

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

An *individual event* recognizes participants who demonstrate their ability to use knowledge and skills gained from their enrollment in a Family and Consumer Sciences early childhood education program. Participants must prepare a *portfolio* and a *resource container*. On site, participants must plan and present an activity related to the theme to evaluators in response to a case study provided during the event and an oral presentation describing the activity.

ELIGIBILITY & GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Review the **STAR Events Front Pages** for all event requirements, policies, and procedures before beginning the project.
2. Participants using an *electronic portfolio* are encouraged to bring a fully charged device (laptop, tablet, etc.) to use for presentation during the competition.
3. Chapters with multiple entries in this event must submit different projects for each entry. All projects must be developed and completed during the school year leading up to the National Leadership Conference (NLC), within the timeframe July 1 and through June 30, and must be the work of the participant(s) only.
4. **Online Orientation** - NLC participants are **encouraged** to view the STAR Events Online Orientation video to ensure they are fully prepared for the NLC. The video will be available in the FCCLA Student Portal under Resources. **Contact your state adviser for orientation procedures for competitions held prior to the NLC.**
5. **STAR Events Schedule Confirmation** – It is **strongly suggested** that chapter advisers confirm participants' STAR Events schedules in the FCCLA Adviser Portal. Advisers can review students' schedules in the FCCLA Adviser Portal by visiting the Meetings & Events tab, selecting the National Leadership Conference, and choosing "Confirm STAR Competition." **Confirming schedules in advance helps ensure that participants are qualified, registered for the conference, and competing in the correct STAR Event. Schedule changes after the published deadline are subject to a \$25 change fee.** Please refer to the FCCLA Website (Competitive Events Dates & Deadlines).
6. Participants who do not follow the event guidelines, align with the event definition, or address the current event topic will not have their project evaluated. However, they may still participate in the competition by delivering an oral presentation and will be evaluated based on the presentation.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW NATIONAL DEADLINES](#)

CAREER CLUSTERS ALIGNMENT

Arts & Design	Education & Training	Financial Services
	■	
Hospitality & Tourism	Human Services	Public Service
	■	

EVENT LEVELS

Level 1: Through Grade 8	Level 2: Grades 9–10	Level 3: Grades 11–12	Level 4: Postsecondary
	■	■	■

Review the "Event Description and Levels" section of the policies in the front of the guidelines for more information on event levels.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Number of Participants per Entry	Prepare Ahead of Time	Equipment Provided for Competition	Competition Dress Code
1	<i>Portfolio and Resource Container</i>	Table—Yes Electrical Access—No Wall Space—No Supplies—No Wi-Fi — No	FCCLA Official Dress

PRESENTATION ELEMENTS ALLOWED

Audio	Easel(s)	File Folder	Flip Chart(s)	Portfolio	Props/ Pointers	Skits	Presentation Equipment	Visuals
	■			■	■	*	*	*

* *Skits* may not be used during the oral presentation but may be used during presentation of the onsite case study activity. *Presentation Equipment* is allowed only for presentation of *electronic portfolio* and Activity Plan Presentation. *Visuals* are limited to the *contents* of the *resource container* and any software needed for Activity Plan Presentation.

TOP 5 SKILLS STUDENTS REPORT LEARNING THROUGH PARTICIPATION

Leadership	Public Speaking
Creativity	Responsibility and Time Management
Self-Confidence	

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS: 2025 - 2026

Participants Nationwide	Type of Event	Nationwide Impact
404	Career Focused	194,418

90% of Early Childhood Education participants indicated this event is extremely or very useful to their future.
68% of Early Childhood Education participants indicated they would pursue higher education related to the career chosen in their project.

PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

"I will be teaching pre-k students about how to be a good friend. First, I will read the students "How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends". Then I will have them "bake a good friend" by having them talk about good qualities of a friend and then write the qualities on a poster of a cupcake. Then the students will decorate a cupcake picture and write down three qualities that they want in a friend." -Nevada FCCLA Member

"Since children from three to five are still developing their social and emotional skills, my project focuses on helping children strengthen those skills. The activities that I created were based around friendship and how to be a better friend. Throughout the project, I watched the children develop better ideas on how to be a friend. The children made a heart garden while discussing different ways to talk to someone new and talk to their friend when they're sad/ mad/ scared/etc." -New Jersey FCCLA Member

"My FCCLA project focuses on development through lesson plans that intend to improve motor skills, speech development, cognitive development, and social and emotional development in children. The goal of the lesson plans is to incorporate a variety of learning methods for all students to understand the concepts, including teacher modeling, guided practice, and independent working time. Each lesson presents a different subject important to 6-8-year-old students, including science, math, English, and art. By including the most specific details in my project, I was able to create a positive learning environment for early learners." -North Carolina FCCLA Member

SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year FCCLA's collegiate partners award over 13 million in scholarships to the Top 3 placing Level 3 teams/individuals annually at the National Leadership Conference. Scholarship details can be found on the FCCLA Website.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION GUIDELINES AND RUBRICS

The STAR Events Guidelines and rubrics are updated annually, and they are an exclusive benefit for FCCLA members. Advisers can access and download the guidelines from the FCCLA Portal.

[ADVISER PORTAL](#)