



FBLA AS A CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

The primary purpose of the Future Business Leaders of America is to provide, as an integral part of the instructional program, additional opportunities for business students to develop career and technical supportive competencies and to promote civic and personal responsibilities. It is intended that classroom and FBLA activities be integrated into the business courses to meet the needs of all students enrolled.

Virginia FBLA's bylaws (Article III, Membership, Section A, No. 1, Active Membership):

Any student not over 21 years of age who is regularly enrolled in a business subject or subjects in a public or private secondary school having a chartered chapter of FBLA is entitled to become an active member. A member may retain his or her active membership as long as he or she is enrolled in a business subject. Exception: A member who has attempted but is unable to enroll in a business course may also retain his or her active membership if he or she is a program completer or is an underclassman (sophomore/junior) following a sequential program offering.

Each state can establish its own membership requirements. Virginia's Executive Board maintains that for FBLA to be co-curricular, the organization's members and activities must support and be an integral part of the instructional program.

FBLA members who have disabilities add an important dimension to the organization. They serve as models within the profession and to students, and they provide guidance on program needs, sensitivity, and accessibility. Encourage active participation by these valuable members.

Every FBLA activity does not readily lend itself to the enhancement of specific business knowledge and skills. Some activities contribute to other areas of individual development such as citizenship and pride in accomplishment.

Virginia educators may borrow or purchase the FBLA middle school curriculum, *Experiencing Leadership—Helping Middle Level Students Through Change*, from the CTE Resource Center. To order, contact the CTE Resource Center at 804.673.3778.

FBLA's organizational structure allows flexibility in each school. It is possible to provide activities for all students enrolled in business courses by organizing the chapter into mini-chapters. These mini-chapters may be organized by special interest groups or by the periods of the school day. NOTE: One revision to the State Board of Education's approved CTE regulations is that beginning July 1, 2002, schools MUST have an affiliated CTE student organization for each program they offer at the secondary level.