



# 2025 STATE LEADERSHIP *Conference*

**APRIL 7, 2025**

**Bentley University  
9am-2pm**

**AWARDS  
GUEST SPEAKERS  
WORKSHOPS  
NETWORKING  
PREJUDGED  
COMPETITIVE EVENTS**



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# KEY DATES & DEADLINES

**REMINDER: Full payment must be received by the stated deadline.**

**Registration type will be changed if payments are received after the due dates indicated.**

- March 1                      Registration and payment receipt deadline for early bird registration  
Membership registration dues deadline for national competitive events  
Receipt deadline for the following recognition event:  
    – Business Achievement Awards
- March 14                     Registration and payment receipt deadline for regular registration  
Last day to register for competitive events  
Last day to submit name changes if substituted member is competing  
State Council candidate applications due  
Receipt deadline for the following recognition event:  
    – Outstanding Local Chapter
- March 21-28                 Competitive event written exam on-site testing
- March 28                     Registration and payment receipt deadline for late registration  
Last day to submit name changes for members who aren't competing
- April 7                        State Leadership Conference at Bentley University

# TENTATIVE AGENDA

*DRAFT - SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

Chapters should plan to arrive by 8:30 a.m. and stay until 2:30 p.m.

Competitive event winners must be present to collect their award and will be disqualified if they leave the conference early.

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.   | Registration  |
| 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.   | Breakfast and Networking <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Coffee, Juice &amp; Assorted Baked Goods</i></li></ul>  |
| 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  | Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Welcome from State Chair, Blake Reynolds and National Eastern Region VP, Vedika Deshpande</i></li><li>• <i>Welcome from Bentley University</i></li><li>• <i>Icebreaker – led by current and former national officers</i></li></ul> |
| 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Workshops & Networking <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Workshop options to be announced</i></li></ul>  |
| 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Boxed lunch includes assorted sandwiches, veggie sticks and dip, fruit, chips, cookie, and soda or bottled water</i></li></ul>   |
| 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  | Workshops & Networking <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Workshop options to be announced</i></li></ul>  |
| 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.   | Closing Session & Awards of Excellence  |

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

## REGISTRATION FEES

Early Bird	\$65 for members or \$50 for advisers <i>Registration forms and payment must be received by March 1</i>
Regular	\$75 for members or \$50 for advisers <i>Registration forms and payment must be received by March 14</i>
Late	\$90 for members or \$50 for advisers <i>Registration forms and payment must be received by March 28</i>

Registration fees are non-refundable. If a member is unable to attend the conference after submitting registration and payment, another member can be substituted in their place. Name change requests should be emailed to [advisers@mafbla.org](mailto:advisers@mafbla.org). If submitted by March 14, the substituted member may participate in the same competitive events as the original member and must be on the same team(s) as the original member (if applicable). If submitted between March 15-28, the substituted member may not compete in events.

Student attendees must be paid members of FBLA. In order to attend the State Leadership Conference, students must be registered through the national online membership registration system, FBLA Connect, and have paid dues prior to the conference. In order to compete at the State Leadership Conference, members must be registered through FBLA Connect and have paid dues to the national center in order to be received and processed by March 1.

## ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TIME

Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. Please plan to arrive no later than 8:30 a.m. to register and eat breakfast prior to the opening session. Everyone should be seated by 9:00 a.m. so we can begin the program on time.

The closing session will end by 2:00 p.m. Please make arrangements with conference participants to stay for the duration of the closing session. **Members who leave prior to receiving an award will forfeit their award.**

# HOW TO REGISTER

Massachusetts FBLA uses a vendor called Blue Panda to manage registration and on-site written competitive events. These instructions will detail how to use the site to register for SLC. Additional information on how to administer your chapter's competitive events through Blue Panda will be separately communicated to chapters.

Accounts with FBLA Connect enabled can use the FBLA Connect login button and enter their national credentials to login and access their chapter account(s). These account(s) are automatically updated when you login with the latest chapter assignments.



- Go to website <https://app.gobluepanda.com>
- Click “Login with FBLA Connect”
- Enter your FBLA Connect login on the FBLA Connect login screen – Username/Password
- Click Login

# OCONNECT

Email Address

Password

[Forgot Your Password?](#)

Login

Note: If you forgot your password, click the “Forgot Your Password?” link on the FBLA Connect login screen.

- Select your chapter using the drop down at the top.
- Your chapter and registration options will then appear below for that chapter.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://app.gobluepanda.com>. The page header includes the 'BLUE panda' logo and a user profile for 'Zach Groff'. A dropdown menu is open, showing 'Test Root Org | Test High School (FBLA Connect)' selected. Below this, a 'Refresh' button is visible. The main content area is titled 'Test High School (FBLA Connect)' and contains a form with fields for Name, Organization, Address, Phone Number, and Fax Number. Below the form is a 'My Events' section with tabs for 'Current Events' and 'Past Events'. A single event, 'Demo Conference', is listed with the status 'Not Started'. The event details include 'TEST LOCATION', dates '5/1/2019 - 5/3/2019', and a deadline of '4/1/2019 1:00:00 AM (EDT -0400)'. A 'Register' button is located at the bottom right of the event card.

Once registered, pay via credit card, or print and mail the invoice along with payment (**checks payable to “Massachusetts FBLA”**) to:

Massachusetts FBLA  
c/o Blake Reynolds  
234 County Street  
Attleboro, MA 02703

Registration and payment must be received by the deadlines above, not postmarked, or additional charges may apply. Be sure to submit your check requests early.

Advisers/chaperones must be registered at the time of submission, otherwise the registration will be rejected.

## COMPETITIVE EVENT REGISTRATION

Competitive event registration is completed via Blue Panda during the conference registration process. Be sure to review the state competitive event guidelines at [mafbla.org](http://mafbla.org) prior to the conference. National event guidelines only apply at the National Leadership Conference.

**Remember: Members may compete in a maximum of four (4) events at the State Leadership Conference.**

Members who have previously competed in an Awards Program event at a National Leadership Conference are not permitted to compete in the same event at the State Leadership Conference unless one of the following circumstances applies:

- Modified Events: A competitor may compete in the same event (if the event was modified at the NLC—not SLC).
- Team Events: One competitor of the team may have competed in the same event at one previous NLC; however, they may not compete more than twice in the same event at the national level.
- Individual Entry: A competitor who competed as an individual entry in a team event at the national level may compete in the same event a second time as part of a team, but not a second time as an individual.

Login information for written exam testing will be emailed to advisers. Online exams will be taken on-site at your school on March 21-28. Instructions for online testing will be sent in a separate communication to local chapter advisers. The testing system will close at 5pm on March 28 and cannot be extended.



Please note that **up to four (4) business days are required from the time registration is submitted until student logins are available**. Please submit registration as soon as possible to ensure your logins are available before testing opens. If you wait until the last minute to register, you may miss the first few days of testing.

# COMPETITIVE EVENTS

## 2025 COMPETITIVE EVENTS

*All competitive events this year are online, individual tests*

- Accounting
- Economics
- Entrepreneurship
- Healthcare Administration
- Human Resource Management
- Introduction to Business Concepts (Grades 9 and 10 only)
- Marketing
- Organizational Leadership
- Personal Finance
- Sports & Entertainment Management

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONLINE TESTING

Instructions for online testing will be sent in a separate communication to local chapter advisers.

# STATE COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Local chapters are encouraged to nominate 1-2 of their chapter leaders for the State Council.

Serving at the state level 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 student as well as their local chapter adviser. Council members must plan to attend monthly meetings and/or conferences, assume leadership roles in the State Chapter, communicate often with other Council members 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 Council members and advisers should consider attending.

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

In order to be eligible for State Council, all candidates must:

- Currently serve in a leadership role in their local chapter
- Have at least one full year remaining in his/her high school program
- Have a cumulative 2.5 GPA and maintain that GPA throughout the term
- 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

## TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for State Council members is approximately one (1) year and begins at the conclusion of Council member training and ends when their successor completes training. If a Council member 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 Council team in an ex-officio capacity for the remainder of the school year.

## STATE COUNCIL TRAINING

State Council training is required of all new Council members. There are no exceptions.

The training will occur shortly after the State Leadership Conference and Council members 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.

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

## COMPETITIVE EVENTS

State Council members 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 Council member. Financial requirements are minimal and should never be a reason to pass up the amazing opportunity to serve as a State Council member.

### **What is the best part of the job?**

The best part of being a State Council member 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 a State Council member. 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 Council members may be traveling throughout Massachusetts and may have the opportunity to attend other events outside the state. In addition to the State Council meetings and conferences, you may be visiting local chapters.

### **Who do I contact when I have questions?**

Feel free to reach out to any current or past state officers/Council members, or our state advisers, Blake Reynolds & Ryan Paul, at [advisers@mafbla.org](mailto:advisers@mafbla.org). We're happy to answer any questions.

# STATE COUNCIL MEMBER AGREEMENT

Serving as a Massachusetts FBLA State Council member requires a commitment on the part of all parties concerned. In order to make that commitment, each party must understand their responsibility. All parties agree to the responsibilities and qualifications outlined below.

## **If elected, the candidate agrees to:**

- Perform to the best of his/her ability the duties per the Chapter Management Handbook and the State Council 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 Council 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 31<sup>st</sup> of the school year. These may be online or in-person. Failure to do so will be grounds for impeachment at the discretion of the State Chairperson.

## **The candidate's parents agree to:**

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

## **The candidate's adviser and school principal agree to:**

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