



Georgia FFA Association Plan for Statewide Affiliation Beginning in 2019-20 School Year

Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, Georgia will become a full Affiliation state. That means that all students enrolled in all Agricultural Education classes at state recognized Agricultural Education programs in Georgia will be FFA members.

Fees

High School - \$9.05 per student (\$5.05 national / \$4.00 state) enrolled in AgEd classes.

Middle School - \$900 flat fee (\$300 national / \$600 state) that covers all students enrolled in AgEd classes.

National FFA no longer implies regulations on collection of funds to pay Affiliation fees. Local chapters can decide how they will generate the money for their fees; including seeking funding from their local school system due to changes in Perkins V regulations allowing for CTSO engagement.

State Roster System

Agricultural Education teachers and FFA advisors in Georgia will still complete their local FFA chapter roster through the Georgia Agricultural Education website. The roster portion of the website will experience some format changes to encompass the Affiliation model for all chapters. Teachers will see the revised roster website in July at the GVATA Summer Conference and will have access to it shortly after.

Changes will include: No need to declare Affiliation (all chapters will be Affiliated) and invoicing will reflect new fees and Affiliation terminology.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we making this change?

Moving to a statewide Affiliation program will remove the barrier(s) of FFA membership, whatever they may be, for all students enrolled in Agricultural Education classes. Each student's engagement may vary, but any obstacle of FFA membership has been removed. By being enrolled in an agricultural education class, a student will become an FFA member.

Protecting the integrity of the 3-Component Model (Classroom/Laboratory instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience, and FFA) is important. With the passage of SB330 in April of 2018, the 3-Component Model of Agricultural Education is no longer recognized only by AgEd/FFA, it is state law.

What is the financial impact of making this change?

This change will have a positive financial impact on local chapters and our state Association. More students will become FFA members at less cost. Prior this change, in chapters that had not already chosen the Affiliation option, all students (middle school & high school) paid \$11 each to be a state and national FFA member (\$7 national dues and \$4 state dues). In those chapters who did choose to Affiliate prior to this change, their Affiliation tiered fee was based on their enrollment. The fee for each tier was created using the \$11 per student model as it's base. By changing to a statewide Affiliation structure, all tiers are removed. The fee for high school FFA membership will be \$9.05 per student (\$5.05 for national fees and \$4.00 for state fees). All chapters will spend less per student to make all students FFA members.

In previous years for a Middle School agricultural education teacher to meet their standard of 80% membership meant having a minimum of 80 FFA members (80 x \$11 = \$880). Likewise, to earn 100% in FFA membership, meant having a minimum of 100 FFA members (100 x \$11 = \$1100). With this change, middle school teachers will pay \$900 and make all students FFA members.



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How can this change occur with no vote by delegates at the State FFA Convention?

The Georgia FFA constitution & Bylaws states that state dues shall be set by a vote at the annual convention. This change did not impact the fee associated with state dues, so no vote was necessary. Affiliation membership is recognized as a national membership program, and the portion being kept, per member, by Georgia FFA is still \$4. Any change in the Affiliation fee that impact the amount per member that the state Association receives would go before the voting delegates of the State Association for consideration.

What about students are enrolled in agricultural education classes who do not want to be members of the FFA?

It is important that our program protect the integrity of the 3-Component Model of Agricultural Education. Likewise, it is important to remember that Agricultural Education classes, while valuable, are elective courses. If a student is enrolled in agricultural education classes, then they are expected to adhere to the 3-Component Model of Agricultural Education according to SB330. Keep in mind that SAE and FFA involvement can and will look different for each student based on their interest, but there is still an expectation that each student in the program adheres all components of the Agricultural Education model.

What if our Middle School program is so small that it makes more sense financially to not pay the flat rate MS fee?

Middle School program that are very small can choose to utilize the per person fee rather than the \$900 flat fee. Middle School programs will need to declare with the state FFA office by September 1 if they do not want to follow the Middle School Flat Fee.

How will this impact the FFA membership expectations on my Program of Work?

Because all programs will now make all agricultural education students FFA members, this change will alleviate the concern of meeting the 80% membership standard on teacher Program of Work. The POW document has been updated, with GVATA Board approval, to reflect the Affiliation terminology beginning in 2019-20.

How can/should a chapter come up with funds to pay their Affiliation fee?

Because National FFA no longer plans to enforce a policy of not collecting money from students, a local chapter can raise the funds to pay their Affiliation fee however they choose. If the objective is to remove all barriers for FFA membership, including any financial barrier, local programs are encouraged to seek alternative funding sources to cover their Affiliation fees. With recent changes to Perkins V, local systems do have the opportunity to use Perkins funds to encourage CTSO engagement and eliminate barriers for participation.

What is the timetable for paying Affiliation fees?

The deadlines for submitting Enrollment & FFA membership will remain October 15 and April 1. Teachers are expected to have all students who enrolled in agricultural education classes in the Fall semester listed on their roster and submitted for membership by October 1. Realizing that many school systems use a semester system, and that students move, the April 1 deadline is for students who have begun taking agricultural education classes and need to be submitted for FFA membership in the second semester.