

Parent FAQ

What is CAFBLA?

California FBLA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) student organization committed to preparing today's students for success in business leadership. With over 60 years' experience, California FBLA is the premiere organization for student leaders.

California FBLA is an affiliate of Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda, Inc. - the largest student business organization in the world with more than 225,000 members. The California state chapter consists of seven geographical sections, each with their own student leadership team, projects, competitive events, and conferences: Bay Section, Central Section, Gold Coast Section, Inland Section, Northern Section, and Southern Section.

FBLA is an important partner in the success of school-to-work programs, business education curriculums, and student leadership development. FBLA is recognized by the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor as an integral part of a co-curricular approach to business and leadership education.

The FBLA Mission is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs. We bring our mission to life through the application of our Motto: Service, Education, and Progress.

If you would like to learn more, please visit

http://www.cafbla.org/pages/CAFBLA/About/About_CA_FBLA for more information!

How does FBLA benefit my child, and what will they be doing as a member?

Being a member of FBLA has many benefits, such as:

- Career preparation in business related fields such as marketing, management, and economics.
- Networking with business leaders that are also members of the club or are industry professionals that hold workshops at FBLA conferences.
- Leadership development through leadership opportunities at the local, state, and national level.
- Exciting leadership conferences at the local, state, and national level where members can compete, network, and attend workshops that are led by industry professionals.
- Challenging competitions in fields such as entrepreneurship, management, business technology, and information systems.
- Community service opportunities through chapter and state projects.
- Scholarships and awards.
- Travel opportunities.

What scholarship opportunities does FBLA provide?

On top of the benefits that it offers, FBLA also provides scholarships that its members can take advantage of. These scholarship opportunities come from colleges and other educational organizations such as Arizona State University, Berkeley College, Champlain College, Chegg, FBLA Distinguished Business Leader, Life Smarts, and many more. If you would like to learn more about the scholarship opportunities FBLA has to offer, please visit: <http://www.fbla-pbl.org/fbla/membership-benefits/scholarships/>

How can I get involved as a parent that is an industry professional?

As an industry professional, you can become a professional member and join the FBLA Professional Division. As a professional division member, you can:

1. Share your real world experiences by giving workshops at local FBLA conferences
2. Provide professional development training to FBLA members through workshops
3. Arrange tours of local businesses
4. Guide members as they prepare for competitive events
5. Judge at local, state, and national FBLA competitions
6. Help local FBLA chapters with fundraisers
7. Create internships and job shadowing opportunities
8. Offer scholarships and other financial support

If you interested in becoming a professional division member, you can go to <http://www.cafbla.org/pages/CAFBLA/Sponsors> to learn more!

How can I get involved as a parent that is NOT an industry professional?

As a parent, you can assist FBLA by assisting your local chapter(s). Specific examples include:

1. Helping local chapters arrange tours of local businesses
2. Guiding members as they prepare for competitive events
3. Helping local FBLA chapters with fundraisers

Parents play an integral part in a member's development in FBLA and we would be happy for your help! If you would like to learn what local chapters are in your area or more about how you can help out, please email smahajan@cafbla.org for more information.

What is the difference between FBLA and other business organization and clubs?

FBLA differentiates itself from other business organizations and clubs in the following ways:

1. It offers a wide variety of business topics and competitions that students can use to both supplement and test their knowledge. These topics include entrepreneurship, marketing, global business, business technology, business math, economics, community service, etc. A list of

competitive events that FBLA has to offer can be found here:

<http://www.fbla-pbl.org/fbla/competitive-events/>

2. FBLA focuses on base knowledge and proficiency of all business topics. While other business clubs and organizations may focus on one area of the business world such as marketing, members of FBLA can learn about all facets of business starting from small businesses to large corporations.
3. FBLA provides focus to technical careers as well. As a member of FBLA, students can learn and develop proficiency in topics such as Microsoft office, spreadsheet applications, business communication, accounting, business math, and community service.
4. FBLA is not exclusively for high schoolers. Middle schoolers, college students, and even industry professionals can join FBLA to both enhance their knowledge of the business world and to help others do the same.
5. FBLA has a variety of options for involvement outside of just competitions. As a member, one can participate in chapter and individual projects to gain recognition, go on business tours, find internships, and much more! A full list of FBLA member benefits can be found here:
<http://www.fbla-pbl.org/fbla/membership-benefits>.
6. FBLA offers different formats of competition. Competitive events in FBLA are not only centered around testing. As a competitor, an FBLA member can participate in competitions that include objective testing, roleplays, and reports. Each student is good at different areas of competition, and FBLA makes sure that there is a competition just right for them.