: Adding this event to address the Marketing & Sales Cluster and FBLA "pathway" to High School events Introduction to Business Communication and Business Communication

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Exploring Business Ethics

- Updated Knowledge Areas and Objectives

Exploring Business Concepts

- New Event: Individual Event, Objective Test
Rationale for Change: Adding this event to address the Management & Entrepreneurship and FBLA “pathway” to High School event Introduction to Business Concepts.

Exploring Coding & Programming

- Formerly named ‘Video Game Challenge’
- Team Event, Presentation
- Event not eligible for those that placed in the top ten at previous NLCs in Video Game Challenge
Rationale for Change: Renaming to better share the focus of the event and to align these events to their High School equivalent and the Middle School Exploring naming convention.

Exploring Computer Applications

- Event has been retired
Rationale for Change: This event was split into three individual events – Slide Deck Applications, Spreadsheet Applications, Word Processing.

Exploring Computer Science

- Updated Knowledge Areas and Objectives

Exploring Customer Service

- **New Event:** Individual Event, Role Play (no objective test)
Rationale for Change: Focused role play on the Hospitality, Event, and Tourism Cluster and Marketing & Sales Cluster as FBLA “pathway” to High School event Customer Service.

Exploring Digital Video Production

- **New Event:** Team Event, Presentation with a Prejudge Video
Rationale for Change: Adding this event with a pre-judge project to address the Arts, Entertainment, & Design Cluster and FBLA “pathway” to High School event Digital Video Production.

Exploring FBLA

- Formerly named FBLA Concepts
- Individual Event, Objective Test
- Event not eligible for those that placed in the top ten at previous NLCs in FBLA Concepts
Rationale for Change: Renaming to better share the focus of the event and to align these events to their High School equivalent and the Middle School Exploring naming convention.

Exploring Economics

- Updated Knowledge Areas and Objectives

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Exploring Leadership

- Updated Knowledge Areas and Objectives

Exploring Management & Entrepreneurship

- Formerly named Critical Thinking
- Team Event, Role Play
Rationale for Change: Renaming to better share the focus of the event and to align these events to their High School equivalent and the Middle School Exploring naming convention.

Exploring Marketing Concepts

- New Event: Individual Event, Objective Test
Rationale for Change: Adding this event to address Marketing & Sales Cluster and FBLA “pathway” to Middle School Marketing Strategies event and High School events Introduction to Marketing Concepts and Marketing.

Exploring Marketing Strategies

- Formerly named Marketing Mix Challenge
- Team Event, Presentation
- Event not eligible for those that placed in the top ten at previous NLCs in Marketing Mix Challenge
Rationale for Change: Renaming to better share the focus of the event and to align these events to their High School equivalent and the Middle School Exploring naming convention.

Exploring Personal Finance

- Formerly named Financial Literacy
- Individual Event, Objective Test
- Updated Knowledge Areas and Objectives
- Event not eligible for those that placed in the top ten at previous NLCs in Financial Literacy
Rationale for Change: Renaming to better share the focus of the event and to align these events to their High School equivalent and the Middle School Exploring naming convention.

Exploring Professionalism

- Formerly named Business Etiquette
- Individual Event, Objective Test
- Event not eligible for those that placed in the top ten at previous NLCs in Business Etiquette
Rationale for Change: Renaming to better share the focus of the event and to align these events to their High School equivalent and the Middle School Exploring naming convention.

Exploring Technology

- Updated Knowledge Areas and Objectives

FBLA Mission & Pledge

- Event has been retired
Rationale for Change: This event was deemed to not align with the career cluster framework or provide career readiness preparation.

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Learning Strategies

- Event has been retired
Rationale for Change: This event was deemed to not align with the career cluster framework or provide career readiness preparation.

Slide Deck Applications

- **New Event:** Individual Event, Production (no objective test)
Rationale for Change: Adding this event to address Business Information Management Sub Cluster and FBLA "pathway" to High School event Computer Applications.

Spreadsheet Applications

- **New Event:** Individual Event, Production (no objective test)
Rationale for Change: Adding this event to address Business Information Management Sub Cluster and FBLA "pathway" to High school event Computer Applications.

Word Processing

- **New Event:** Individual Event, Production (no objective test)
Rationale for Change: Adding this event to address Business Information Management Sub Cluster and FBLA "pathway" to High School event Computer Applications.