

Requirements for Establishing a Middle School Agriculture Education Program and FFA Chapter

Members of the California Association of Future Farmers of America amended their constitution at the 2017 State FFA Leadership Conference to allow for middle school membership. A local education agency that wishes to offer membership to 7th & 8th grade middle school students can either include extend membership as part of an existing chapter or create a middle school chapter if specific requirements are met.

The base requirements to establish a Middle School (Grades 7 & 8) Agricultural Education program are as follows:

- ✓ **Curriculum:** the curriculum offered must provide:
 - Must offer sequential courses that allow agriculture students to be enrolled year-long approved agricultural education courses both years.
 - A student-supervised agricultural experience program in agriculture. This can be in any of the following categories. Exploratory, supplemental, improvement, research, placement or entrepreneurship.
 - A program of leadership, organization, and personal development for all students. FFA membership will be part of enrollment in these approved courses.

Student learning activity developed to supplement these components shall be considered curricular and shall contribute to the grade of the participating student when those activities are integral to assisting the student to achieve the career objectives of the class or course.

If the local education agency makes the decision to include middle school FFA membership as part of an existing high school agricultural education program the above requirements still apply. If a local education agency wishes to offer an approved agricultural education program and FFA membership only to eighth grade students then it would be expected that the course developed for those 8th grade students would be an introductory course for an existing pathway.

- ✓ **Instructor:** the instructor(s) must hold a credential authorizing them to teach agriculture career technical education in California and serve as the advisor(s) to the FFA student organization chapter. Authorizing credentials are: Single Subjects credential in Agriculture and an Agricultural Specialists Credential in Agriculture, or a Designated Subjects credential with a designation in an agricultural and natural resources industry sector.
- ✓ **FFA Chapter:** local chapters of the California Association of FFA shall be chartered only in such schools where recognized systematic instruction in agricultural career technical education is offered under the provisions of federal vocational education legislation. These provisions require that state adopted content standards for Agriculture

and Natural Resource programs are the basis of sequential instruction of not less than 300 hours in duration. Such chapters shall operate as an integral part of the instructional program of agricultural education and must not be in conflict with provisions of the State FFA Constitution which can be found at:

<http://www.calaged.org/content/ffa-constitution>

Complete and submit an application for a charter for a local chapter of the California Association, Future Farmers of America. (Not necessary if including 7th and 8th grade members in an existing chapter.) Contact the Region Supervisor when you are ready to submit and submit here: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/californiaffaassociation/caffachaptercharterapplication>

The application must be complete and include the following:

- Copy of the local chapter's constitution and bylaws which are not in conflict with the state or national constitution and bylaws
- Copy of the local chapter's Program of Work for the coming year
- Names of the officers of the local chapter
- Names and addresses of each chapter member (members must include all students enrolled in agricultural education program)
- Signatures of the President, Secretary, and Advisor of the chapter and the school Principal
- \$5.00 fee to cover the cost of the charter issuance

Before submitting an application for a charter you must first have approval of the Regional Supervisor.

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