

**SECTION 40**  
**Area Scholarship Selection and Administration**  
**Adopted 9/22/2018**

*Section 40.1* **Operating Philosophy, General Criteria and Eligibility**

(a) The purpose of the Area XII FFA College Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance to the most capable and deserving FFA members from the Area XII FFA geographic area wishing to pursue a bachelor's degree from a Texas college or university in preparation for a successful career. The scholarship recipient(s) should pursue a degree plan which meets the criteria of their scholarship award. Exceptions will be considered on an individual basis contingent upon the approval from the donor of a specific scholarship and/or the availability of a recognized agricultural or life science transfer program from the applicant's chosen institution.

(b) This scholarship selection process does not alter or affect the state level selection process. This will be an additional scholarship presented only to a deserving Area XII member(s) who do not receive a Texas FFA Scholarship.

*Section 40.2* **Establishment of Scholarships Funding and Scholarship Endowments**

(a) The Area XII FFA scholarship account will be generated by the excess of funds in the Area XII general account at the end of the fiscal year. Any net profit amount greater than \$2,000 will be deemed as an excess and will be transferred into the area scholarship account for the purpose of accruing interest and building the account balance.

(b) In addition, the Area XII FFA Association welcomes those organizations and individuals of common goals and values who wish to partner in the investment of youth and educational excellence through the support of the Area XII FFA Scholarship Program.

(c) The area scholarship committee, in consultation with the area finance/auditing committee, will recommend the scholarship amount to be awarded. That recommendation will occur at the annual VATAT Conference and will be voted upon by the area teacher delegation at the conference.

(d) Funding for the entire scholarship value must be held on deposit before a scholarship can be awarded. Scholarship funds are restricted monies and are placed in the Area XII FFA scholarship account until they are disbursed in accordance to policy-mandated timelines.

(d) Scholarship fund balances due to scholarship termination, failure to claim or early graduation shall be returned to the Area XII Scholarship fund.

**Section 40.3 Selection Criteria and Process – Area XII FFA Academic Scholarship Program**

(a) A committee of teachers, one from each administrative district, will review the application(s), of the Area XII FFA member(s), which were not selected to receive a Texas FFA Scholarship and recommend the scholarship award to the highest-ranking applicant(s) using the state-level rankings. The applicants will NOT be scored again at the area level.

(b) Selection of scholarship recipients is conducted on a competitive basis. Criteria used in selecting scholarship recipients includes:

- (1) academic achievement as reflected by class rank
- (2) SAT or ACT scores
- (3) completion of agricultural science instruction
- (4) achievement in agricultural science/FFA program: leadership development events, career development events, supervised agricultural experience program, individual leadership and other FFA activities
- (5) financial need
- (6) interview performance.

(c) The name(s) of the scholarship winner(s) will be held in confidence until it has been fully determined that the scholarship(s) will be awarded in any given year.

(d) Individuals who have a vested of interest as a teacher or parent in the outcome of an area selection process may not serve on the area evaluation committee. A teacher may be recused from the evaluation committee due to a vested interest in the outcome of a selection procedure on a given year but may continue to serve on the Area XII FFA Scholarship Advisory Committee.

(e) Grievances and appeals related to the Area XII selection processes must be submitted according to the Area XII Grievance Policy as posted on the Area XII website. Qualitative evaluation decisions which are inherent to judging applications and candidates may not be appealed. All appeals and grievances will be answered in writing within ten working days.

(f) Teachers and students should expect the Area XII FFA Scholarship process to be conducted with the same quality of standards that are consistent with the core values of the Texas FFA Association. As a result, committee members and volunteers may be excused from serving on any area level committee indefinitely due to ethical and confidentiality violations, such as but not limited to releasing selection results via social media, phone or email before the official results have been posted by the Area XII FFA Association.

(g) Once the results are posted on the Area XII FFA website, they will be deemed Official Results.

(h) It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to provide a valid e-mail address. Official results shall be posted on-line and announced via email to applicants and the teacher designated as the applicant advisor.

#### ***Section 40.4 Disbursement of Scholarship Funds***

(a) Following the final accounting at the end of the Area XII fiscal year, if there are sufficient funds to award, the recipient(s) will be notified via email and the attached request for disbursement of funds must be returned to the Area XII Treasurer for payment to the recipient's designated educational institution.