2025-2026 Competitive Events Guidelines
Exploring Technology

Exploring Technology challenges members to demonstrate their understanding of foundational technology concepts through an objective test. This event introduces members to key areas such as digital tools, emerging technologies, cybersecurity, and the role of technology in business and everyday life.

Event Overview

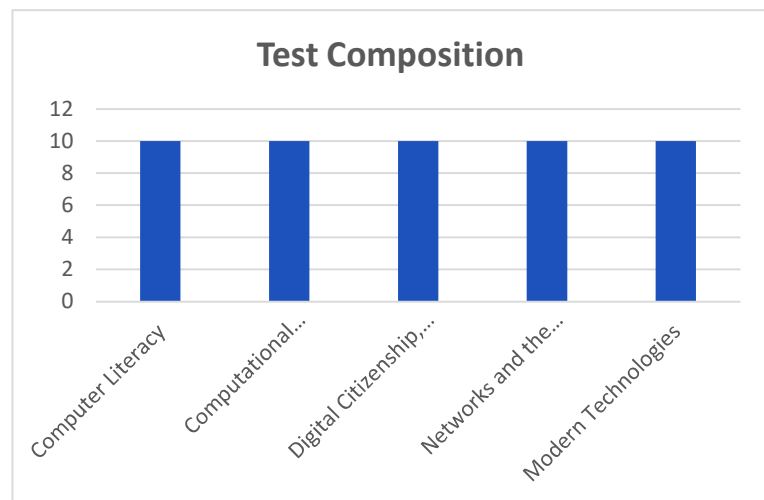| Division	Middle School
Event Type	Individual
Event Category	Objective Test
Event Elements	50-multiple choice questions

Educational Alignments

Career Cluster Framework Connection	Digital Technology
NACE Competency Alignment	Career & Self-Development, Critical Thinking, Technology

Knowledge Areas

- Computer Literacy
- Computational Thinking
- Digital Citizenship, Ethics, and Safety
- Networks and the Internet
- Modern Technologies

Test questions are based on the knowledge areas and objectives outlined for this event. Detailed objectives can be found in the study guide included in these guidelines.

Test Composition

State

Each chapter may enter three participants in this event. Testing is school site and will be conducted the two weeks prior to the state leadership conference (in March).

National

Required Competition Items

Items Competitor Must Provide	Items FBLA Provides
- Sharpened pencil - Fully powered device for online testing - Conference-provided nametag	- One piece of scratch paper per competitor - Internet access

• Attire that meets the FBLA Dress Code	• Test login information (link & password provided at test check-in)

Important FBLA Documents
- *Competitors should be familiar with the Competitive Events Policy & Procedures Manual, Honor Code, Code of Conduct, and Dress Code.*

Eligibility Requirements
To participate in FBLA competitive events at the National Leadership Conference (NLC), the following criteria must be met:
- **Membership Deadline**: FBLA national membership dues must be paid to the specific division by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year.
- **Repeat Competitors**: Members may only compete in an event at the NLC more than once if they have not previously placed in the top 10 of that event at the NLC. If a member places in the top 10 of an event at the NLC, they are no longer eligible to compete in that event at future NLCs, unless the event has been modified beyond a name change. Chapter events are exempt from this procedure.
- **Conference Registration**: Members must be officially registered for the NLC and must pay the national conference registration fee to participate.
- **Official Hotel Requirement**: To be eligible to compete, competitors must stay within the official FBLA housing block.
- **State Entry Limits**: Each state may submit up to four entries per event.
- **Event Participation Limits**: Each member may participate in:
  - One individual or team event, and
  - One chapter event (e.g., *Annual Chapter Activities Presentation* or *Community Service Presentation*).
- **Participation Requirement**: To be eligible for an award, each competitor must complete all components of the event at the National Leadership Conference.
- **Late Arrivals**: Competitors will be allowed to compete until such time that the results are finalized, or participation would impact the fairness and integrity of the event, as determined by Competitive Events staff. Five penalty points will be assessed for late arrivals in any competitive event.
- **Event Schedule Notes**:
  - Some events may begin before the Opening Session.
  - All schedules are posted in local time for the NLC host city.
  - Schedule changes are not permitted.

Event Administration
- **Test Duration:** 30 minutes
- **Format:** This event consists of an online objective test that is proctored and completed on-site at the National Leadership Conference (NLC).
- **Materials:** Reference or study materials are not permitted at the testing site.
- **Calculators:** Personal calculators are not allowed; an online calculator will be available within the testing platform.

- **Question Review:** Competitors may flag questions within the testing platform for review prior to the finalization of results at the NLC.

Scoring

- Each correct answer is worth one point.
- No points are deducted for incorrect answers.
- Tiebreakers are determined as follows: (1) The number of correct responses to 10 pre-selected tiebreaker questions will be compared. (2) If a tie remains, the number of correct responses to 20 pre-selected questions will be reviewed. (3) If a tie still remains, the competitor who completed the test in the shortest amount of time will be ranked higher.
- Results announced at the National Leadership Conference are considered official and will not be changed after the conclusion of the National Leadership Conference.

Penalty Points

- Competitors may be disqualified if they violate the Code of Conduct or the Honor Code.
- Five points are deducted if competitors do not follow the Dress Code or are late to the testing site.

Recognition

- A maximum of 10 entries (individuals or teams) may be recognized per event.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- FBLA complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by providing reasonable accommodations for competitors. Accommodation requests must be submitted through the conference registration system by the official registration deadline. All requests will be reviewed, and additional documentation may be required to determine eligibility and appropriate support.

Electronic Devices

- Unless approved as part of a documented accommodation, all cell phones, smartwatches, electronic devices, and headphones must be turned off and stored away before the competition begins. Visible devices during the event will be considered a violation of the FBLA Honor Code.

Sample Preparation Resources

- Official sample test items can be found in FBLA Connect. These sample items showcase the types of questions that may be asked on the test and familiarize competitors with the multiple-choice item options.

Study Guide: Knowledge Areas and Objectives

Computer Literacy (10 test items)
1. Use browsers to navigate the web
2. Troubleshoot common computer problems (e.g., freezing, overheating, Wi-Fi connection)
3. Discuss the importance of software updates, patches, and security
4. Discuss file management
5. Identify basic computer components (e.g., CPU, GPU, RAM, SSD)
6. Discuss common software applications (e.g., word processing, spreadsheet, editing)
7. Identify basic security features (e.g., firewall, permissions, antivirus)

Computational Thinking (10 test items)
1. Discuss the purpose of functions
2. Interpret basic blocks of code
3. Write algorithms in English to solve basic problems
4. Use abstraction to simplify complex problems

Digital Citizenship, Ethics, and Safety (10 test items)
1. Describe the responsible use of social media
2. Discuss ethical considerations in online environments
3. Describe basic digital security measures (e.g., passwords, authentication, VPNs)
4. Identify common scams and attacks (e.g., phishing, scam emails, viruses)
5. Discuss basic media literacy skills (e.g., locating credible sources, creating responsible content, identifying misinformation)

Networks and the Internet (10 test items)
1. Describe the basic architecture of the internet
2. Describe the equipment needed to connect to the internet
3. Describe how devices connect over a network
4. Interpret binary and hexadecimal numbers
5. Explain the importance of encryption in networking

Modern Technologies (10 test items)
1. Identify the uses of AI in business
2. Discuss the use of big data in business
3. Discuss the use of cloud services (e.g., AWS, SaaS, Google Drive)
4. Explain ethical concerns related to AI

References for Knowledge Areas & Objectives

Computer Science Teachers Association. *K-12 Computer Science Standards.*
https://members.csteachers.org/documents/en-us/46916364-83ab-4f51-85fb-06b3b25b417c/1/

ISTE. *ISTE Standards: For Students.* https://iste.org/standards/students

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. *Washington Educational Technology K-12 Learning Standards.*
https://ospi.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/2023-08/grades-6-8-edtech-standards-2018.pdf

Ohio Department of Education. *Ohio's Learning Standards for Technology.*
https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Technology/Ohios-Learning-Standards-for-Technology/The-2017-Ohio-Learning-Standards-in-Technology.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US

West Virginia Department of Education. *Exploring Technology Education*. https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Exploring-Technology-Education.pdf

Code. https://code.org/en-US/students