

Constitution and By-Laws

Cen-Tex District (District 5)

Area XII

ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND MISSION STATEMENT

Section A. - The name of this organization shall be the Cen-Tex District (District 5) Association of the Area XII Association of the Texas Association of the National FFA Organization. The letters FFA may be used to designate the Association, its activities, or members thereof.

Section B. - The Mission Statement for the National FFA Organization, the Texas FFA Association, The area XII Association and the Cen-Tex District is as follows:

“FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education.”

TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION, FFA:

1. Develops competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
2. Increases awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
3. Strengthens the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
4. Promotes the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
5. Encourages wise management of economic, environmental and human resources of the community.
6. Develops interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction.
7. Builds character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
8. Promotes cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
9. Promotes healthy lifestyles.
10. Encourages excellence in scholarships.

Section C. The purposes of this district shall be consistent with the provisions of the Texas FFA Association Constitution, Bylaws, policies adopted by the Texas FFA Association Board of Directors, provisions of the area association governing documents and policies enacted by the area association. The district shall cooperate with Texas FFA Association, Texas Education Agency, area executive committee and local school district officials in accomplishing its purposes.

ARTICLE 2: ORGANIZATION

Section A: The Cen-Tex District FFA is a member of Area XII Association & Texas FFA

Association, which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

Section B: The Cen-Tex District accepts, in full, the provisions in the constitution & by- laws of the Texas FFA Association, as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP

Section A: Membership in the Cen-Tex District is open to any school with an Agricultural Education Department meeting the requirements set up by the state constitution & residing in the Cen-Tex District.

Section B. There are 12 officially chartered FFA chapters, in good standing that are members of the Cen-Tex District FFA Association. The list of these chapters are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Belton | Marlin |
| Ellison | Rosebud Lott |
| Florence | Salado |
| Harker Heights | Shoemaker |
| Killeen HS | Temple |
| Killeen Career Center | Troy |

Schools in Cen-Tex District that charter with the National FFA organization will be added each year after state convention and list will be updated.

Section C. Each local Chapter is entitled to send a delegate or delegates from its active membership to the district meetings. Chapters with an active membership in excess of 0 are entitled to send delegates to the district meetings as outlined in the formula below:

Chapters shall be allowed to have one delegate for every 50 active members.

EXAMPLE:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	DELEGATE COUNT
1-50	1
51-100	2
101-150	3
151-200	4
201-250	5
251-300	6
301-350	7
351-400	8
401-450	9
451-500	10

Section D. The fiscal year will be from August 1st to July 31st of the following year.

Section E. The district shall be comprised of active chapters in good standing chartered by the Texas FFA Association formed under the provisions of the Article IV, Section C of the Texas FFA Association Bylaws and pursuant to policies adopted by the area association and district. Student members of the district shall be active members of good standing pursuant to Article V of the Texas FFA Constitution, and member chapters shall be in good standing pursuant to Article II, Section B of these Bylaws.

Section F. A chapter shall be considered to be in good standing when all required dues and administrative fees have been paid to the district and to the area and state associations in accordance with the provisions of the governing documents and policies of the respective associations and the chapter has no delinquent debts as defined by area and state policies.

ARTICLE 4: EMBLEM

Section A: The official emblem of the district shall be the same as that of the National FFA Organization. It shall include five symbols: the plow, representing the labor and tillage of the soil; the owl, representing wisdom; the rising sun, representing progress; a cross-section of an ear of corn, representing common agricultural interests; and an American eagle surmounting the cross-section of the ear of corn, representing the national scope of the organization. The emblem shall also include the letters, "FFA" and the words "Agricultural Education."

Section B: The emblem and other trademarks shall be applied by the district in ways consistent with policies of the National FFA Organization and the Texas FFA Association.

ARTICLE 5. MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES

Section A. There shall be five degrees of active membership in the Cen-Tex District Association:

- (1) Discovery FFA Degree;
- (2) Greenhand FFA Degree;
- (3) Chapter FFA Degree; and
- (4) State FFA Degree.
- (5) American FFA Degree

Section B. The qualifications for the five degrees of active membership shall be in accordance with the Area, State and National FFA Organizations Constitution and By-laws.

ARTICLE 6: MEETINGS

Section A: Regular meetings will include fall & spring meetings and Cen-Tex District

Convention. The AgriScience teachers at their VATAT conference will designate the dates. Special meetings of AgriScience teachers or district offices may be called as needed.

Section B: Standard meeting paraphernalia will be used at each meeting. Standard ceremonies and Jarrell D. Gray's Parliamentary Procedure will be used.

Section C: A majority of the chapters listed in the Secretaries roll of membership will constitute a quorum and this quorum must be present at any regular meeting of which business is transacted or a vote taken committing the Cen-Tex District to any proposal.

Section D: The annual assembly of student delegates shall convene no less than once per year for the purpose of electing student officers and conducting such other business as may be properly considered. Except in cases of extreme emergency, the said convention shall be held prior to the area convention.

Section E: Special meetings may be called by the executive committee. 10 working days notice shall be required to call any special meeting.

Section F: Each chapter in good standing is entitled to seat one voting delegate and shall be entitled to one additional voting delegate per 50 active members above the first 50 active members duly submitted on its annual roster by the delegate membership deadline established by the Texas FFA Association. All delegates must be active members in good standing.

Section G: A quorum shall exist when a majority of delegates are present and the said convened delegates represent a majority of the district's chapters in good standing.

Section H: Meetings of the district may be called via telephone conference call or other similar method, provided that each participating student delegate is identified by name and chapter and that all delegates may be heard and participate simultaneously.

Section I: Cumulative and proxy voting are prohibited. In election processes requiring two votes, a ballot must have two votes cast to constitute a legal ballot.

ARTICLE 7: DUES

Section A: Dues must be set annually by student delegates.

Section B: Chapters will be considered as active and in good standing when District, Area, States, and National dues are paid in full. All Fall semester dues are to be paid by November 1st and Spring semester dues are to be paid by March 1st. Full payment of dues must be mailed to the Cen-Tex District Teacher Treasurer.

Section C: Members must pay all officially administered local district area state and national

dues in order to be eligible to participate in any Cen-Tex District Activities and to be eligible to apply for, and to be eligible to win any District FFA Award

ARTICLE 8 AMENDMENTS TO BY- LAWS OR CONSTITUTION.

Section A: Proposed amendments to the District Constitution or By-Laws must be submitted in writing to the Area Teacher Coordinator at least sixty (60) days prior to any district meeting. These proposed changes must also, in turn, be subjected to the following criteria:

1. Submit, in writing, to the local chapters of the Cen-Tex District Officer, a copy of the proposed changes at least thirty (30) days prior to the next succeeding district meeting.
2. Must be reviewed by the duly elected Cen-Tex District Officer (teacher and student officer) Team.
3. Must submit to the delegates, at an official business session of the Cen-Tex District, a copy of the proposed changes for their debate and voting.
4. Amendments and Revisions to the Cen-Tex District only can be made by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the official delegates present.

ARTICLE 9 OFFICERS

Section A. A slate of no more than (6) district officers shall be elected at the district convention, and no more than (2) area officer candidates prior to the area convention, by a combination of, application (10 percent), exam score (10 percent), interview score (30 percent), score derived from the vote of the delegates present. Election procedures will be established by teachers each year to be shadow the state procedures. Officer Contract will be added to the last page of the application. This contract plus transcript for the current school year will be turned in with the signed application prior to taking the officer exam the day of the District Convention. Failure to turn in the signed application and transcript will result in removal from the election process. The district will follow the current Area XII guidelines in regards to speech time length, run off speeches, props, and any other speech requirements.

Section B. The District officers elected shall be:
(President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter and Sentinel.)

Section C. The president and 5 vice-presidents, elected each year, will perform all duties of the officer position in which they were elected, as listed in the Official FFA Manual.

Section D. In the event that a District officer fails to perform their prescribed duties,

that officer can be removed from office by a majority vote of that current years executive teacher board or if a district officer resigns their office of their own accord, that officers position will be filled by the next district officer candidate that was in line, according to the votes at that year's elections. If there were no other candidates that ran during that year's officer election, then each chapter that does not have a current District officer will be allowed to submit an officer candidate. The nominees will be voted on by the Cen-Tex District delegate body. The candidate receiving a majority vote, will be elected, to fill out the remaining term of that years District Officer Team.

Section E. All FFA members that submit their name for consideration of being elected an Officer of the Cen-Tex District should be willing to commit themselves to participating and attending **all official Cen-Tex district functions**. Officers are expected to attend all officially called Cen-Tex District Functions. District Officers must to attend the Area XII Leadership Conference as well as the Area XII District Leadership Conference that is held in the summer each year in its entity. Officers missing one or more monthly district functions (as outlined in article XII section B & C), without permission of the District President and District Advisor, will be removed from office, after due process has been served. **participation in other school related functions and illness** (Documented by the medical & officer's advisor) **will constitute a legitimate excuse for missing any district function.**

Section F. To be eligible for election as a Cen-Tex District officer, Officer Candidates must have completed the requirements for their Chapter FFA Degree and at least their sophomore year of high school at the time of elections. District officers will serve during their Junior or Senior year.

Section G. A district officer may not hold a district and an area office concurrently.

Section H. No two area officer candidates shall come from the same local chapter, unless there is a lack of candidates from within the district.

Section I. Cen-Tex District will pay for the 6 District Officer Jackets each year as well as their Area Leadership Conference fee and Chapter Leadership Conference.

Section J: The district's student activities shall be led by student officers in accordance to policies adopted by the district and its executive committee.

Section K: The elected student officers of the district shall be elected annually from a field of candidates nominated from member chapters in good standing. In compliance to policies and procedures of the district, each of these student officer candidates shall be given the opportunity to demonstrate FFA, agricultural education, parliamentary procedure and agricultural industry knowledge via a written or online exam, present their qualifications to an evaluation committee and appear before the delegates convened at the annual convention to deliver a campaign speech.

Section L: Candidates for student office must be a member in good standing, hold the chapter degree at the time of election by the district, have completed no less than two semesters of agriculture food and natural resources instruction as described by Texas FFA Association membership eligibility policies, have been an active member for the preceding 12 months and have completed all required forms by timelines established by district policies adopted in accordance to Article 9., Section E of these Bylaws.

Section M: Officers shall be elected by a point system derived from a combination of written exam score, interview score and student delegate vote in proportions described in policies adopted in accordance to Article 9, Section A., of these Bylaws.

Section N: The district's teachers and student delegates shall adopt policies and procedures addressing point values, campaign practices and speeches, committee composition, interview and testing procedures and other such matters related to the conduct of student officer elections.

Section O: The district's elections committee shall consist of the outgoing student officers, with the district's executive committee acting as an advisory committee. The chairman of the elections committee shall be an agriculture, food and natural resources teacher elected by the district's teachers or executive committee or designated by policy. The elections committee and executive committee shall work in conjunction to resolve election-related matters not addressed by these bylaws or by the district's policies and procedures. Student or teacher officers with a conflict of interest may recuse themselves from deliberations or be disqualified by a two-thirds vote of the combined committee. Questions, concerns or appeals concerning the election shall be addressed to the district's executive committee, pursuant to procedures and timelines established in accordance with Article 14 of these Bylaws. All documents related to an officer election process shall be retained in a secure location for no less than 30 days following the conclusion of the district's election.

Section P: The candidate earning the highest point total after the final round of voting shall be declared student officer president of the district, and the candidate receiving the second highest score total in the final runoff election shall be declared the first vice-president. The remaining officers shall be called vice-presidents, and shall assume the stations of the various other offices for ceremonial purposes at the annual convention and other meetings throughout the year.

Section Q: If for any reason a student office becomes vacant, the executive committee may fill the office with a qualified member to fulfill the unexpired term of office. If for any reason the office of president should become vacant, the student officer who received the next highest score in the election for president shall become president. An officer who transfers to another chapter within the district may retain his or her office, but should an officer transfer to a chapter outside of the district or no longer

be in good standing with a chapter within the district, his or her office shall be declared vacated.

Section R: Student officers shall serve from one student convention through the next succeeding convention and shall not be re-elected, or be eligible for reelection to another student office.

Section S: Duties of student officers and discipline policies related to officers shall be established in policies and procedures adopted by the district's teachers and delegates.

ARTICLE 10 AWARDS DEGREES SCHOLARSHIPS AND CONTESTS

Section A. A chapter that is in good standing, shall be able to participate, in any officially sanctioned District FFA Activities that are held in any given year

Section B. At a meeting or meetings preceding the Area XII convention in May of each year, the Cen-Tex District will elect or select the following to represent the District at the Area VIII Convention:

1. Elect two (2) Area Officer Candidates,
2. Elect six (6) Cen-Tex District Officers,
3. Elect one (1) talent team to compete at the Area Convention,
4. Select top two in each of the following categories:
 - a. Junior Prepared Public Speaker Candidates
 - b. Extemporaneous Speaker Candidates
 - c. Soil Stewardship Speaking Candidates.
5. Select one in Senior Prepared Speaker from each of the following divisions:
 - a. Senior Prepared Public Speaker Candidates one from each division:
 - i. Ag Policy
 - ii. Ag Communications and Technology
 - iii. Agriscience
 - iv. Animal Science
 - v. Natural Resources
 - vi. Plant Science
6. Select one (1) Applicant each, to represent the district at the Area Convention for the Area Star Awards and Proficiency Awards as listed in the Awards section of the Official FFA Manual.
7. Select all other FFA award winners that may be designated by the State Association.

ARTICLE 11 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/TEACHER OFFICERS

Section A: The current elected District Officer Advisor and the District Elected teacher officers, shall constitute the Cen-Tex District Executive Committee, The Executive Committee shall have full power to act as necessary to make decisions affecting the

operation of the Cen-Tex District FFA Association in accordance with actions taken at the District Associations meetings and various regulations or By-Laws adopted from time to time. The student officers shall have voting privileges. The teacher of the current Cen-Tex District FFA President shall have the duties of coordinating all District FFA Functions with the Cen-Tex District FFA Officer Team.

Elected District FFA Teacher officers include:

1. District President
2. District Vice President
3. District Secretary
4. District Treasurer

District Vice President will be elected annually at the VATAT conference district meeting. After one year of service the District Vice president will be promoted to the District President officer position. The District Secretary and Treasurer shall remain the same person for 3 terms of service.

Section B. District FFA Teacher Officer Duties

1. Collection of District dues and Paying of all Bills for the Cen-Tex District
Area Coordinators Responsibility
2. Ordering of the District Awards
Secretary's Responsibility
3. Running the Cen-Tex District Advisor's Meeting
President's Responsibility
4. Keeping the minutes from the Advisors' Meetings
Secretary's Responsibility
5. Official correspondence of the District
President's Responsibility
6. Validating district winning teams
Vice-President's Responsibility
7. Coordinating and Purchasing Meals and Refreshments for events
Treasurer's Responsibility

Section C. Any business that deals with the expenditure of any Cen-Tex District FFA funds must be approved by a majority of the Executive Teacher Committee.

Section D. A 2/3's vote of the district advisors has precedence over any votes taken by any other group or committee.

ARTICLE 12.TEACHER MEETINGS

Section A: An assembly of district teachers shall be convened annually at the state agriculture, food and natural resources teacher professional improvement conference. Other teacher meetings may be convened as deemed essential or desirable by the teacher assembly or the executive committee.

Section B: Special meetings may be called by the executive committee. Except in cases of extreme emergency, 10 working days notice shall be required to call any special meeting.

Section C: Each agriculture, food and natural resources teacher in good standing is entitled to cast a vote in the business of the district.

Section D: A quorum shall exist when teachers representing a majority of chapters are convened in assembly or by electronic means as described in Article VI, Section E.

Section E: Teacher meetings of the district may be called via telephone conference call or other similar method, provided that each participating teacher is identified by name and chapter and that all delegates may be heard and participate simultaneously.

Section F: Cumulative and proxy voting are prohibited. In election processes requiring two votes, a ballot must have two votes cast to constitute a legal ballot

ARTICLE 13. COMMITTEES

Section A: The district may adopt a resolution establishing standing or special committees, delegating specified authority to a committee. The district shall elect chairpersons of standing or special committees, but may delegate to the president its power to appoint, suspend or remove chairpersons or members should a vacancy, conflict of interest or other circumstances warrant such action.

ARTICLE 14. GRIEVANCE AND APPEALS

The district shall adopt grievance policies and procedures consistent with the policies of the Texas FFA Association. Appeals related to competitive events and awards programs shall be resolved in accordance to the Texas FFA Association Conflict Resolution Policy in the respective competitive event or program policies.