



National FFA Affiliation Membership

Definition, Process and Procedures for Chapters

What is Program Affiliation?

Program affiliation allows students who are enrolled in an agricultural education program to be eligible for the benefits and opportunities of FFA as a part of the total program delivery. This plan also focuses on the development of essential employability, participative and attitude development skills as called for in the U.S. Department of Labor's Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS) Report. Under program affiliation, all students are FFA members. All students in the local agricultural education program are enrolled using a scaled affiliation fee.

Philosophy of Program Affiliation:

- Involvement in FFA is an integral part of an agricultural education program and therefore should not be optional.
- Participating in FFA activities helps students develop additional employability skills that cannot be duplicated at the classroom level.
- Students understand the role and importance of professional associations in America's workforce.
- Students receiving education through a complete agricultural education program will not only enjoy a well-rounded educational experience that leads to higher career satisfaction rates but will also experience significantly decreased drop-out rates and overall higher grade point averages.
- Twenty-first century skill development through FFA is not for only a select few, but should be offered to every student in every class, every day.

What are the benefits of Program Affiliation?

- **Eliminate dues collection.** One fee covers all students in the agricultural education program. Please note that affiliation on the chapter level is designed to eliminate individual dues. As a part of this program, local dues may not be collected. Other fees may be collected by the school under curriculum or activity fees in accordance with local or state policy.
- **Saves time.** Saves time in persuading students to join, collection of individual dues, writing receipts and handling money from members. This is a waste of many hours of valuable class time that could be spent working to engage students.
- **FFA is integral.** Repositions FFA as an integral part of agricultural education in the classroom and helps remove the club connotation. Every student is a member, providing the teacher the option to engage all students in the three circle model during all classes.
- **No money changes hands.** Eliminates handling money several times by teachers, students and everyone involved in the process.
- **Easy to budget.** Allows ability to budget affiliation fee in advance for local programs and states.
- **Missing students.** If a teacher/state staff discovers that a student has accidentally been left off a roster, that student can be added at any time without having to pay additional dues, as long as adding that student does not push the total membership number to the next level. This is beneficial to students applying for scholarships, awards and the American Degree. Please note, if the national FFA membership team (or associated staff member) discovers the student is not a current member (or is missing a past year of membership), the current policy of charging a \$25 handling fee per member will still be implemented.
- **Meets National Standards.** Automatically makes the program exemplary in Standard 3: Leadership Development, Quality Indicator #1 of the National Quality Program Standards (NQPS) for Agricultural Education approved by the National Council of Agricultural Education. For a copy of NQPS [click here](#).

Affiliation Policies for Local FFA Chapters:

- No affiliated fee or dues should be collected from individual students in programs participating in the Affiliation Fee Program. Alternative funding sources must be used to pay affiliation fee so all agricultural education students have opportunities in FFA as a part of the three-circle model of agricultural education.
- Program affiliation fees are for one year (September 1 – August 31).
- States must declare affiliated chapters by the **October 30** cutoff unless prior authorization is obtained by The National FFA Organization. This is to ensure correct invoicing is completed, and other possible issues may be resolved.
- Multi-year membership packages (student 3-year and student 4-year) are not allowed as affiliation is an ongoing annual program based on actual student numbers in ag education that cannot be paid for in advance.
- Affiliated chapters will submit roster(s) with required information including, but not limited to, address, gender, grade level, etc. This information will be gathered in accordance with current state FFA membership processes.
- The affiliation rosters will include unduplicated individual names and addresses of the following:
 - All **secondary school students (National FFA Constitution defines secondary education as grades 7 - 12)** enrolled in all agricultural education classes and/or eligible for active FFA membership.
 - All **graduated students** wishing to continue active FFA membership.
 - All **middle school students** that choose to be active FFA members or are required by state determination.
 - NOTE: Only for middle school students that are part of a high school chapter, not for standalone chartered middle school programs.
- **Standalone CHARTERED middle school** FFA chapters may choose to affiliate and would then submit a roster based on true agricultural education enrollment. If the program includes middle school students participating in 'exploratory' offerings (e.g. those less than 9 weeks in length), some exclusions may apply. With **state association approval**, students receiving only an orientation to agriculture rather than career and/or technical instruction in agricultural education and who are not directly involved in the FFA program of activities, may be excluded from the affiliation count and should not be entered into AgCN until such time as they are enrolled in agricultural education. Please refer to **state** policy or guidelines on such exclusions.
- **Determination of Affiliation Program Fee**
For the first year, the program affiliation fee is determined by total Ag Ed enrollment on April 1 of the membership year. Invoicing for first year will be completed by April 15. The **first year fee** structure will be determined by totaling the following:
 - Secondary agriculture education student enrollment,
 - Middle school students (part of a chartered high school chapter) and other students eligible for active FFA membership within the chapter and/or state requirements,
 - All graduated students continuing active FFA membership.
- **Continuing Participation**
Subsequent year's program affiliation fee pricing will be based on total end of year enrollment determined on Aug. 31 of the previous membership year.

Example:

Total Ag Ed enrollment from roster(s) received by April 1 = 100

Invoice will be created and determined by April 15

Additional 10 members received between April 2 and August 30

Invoice for following year will be based on 110 student members as of August 31

- The state FFA association and The National FFA Organization will not request payment of membership dues from any student who moves from an affiliated program to a nonaffiliated chapter. Once a roster is received and membership is established, a student will remain a member for the entire membership year with the same membership number.
- Participation in the affiliation fee program is designed to be ongoing. Chapters that sign up for affiliation must remain affiliated chapters unless they receive approval from the state association and national organization. If an affiliated chapter chooses to leave the program, that chapter can no longer participate in the affiliation program unless the whole state adopts 100% affiliation membership.



Chapter Affiliation Agreement

Chapter: _____ State Association _____

Signatures below indicate that parties involved have an understanding of timelines, policies and expectations associated with affiliation including:

1. No affiliated fee or dues should be collected from individual students in programs participating in the Affiliation Fee Program. Alternative funding sources must be used to pay affiliation fee.
2. The affiliation rosters will include unduplicated individual names and addresses of the following:
 - All secondary school students enrolled in all agricultural education classes and/or eligible for active FFA membership.
 - All graduated students wishing to continue active FFA membership.
 - All middle school students that choose to be active FFA members or are required by state determination.
NOTE: Only for middle school students that are part of a high school chapter, not for standalone chartered middle school programs.
3. Multi-year membership packages (student 3-year and student 4-year) are not allowed as affiliation is an ongoing annual program based on actual student numbers in ag education that cannot be paid for in advance.
4. No student can be marked as “ag ed only” in an affiliation chapter. All secondary students in ag education are considered FFA members entered as “student 1-year”.
5. Participation in the affiliation fee program is designed to be **ongoing**. Chapters that sign up for affiliation must remain affiliated chapters unless they receive a dispensation from their state FFA association and The National FFA Organization. If an affiliated chapter chooses to leave the program, that chapter can no longer participate in the affiliation program unless the whole state adopts 100% affiliation membership.

Chapter President (required): _____ Date: _____

Advisor Signature (required): _____ Date: _____

School Principal Signature (required): _____ Date: _____

- 1) Keep a signed copy of this agreement for your records.
- 2) Return a signed copy of this form by **October 30** to your state FFA office (or earlier depending on your state deadline).