

Massachusetts Future Business Leaders of America

**STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE
GUIDE & APPLICATION
2020 EDITION**

Dear FBLA Member,

Congratulations! You have taken the first step toward serving as a state officer of Massachusetts Future Business Leaders of America. Being a state officer is one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences you can have as a member of FBLA. It takes commitment and responsibility, but it's also a lot of fun.

Before you begin, read this guide thoroughly. Be sure to pay attention to this important information:

- The receipt deadline for applications is March 15
- Candidates must upload an application form with the required signatures AND a resume AND take an exam. Incomplete applications will not be accepted
- Candidates may be interviewed prior to the conference in order to be approved to run for office at the State Leadership Conference
- Campaigning and elections will occur at the State Leadership Conference, and elected candidates will meet over the summer to plan the year's activities

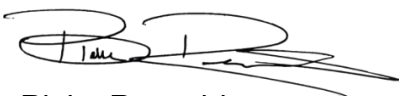
Running for FBLA state office is a major decision for a member who wants to become more involved with the organization at the state and/or national level. Serving at this level takes time and means added responsibility for the officer as well as their local chapter adviser. Officers must plan to attend monthly meetings and/or conferences, assume leadership roles in the State Chapter, communicate often with other officers and chapters, and provide guidance to other chapters throughout the State. In addition, the National Fall Leadership Conference and National Leadership Conference are events that officers and advisers should consider attending.

Your fellow FBLA members from across Massachusetts will vote for their choice at the State Leadership Conference. State officers will be selected based the results of the vote and, in the case of a tie or vacant office, on interview performance, experience, test scores, and their desire to grow and foster MA FBLA.

Candidates and advisers alike should be prepared to fully uphold the expectations and responsibilities of the position the student is applying for.

If you have any questions regarding the state officer application process or about the attached documentation, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Good luck!



Blake Reynolds
State Chairperson
blake@mafbla.org



Ryan Paul
State Adviser
ryan@mafbla.org

OFFICER POSITIONS

IMPORTANT NOTE: Except for Executive VP, candidates no longer run for a specific office. All candidates will run for “State Officer” and positions will be determined after the State Leadership Conference. See page 7 for details on voting procedures.

President

- Presides over and conducts efficient meetings of the state leadership team
- Leads the development and implementation of the state program of work
- Serves as the chair of the Presidents Council
- Contributes content for the state email blasts, website, and social media sites
- Makes chapter visits as directed by the State Chairperson
- Encourages participation of all members in an enthusiastic manner

Vice President of Membership

- Leads development and implementation of membership recruitment plan
- Organizes sponsorship program and works to secure sponsors
- Serves as the chair of the Membership Committee, and appoints committee members
- Contributes content for the state email blasts, website, and social media sites
- Makes chapter visits as directed by the State Chairperson
- Encourages participation of all members in an enthusiastic manner

Vice President of Programs

- Leads development and implementation of plan to promote participation in programs
- Maintains relationships with service organizations including March of Dimes
- Serves as the chair of the Programs Committee, and appoints committee members
- Contributes content for the state email blasts, website, and social media sites
- Makes chapter visits as directed by the State Chairperson
- Encourages participation of all members in an enthusiastic manner

Vice President of Communication

- Takes detailed minutes at each state leadership team and committee meeting, compiling in the official minutes template and distributing within 24 hours
- Maintains the state program of work
- Leads planning, content development, and distribution of state email blasts and social media sites
- Contributes content for state website
- Makes chapter visits as directed by the State Chairperson
- Encourages participation of all members in an enthusiastic manner

Executive Vice President

- Available only to candidates running for national office
- See full guidelines on the next page

NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATES

Members interested in running for the national offices of President, Regional Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer must be endorsed by the state delegation by running for the office of State Executive Vice President. To do this, they must submit an application, participate in the screening process and be approved to run, and receive a majority of votes as is outlined in the state officer election process.

If approved to run at the State Leadership Conference, candidates for national office must work closely with the State Chairperson and State Adviser in preparing their campaign for the National Leadership Conference. Once approved, the national officer candidate must present all campaign materials prior to finalizing, submitting, or printing—including campaign plan, timeline, organization, materials, budget, platform, booth designs, speech, and Q&A practice.

If elected to national office, all national officer duties will be a priority and state duties may be purposefully vague. While they will receive a reduced workload in recognition of their national officer duties, the national officer will still be expected to participate in state officer team activities, all meetings, and state officer assignments.

During their term as a national officer, officers must copy the State Chairperson and State Adviser on all official FBLA communication and correspondence in fulfillment of both state and national officer duties. They must keep the State Chairperson and State Adviser apprised of national officer assignments and progress toward completion of those assignments.

The position of National Parliamentarian is appointed based on performance in an exam. Members interested in pursuing the office of National Parliamentarian must submit an application for state office as outlined in this document and be approved by the candidate screening committee, however they will not need to be approved by a majority vote in an election. If appointed to the position of National Parliamentarian and not already on the state officer team, they will be appointed to serve as an ex-officio member of the state officer team.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. In order to be eligible for state officer, all candidates must:
 - Have at least one full year remaining in his/her high school program
 - Have a cumulative 2.5 GPA and maintain that GPA throughout term in office
 - Be an active dues paying member during his/her term of service
 - Be endorsed by the local chapter adviser, school principal, and by his/her chapter
 - File a completed State Officer Application with the State Chairperson by the date indicated in this guide
2. Candidates seeking the office of State President must have been an active dues paying member for at least one academic year prior to their term of office, and must have held a local or state office for at least one term.

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

A full application consists of two parts: the application form on the last page of this document and a resume. These must be uploaded to the document vault at mafbla.org/slc by the stated deadline. The application form must include a signature from the candidate and his/her principal, local chapter adviser, and parent/guardian. Applications missing any of these signatures will not be accepted. A resume — highlighting the candidate’s education, work, and FBLA experience along with any other relevant information such as hobbies and other extracurricular activities — must be submitted along with the application form.

If the number of applicants is fewer than the number of positions available as of the stated deadline, notice will be sent to local chapters and the application deadline will be extended by one week. If there are still not enough applicants by the extended deadline, eligible members may apply for office after the State Leadership Conference. The State Chairperson will manage this process and appoint officers to any vacant position(s).

OFFICER CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Applicants for elected offices may complete an interview with the officer screening committee, consisting of members of the state leadership team. Interviews will be via conference call prior to the SLC. If desired, candidates may invite their local adviser and their campaign manager to call in and listen to, but not participate in, the officer candidate interview.

If a current state officer is running for state office again, he or she will not participate as part of the screening committee. Only candidates who are certified by the officer screening committee become official candidates and are eligible to run for elected office. Candidates may be disqualified from running for office for any reason at the discretion of the committee.

EXAM

Candidates are required to take the Introduction to FBLA written exam during online testing prior to the SLC. Instructions will be sent to local advisers and tests must be administered by a proctor following the online testing guidelines. Candidates do not need to register for this test and it does not count toward the maximum allowed number of competitive events.

CAMPAIGNING

Official campaigning begins with candidate speeches as part of the general session at the State Leadership Conference, and continues until the beginning of the voting session. All campaigning must take place in the designated campaign areas. Campaigning is strictly prohibited at any other time and location. Materials may not be placed on chairs or tables, and signs may not be displayed except for in the designated campaign area.

CAMPAIGN SPEECHES

Candidates for state office will deliver their speeches during the campaign rally portion of the general session at the State Leadership Conference. The following rules apply:

- All campaign speeches are limited to a total of two minutes. The time is monitored and strictly enforced.
- No audio-visual equipment may be used during campaign speeches.
- The dress code must always be followed.
- Only the state officer candidate may participate in the campaign speech (i.e., no introductions, skits, campaign managers, or props).

CAMPAIGN LITERATURE AND MATERIALS

Each candidate will have a small space available to display campaign materials such as brochures, business cards, display boards, etc. These are not campaign booths, as candidates should not be present in this area throughout the day. Conference attendees are welcome to pick up materials at their convenience but should not congregate in the area.

State officer candidates, their adviser(s), and their campaign staff should set out materials during conference on-site registration. State officer candidates must pick up any remaining materials before leaving the conference. Any materials that are deemed inappropriate by the State Chairperson must be removed.

Candidates will be assigned an area to leave their materials. A portion of a table will be provided. Any campaigning outside of this area is prohibited. All candidates and campaign staff in the campaign area must be dressed in business attire.

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

Registered voting delegates will have the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates during the scheduled Question & Answer Session. There will be an allotted time for voting delegates to ask questions, and each candidate will answer each question. Inappropriate, irrelevant, or specific questions may be thrown out by the moderator.

TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for state officers begins at the conclusion of state officer training, and ends when their successor completes training. If an officer is not continuing to serve the following year, at the discretion of the State Chairperson, they may be asked to assist with transitioning projects to the new officer team in an ex-officio capacity for the remainder of the school year.

VOTING

State officer elections will take place during the voting session at the conference. Each chapter present for the voting session is allowed a maximum of two voting delegates.

Candidates do not apply for a specific office. Instead, they will run to be elected as a state officer at large. The candidates equal to the number of offices available will be elected to office and the newly-elected officer team — along with the State Chairperson — will collectively determine which officer will assume each position.

All state officer candidates will be listed on the ballot in alphabetical order by last name, then first name. The candidates with the most number of votes will be elected to state office, up to the numbers of positions available. In the event of a tie, recommendations from the screening committee candidate interview will be used to determine the winner.

ELECTION RESULTS

Election results will be announced during the closing session.

STATE OFFICER TRAINING

State officer training is required of all newly elected state officers. There are no exceptions.

The training will occur shortly after the State Leadership Conference and officers are expected to develop the state Program of Work before school ends for the summer. A date will be determined following the State Leadership Conference to accommodate schedules.

CAMPAIGN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CANDIDATES

State officer candidates are prohibited from contacting members from other chapters regarding their candidacy prior to the State Leadership Conference. This includes, but is not limited to, posting their intent to run for state office on web pages, including websites, on state and national message boards, Facebook, Twitter, other social media sources, in email messages, or in print. Candidates cannot create a campaign website or electronic campaign application (such as apps for smartphones, iPads, etc.).

Current state and national officers cannot endorse or support the campaign for any candidate, including serving as a campaign manager.

COMPLIANCE NOTICE

Failure to comply with any of these guidelines may result in disqualification.

COMPETITIVE EVENTS

State officers may compete, as would any other member, in competitive events (individual, team, or chapter) at the State Leadership Conference.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much work should I be expecting?

Your workload will vary throughout the year and is largely dependent on each month's activities. Plan to dedicate at least 2-3 hours per week toward FBLA responsibilities.

How much money is it going to cost me if elected?

Massachusetts FBLA covers several expenses for state officers, including a nametag and matching ties/scarves as part of the officer uniforms and some costs associated with official state functions. National events remain the responsibility of each individual officer. Financial requirements are minimal and should never be a reason to pass up the amazing opportunity to serve as a state officer.

What is the best part of the job?

The best part of being a state officer is meeting new people and constantly challenging yourself. You will encounter a lot of challenges as you go through this process, but they are all fantastic growth opportunities. Stepping out of your comfort zone and meeting new people is always scary at first, but you may discover that you are great at it!

What should I expect from the experience?

Expect to work hard and gain valuable leadership skills every day that you are an officer. The workload is completely manageable as long as you learn to balance FBLA with other aspects of your life. You will face challenges, but you will overcome them through hard work and persistence. Don't be afraid to ask questions!

How much traveling is involved?

Multiple times throughout the year, the state officers will be traveling throughout Massachusetts and may have the opportunity to attend other events outside the state. In addition to the state officer meetings and conferences, you will be visiting local chapters.

Who do I contact when I have questions?

Feel free to reach out to any current or past state officers, or our state advisers, Blake Reynolds & Ryan Paul, at advisers@mafbla.org. We're happy to answer any questions.

STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE AGREEMENT

Serving as a Massachusetts FBLA state officer requires a commitment on the part of all parties concerned. In order to make that commitment, each party must understand their responsibility. By signing the candidate application, all parties agree to the responsibilities and qualifications outlined in this candidate guide.

If elected, the candidate agrees to:

- Perform to the best of his/her ability the duties of the elected office per the Chapter Management Handbook and the State Officer Candidate Guide.
- Participate in all activities scheduled by the Massachusetts FBLA State Board.
Note: State Leadership Conference takes precedence over prom, athletics, and other activities. If you decide to attend an activity that conflicts with the State Leadership Conference, you will not participate at the State Leadership Conference or be eligible to compete in any events.
- Attend monthly State Board meetings. These meetings may be held online or in person. Missing more than three (3) meetings in the course of the school year will be grounds for impeachment at the discretion of the State Chairperson.
- Make at least three (3) different local chapter visits prior to January 31st of the school year. Failure to do so will be grounds for impeachment at the discretion of the State Chairperson.

The candidate's parents agree to:

- Permit the candidate to participate in all scheduled Massachusetts state and local chapter activities.
- Encourage the candidate to take full benefit of the leadership development experience.

The candidate's adviser and school principal agree to:

- Recommend for state office only those candidates who are qualified.
- Perform to the best of his/her ability the duties of the adviser per the Chapter Management Handbook.
- Ensure the candidate's attendance at all Massachusetts state and their local chapter activities.
- Allow the candidate excused absences for all Massachusetts FBLA activities.

STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE APPLICATION

To apply for a state office, submit your **resume** and the **application form** below in PDF format (complete with *all* necessary signatures).

Your application must be received on or by March 15.

Upload to the document vault at mafbla.org/slc.

Full Name: _____

School Name: _____

Graduation Year: _____

Home Telephone: _(_____) _____

Cell Telephone: _(_____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

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

Home Address: _____

Street

City

Zip Code

Seeking the office of: State Officer National Officer

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand this document, including the candidate agreement, and the requirements for serving as a Massachusetts FBLA state officer.

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____

Adviser Signature: _____ Date: _____

School Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____