

2026
Georgia DECA
State CDC Guide



State Career Development Conference
Hyatt Regency • Atlanta, GA
February 26-28, 2026

Georgia DECA
State Career Development Conference
February 26-28, 2026
Hyatt Regency
Atlanta, GA

Registration

Registration will be available online from **November 13, 2025-January 9, 2026** on the Georgia DECA website.

Payment must be in the state office by **Friday, January 30th for Early Bird Rate and Friday, February 6th for Regular Rate.**

Early Bird Registration (Entered by December 15, 2025)	\$85.00
<i>Students & Advisors</i>	
Regular Registration (Entered from December 16-January 9)	\$95.00
<i>Students & Advisors</i>	
Late or Onsite Registration	\$170.00
<i>Students, Advisors, & Chaperones</i>	
<i>*Late/Onsite Registration will not be eligible to compete</i>	
Chaperone Registration (Entered by January 9th)	\$60.00
Middle School Day Only (Early Bird- by 12/15, Regular- 12/16-1/9)	\$60/\$70

Registration will include: admission to all sessions, conference materials, conference t-shirts & participation certificate.

Payment Received after January 30th will result in the Regular Rate charged per person.

Payment Received after February 6th will result in a \$50 minimum late fee or 5% of balance owed.

According to the Georgia DECA Chaperone Policy, there must be 1 paid advisor/chaperone per 10 students present per chapter.

Deadlines

Early Bird Registration	November 13-December 15
Regular Registration	December 16-January 9
Hotel Reservation (on state cdc registration site)	November 13-January 9
Written Event Manuals Due (submitted online)	January 16, 2026
State Officer App. & Scholarship Forms Due	January 16, 2026
Membership Eligibility Deadline	August 1-January 9

**Members must be posted as paid members to register*

Send Payment to:
Georgia DECA: P O Box 189 Oxford, GA 30054

Georgia DECA
State Career Development Conference
February 26-28, 2026

Thursday, February 26

Registration (Advisors Only)	10:00am-2:00pm
Advisor Orientation for Written/Prepared Projects	2:15pm
Testing	2:30pm-6:00pm
Written/Prepared Presentations	3:00pm-7:00pm
Atlanta Hawks Game (tickets sold separately)	7:30pm
Business & Election Session	10:30pm
Curfew	11:45pm

Friday, February 27

Middle School Registration	7:00am-9:00am
Advisor Orientation for Morning Events	7:15am-7:45am
Individual Series/Principles/Team Decision Making	9:00am-2:00pm
Testing	9:00am-3:00pm
Leadership Hub	10:00am-2:00pm
Exhibitors	12:00pm-4:00pm
Middle School Awards Session	3:00pm-3:45pm
State CDC Welcome Session	4:00pm
Chapter Time	5:00pm-9:00pm
DECA After Dark Activity	9:00pm
Curfew	11:30pm

Saturday, February 28

Awards Ceremony	8:00am
Winners Meeting	10:00am
Executive Officer Meeting	11:00am

Conference Highlights

Registration

Registration will be open on Thursday from **9am-1pm** in the Grand Hall Foyer. Advisors may pick up registration materials at this time. Middle School (Day Only) registration will be open on Friday morning from 7:00am-9:00am in Chicago E.

Hawks Night

We are partnering with the Atlanta Hawks to provide a discounted ticket event for our State CDC attendees. Watch as the Hawks take on the Wizards on Thursday, February 26th at State Farm Arena. The game will start at 7:30pm. Our discounted ticket price is \$31 each. To order, click “Hawks Tix” next to each attendees name in the Registration site. If you wish to get upgraded seats at a higher price feel free to reach out to Emily Hanover- Emily.hanover@hawks.com

Chapter Officer Appreciation

Chapter Officers may stop by Grand Hall Foyer on Thursday from **12pm-3pm** to pick up a Special Gift from the Executive Officer Team.

DECA After Dark - Friday Night!

Go the Extra this year at our DECA After Dark Event on Friday, February 27th! More information will be provided about the event in December.

Exhibitors

We will host an Expo for Advisors and Students. The Expo will feature numerous exhibitors from business & industry, colleges & universities, fundraising programs. The Expo will be on Friday, February 27th from 12pm-4pm in the Centennial Ballroom Foyer.

Election Session

The Election session will begin at 10:30pm on Thursday evening. Each chapter is allowed 3 voting delegates, voting delegates will have reserved seating in the front of Centennial Ballroom.

Chapter Time- Friday

There is chapter time in the State CDC schedule for chapters to explore Atlanta on their own. Several attractions have offered a “show your badge” discount. Advisors should plan now how they want to spend Chapter Time on Friday from 4pm-9pm.

Chapter & Individual Recognition

Want to make the stage at State CDC? The following awards will be given out: GA DECA Chapter Campaign Impact Awards-MILE, Virtual Business Challenge ICDC Qualifiers, Stock Market Game ICDC Qualifiers, New Chapter, DECA Campaign Award Recipients, Membership: Top 5 Largest % increase, Largest Professional Members Membership, Largest Alumni Membership, Top 25 Largest Chapters, Largest % of chapter membership attending State CDC, Membership Campaign, Scholarships, Competitive Event Winners.

Things To Know

Online Registration

Registration for the State Career Development Conference will be online at <https://www.decaregistration.com/ga-state>. All attendees must be registered. Invoices will be available on the online registration site and receipts will be emailed once payment is received. If your chapter owes for any Fall GA DECA Event, you will not be allowed to register until your balance is paid.

Hotel Reservation Information

GA DECA will have rooms available at 3 different locations- Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Marriott Marquis, and Hilton Atlanta.

Hotel Reservations will take place online on the State CDC Registration Site. The hotel rate is \$230. YOU WILL PAY GA DECA FOR THE ROOM RATE! The housing deadline is January 9th. All State CDC Attendees are required to spend 2 nights (except Middle School Day only participants). Housing assignments will be sent to advisors by January 23rd.

Advisor Duties

We will need lots of help running the competitive events. Every advisor will be required to serve a 2.5 hour competition duty either on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. Sign Ups will be available on the GA DECA website.

We also have an opportunity for advisors to serve as Event Directors at State CDC. Event Directors will run an event from start to finish (6 hours) and can choose either Thursday or Friday. Incentives are available for both Event Assistants (2.5 hours) and Event Directors (6 hours). You can locate more information and the incentives on the sign up forms located at www.gadeca.org

Georgia DECA Permission/Professional Standards Form

Each person attending the Conference must read and sign the Permission Form and Professional Standards Form. Copies of these forms must be kept by the DECA Chapter Advisor during the conference.

ADVISOR CHECKLIST

- All students and advisors are paid, affiliated members of DECA & Georgia DECA
- All attendees have been entered and submitted on the Conference registration site no later than January 9th
- Hotel Room Reservations have been made by January 9th on the registration site
- Payment has been paid in full & received by the State Office no later than January 30th for early bird rate and February 6th for regular rate.
- GA DECA Impact Awards, Written Events, Officer Application, AMA Scholarship Applications have been turned in by January 16th

GEORGIA DECA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

For each person attending any Georgia DECA sponsored conference, he/she must read and sign the code of conduct. A copy of the code of conduct must be turned in for each person attending the conference. Deviation from this Code of Conduct will result in the student/school being sent home from the DECA activity.

Georgia DECA wants every person to have an enjoyable experience with every attention paid to safety and comfort. All participants will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner best representing the nation's greatest student organization.

Note that attendance is not mandatory. By voluntarily participating, you agree to follow the official conference rules and regulations or forfeit your personal rights to participate. We are proud of our students and know that by signing this Code of Conduct, you are simply reaffirming your dedication to be the best possible representative of Georgia DECA. If a student gets in trouble at any DECA Conference/Event they will no longer be able to participate in DECA.

- 1. I will, at all times, respect all public and private property, including the hotel/motel in which I am housed.**
- 2. I will spend each night in the room of the hotel/motel to which I am assigned.**
- 3. I will strictly abide by the curfew established and shall respect the rights of others by being as quiet as possible after curfew.**
- 4. I will not visit in the sleeping room of the opposite sex.**
- 5. I will not use/possess/or have knowledge of others using/possessing alcoholic beverages or drugs.. I will not use drugs unless I have been ordered to take certain prescription medications by a licensed physician. If I am required to take medication, I will at all times, have the orders of the physician on my person.**
- 6. I will not leave the hotel/motel without the express permission of my advisor. Should I receive permission, I will leave a written notice of where I will be. My conduct shall be exemplary at all times.**
- 7. I will keep my advisor informed of my whereabouts at all times.**
- 8. I will, when required, wear my official identification badge.**
- 9. I will not smoke/vape while at any DECA event.**
- 10. I will attend & be on time for, all general sessions & activities that I am assigned to and registered for.**
- 11. I will adhere to the dress code at all required times.**
- 12. I will act respectfully at the dance or I understand that I will be asked to leave.**

Attending the DECA Dance is a privilege. All attendees must abide by the following guidelines:

- Sexually explicit dancing is not permitted. Any dance simulating sexual moves is not allowed.
- At the discretion of the DECA advisors, chaperones, or security, a student may be asked to leave the dance for inappropriate dancing or inappropriate behavior.
- School dress codes apply to the DECA dance. Jeans and a DECA t-shirt would be considered appropriate attire. Midriffs, spaghetti straps, muscle shirts, pajamas, and mini skirts ARE NOT considered appropriate. Students in dress code violation will be asked to leave the dance.

Code of Conduct Agreement

I agree that if, for any reason, I am in violation of any of the rules of the conference, I may be brought before the appropriate discipline committee for an analysis of the violation. I also agree to accept the penalty imposed on me. I understand that any penalty and reasons for it will be explained to me before it is carried out. I further realize that this conference is designed to be an educational function and all plans are made with that objective. If I am removed from the conference I forfeit the right to participate in any future DECA Event or Conference.

Student Attendee Signature

Parent Signature

Copies of this form must be kept on hand by the DECA Chapter Advisor during the conference.

GEORGIA DECA

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE PERMISSION FORM

This is to certify that _____
(Print Student's Name)

has my permission to attend the DECA activity on _____
(Print Date)

I also do hereby, on behalf of _____
(Print School Name)

absolve and release the school officials, the DECA chapter advisors and the assigned state DECA staff from any claims for personal injuries which might be sustained while in route to and from or during the DECA sponsored activity. I understand that during the conference, Georgia DECA will be taking pictures of students and advisors to use in promotional material. It is also my understanding that the mode of transportation will be _____
(Print Mode of Transportation)

EMERGENCY

I authorize the advisor to secure the services of a physician or hospital, and to incur the expenses for necessary services in the event of accident or illness, and I will provide for the payment of these costs.

We have read and agree to abide by the DECA Professional Standards. We also agree that the school officials, the DECA chapter advisors and/or the state DECA staff have the right to send the above name student home from the activity, provided that he/she has violated the DECA Professional Standards and/or his/her conduct has become a detriment to the success of the conference. We also understand he/she will not be allowed to attend another GA/National DECA Event.

Print Name of Student Attending

Student Signature

Insurance Company Name

Policy Number

If insurance information is not provided, all signatures below are made in acknowledgement of the fact.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Home Phone Number

Chapter Advisor

School Official Signature

Please note: Copies of this form must be kept on hand by the DECA Chapter Advisor during the conference.

2026 State CDC Pants Pledge

The 2025-2026 Executive Officers would like to promote professional dress slacks at this year's State CDC. All attendees are encouraged to sign the 2026 Pants Pledge.

Every attendee that turns in a signed Pants Pledge and wears pants the entire conference (excluding the Silent Disco event) will receive the following:

- Pants Pledge Name Badge Ribbon

Pants Pledge Qualifications for Males & Females:

Professional Dress Slacks similar to Dockers and other makers of cotton or synthetic material pants. Inappropriate slacks or pants include jeans, sweatpants, exercise pants, carpenter pants, cargo pants, shorts, bib overalls, leggings, and any spandex or other form-fitting pants.



I, _____ agree to accept the Pants Pledge and wear professional dress slacks throughout the entire State CDC Conference. This includes all times I am outside of my hotel room.

Attendee Signature

Attendee School

Dress Code for State CDC

Name Badges Must be Worn at All Times

At Competition Site Or When Appearing Before Judges

Females

- Business suit or blazer with dress blouse and dress skirt or dress slacks or business dress
- Dress shoes (no tennis shoes or flip-flop sandals)
- Mini Skirts, short tops and short dresses are not appropriate, skirts must be no more than 2" from the knee)
- DECA Blazer & Dress pants are strongly encouraged.

Males

- Business suit, Blazer or sport coat with dress slacks, collared dress shirt and necktie
- Dress shoes (no tennis shoes or flip-flop sandals) and dress socks
- DECA Blazer is strongly encouraged.

General Sessions, On Stage & Workshops

Females

- Business suit or blazer with dress blouse and dress skirt or dress slacks or business dress
- Dress shoes (no tennis shoes or flip-flop sandals)
- Mini Skirts, short tops and short dresses are not appropriate, skirts must be no more than 2" from the knee.
- DECA Blazer & dress pants are strongly encouraged.

Males

- Business suit, Blazer or sport coat with dress slacks, collared dress shirt and necktie
- Dress shoes (no tennis shoes or flip-flop sandals) and dress socks
- DECA Blazer is strongly encouraged.

DECA After Dark-(Friday Night)

- Conference T-shirt
- Jeans

*****Students and Advisors that do not meet these dress code guidelines will be asked to leave and change into appropriate Dress Code Attire.***

The Following Are Unacceptable at Any Georgia DECA Event

- Skin-tight or revealing clothing
- Midriff-baring clothing
- Leggings or graphic designed hosiery/tights
- Clothing with printing that is suggestive, obscene or promotes illegal substances
- Athletic clothing & Swimwear
- Pajamas outside of the hotel rooms

2026 State CDC Competitive Events Guide

Principles of Business Admin. Events	How do I get to participate?	# of Participants	Written Exam	Entry Length	Test Date & Time	Presentation Date & Time
Principles of Business Mgmt & Admin.	Must have qualified at Region Competition	1	Yes-Business Admin Core Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Principles of Entrepreneurship	Must have qualified at Region Competition	1	Yes-Business Admin Core Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Principles of Finance	Must have qualified at Region Competition	1	Yes-Business Admin Core Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Principles of Hospitality & Tourism	Must have qualified at Region Competition	1	Yes-Business Admin Core Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Principles of Marketing	Must have qualified at Region Competition	1	Yes-Business Admin Core Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Individual Series Events	How do I get to participate?	# of Participants	Written Exam	Entry Length	Test Date & Time	Presentation Date & Time
Accounting Applications	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Yes- Finance Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Apparel & Accessories Marketing	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Yes-Marketing Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Automotive Services Marketing	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Yes-Marketing Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Business Finance	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Yes- Finance Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Business Services Marketing	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying	1	Yes- Marketing Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule

	Testing in November					
Entrepreneurship	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Yes- Entrepreneurship Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Food Marketing	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Yes- Marketing Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Hotel & Lodging Management	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Yes- Hospitality & Tourism Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Human Resources Management	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Yes- Business Mgmt & Admin Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Marketing Communications	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Yes-Marketing Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Quick Serve Restaurant Management	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Yes-Hospitality & Tourism Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Restaurant & Food Service Management	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Yes-Hospitality & Tourism Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Retail Merchandising	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Yes-Marketing Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Sports & Entertainment Marketing	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Yes-Marketing Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Team Decision Making Events	How do I get to participate?	# of Participants	Written Exam	Entry Length	Test Date & Time	Presentation Date & Time
Business Law & Ethics	Must have qualified at	2	Yes- Business Management &	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday

	Region Competition		Admin Cluster Exam			9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Buying & Merchandising	Must have qualified at Region Competition	2	Yes- Marketing Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Entrepreneurship	Must have qualified at Region Competition	2	Yes- Entrepreneurship Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Financial Services	Must have qualified at Region Competition	2	Yes-Finance Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Marketing Management	Must have qualified at Region Competition	2	Yes-Marketing Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Hospitality Services	Must have qualified at Region Competition	2	Yes- Hospitality & Tourism Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Sports & Entertainment Marketing	Must have qualified at Region Competition	2	Yes- Marketing Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Travel & Tourism	Must have qualified at Region Competition	2	Yes-Hospitality & Tourism Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am-2:00pm By schedule
Middle School Events	How do I get to participate	# of Participants	Written Exam	Entry Length	Test Date & Time	Presentation Date & Time
Middle School Marketing Role Play	Sign up on the State CDC reg site	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	Friday 9:00am-1:00pm By Schedule
Principles of Business Mgmt & Admin	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Business Admin Core	N/A	Onsite Friday TBD	Friday 9:00am-1:00pm By Schedule
Principles of Entrepreneurship	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Business Admin Core	N/A	Onsite Friday TBD	Friday 9:00am-1:00pm By Schedule
Principles of Finance	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Business Admin Core	N/A	Onsite Friday TBD	Friday 9:00am-1:00pm By Schedule

Principles of Hospitality & Tourism	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Business Admin Core	N/A	Onsite Friday TBD	Friday 9:00am-1:00pm By Schedule
Principles of Marketing	Must have scored a 60 or higher on State Qualifying Testing in November	1	Business Admin Core	N/A	Onsite Friday TBD	Friday 9:00am-1:00pm By Schedule
Promotional Pitch	Sign up on the State CDC reg site	1 to 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Friday 9:00am-1:00pm By Schedule
Theme Speech	Sign up on the State CDC reg site	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	Friday 9:00am-1:00pm By Schedule
Business Operations Research Events	How do I get to participate?	# of Participants	Written Exam	Entry Length	Test Date & Time	Presentation Date & Time
Business Services	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 Pages online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule
Buying & Merchandising	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 Pages online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule
Finance	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 Pages online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule
Hospitality & Tourism	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 Pages online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule
Sports & Entertainment	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 Pages online by January 10	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule
Project Management Events		# of Participants	Written Exam	Entry Length	Test Date & Time	Presentation Date & Time
Business Solutions Project	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 Pages online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule
Career Development Project	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 Pages online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule

Community Awareness Project	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 Pages online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule
Community Giving Project	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 Pages online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule
Financial Literacy Project	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 Pages online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule
Sales Project	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 Pages online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule
Integrated Marketing Campaign	How do I get to participate?	# of Participants	Written Exam	Entry Length	Test Date & Time	Presentation Date & Time
Integrated Marketing Campaign-Event	Must have scored 60 or higher on the State Qualifying Test in November and Submit pitch deck by January 16th	1 to 3	Yes- Marketing Cluster Exam	20 slides online	Onsite TBD	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule
Integrated Marketing Campaign-Product	Must have scored 60 or higher on the State Qualifying Test in November and Submit pitch deck by January 16th	1 to 3	Yes- Marketing Cluster Exam	20 slides online	Onsite TBD	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule
Integrated Marketing Campaign-Service	Must have scored 60 or higher on the State Qualifying Test in November and Submit pitch deck by January 16th	1 to 3	Yes- Marketing Cluster Exam	20 slides online	Onsite TBD	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule
Professional Selling Events	How do I get to participate?	# of Participants	Written Exam	Entry Length	Test Date & Time	Presentation Date & Time
Financial Consulting	Must have scored 60 or higher on the	1	Yes-Finance Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm

	State Qualifying Test in November					By Schedule
Hospitality & Tourism Professional Selling	Must have scored 60 or higher on the State Qualifying Test in November	1	Yes- Hospitality & Tourism Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Thursday 3:00pm- 7:00pm By Schedule
Professional Selling	Must have scored 60 or higher on the State Qualifying Test in November	1	Yes- Marketing Cluster Exam	N/A	Onsite TBD	Thursday 3:00pm- 7:00pm By Schedule
Business Management & Entrepreneurship	How do I get to participate?	# of Participants	Written Exam	Entry Length	Test Date & Time	Presentation Date & Time
Innovation Plan	Must submit pitch deck by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 slides online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm- 7:00pm By Schedule
International Business Plan	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 pages online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm- 7:00pm By Schedule
Start-Up Business Plan	Must submit pitch deck by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 slides online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm- 7:00pm By Schedule
Franchise Business Plan	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 pages online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm- 7:00pm By Schedule
Independent Business Plan	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 pages online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm- 7:00pm By Schedule
Business Growth Plan	Must submit written manual by January 16	1 to 3	No	20 pages online	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm- 7:00pm By Schedule

Personal Financial Literacy		# of Participants	Written Exam	Entry Length	Test Date & Time	Presentation Date & Time
Personal Financial Literacy	Must have scored 60 or higher on the State Qualifying Test in Nov	1	Yes-Financial Literacy	N/A	Onsite TBD	Friday 9:00am- 2:00pm By Schedule

Presentation Only Events	How do I get to participate?	# of Participants	Written Exam	Entry Length	Test Date & Time	Presentation Date & Time
SBE Competition	Must submit manual for Gold Certification or Re-Certification to National DECA by January 13th	1 to 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm By Schedule

2026 Written Manual Events

This year we are continuing with Online Written Manual Submission for all Written Projects

The deadline for Manual Submission is **January 16th at 5pm**. GA DECA will not accept any manuals after this date and time.

Submit Manuals at:

Project Management Events

Business Solutions Project
Career Development Project
Community Awareness Project
Community Giving Project
Financial Literacy Project
Sales Project

Integrated Marketing Campaign

Integrated Marketing Campaign- Event-Pitch Deck
Integrated Marketing Campaign- Product- Pitch Deck
Integrated Marketing Campaign-Service- Pitch Deck

Entrepreneurship Events

Independent Business Plan
International Business Plan
Start Up Business Plan- Pitch Deck
Franchise Business Plan
Business Growth Plan
Innovation Plan- Pitch Deck

Business Operations Research Events

Business Services Operations Research
Buying & Merchandising Operations Research
Finance Operations Research
Hospitality & Tourism Operations Research
Sports & Entertainment Marketing Operations Research

Written manuals which pass the initial screening process will be sent on for judging by business representatives. Manuals must meet a preset standard set by judges in advance of judging in order to have representation at the state conference and to earn a trophy. Interviews will be conducted for all manuals at the state conference. Finalists will be announced at the awards ceremony and trophies will be awarded. Students will have the opportunity to revise manuals declared eligible for ICDC after the State CDC. Student representatives of the manuals should attend the state conference and register as a participant in manual competition.

Please Remember: The individual (s) who wrote the manual when it was submitted on the 16th (including chapter manuals) must also be the individual (s) who interview at the State Competition.

Chapters failing to meet the above deadlines will forfeit their eligibility.

Manuals will be judged in January by Judges online. Presentations will take place on Thursday, February 26th and the **Top 9** will be recognized on stage at the Awards Session and eligible for Competition at ICDC.

2026 Competency Based Events

Participation in the following events depends on State Qualifying Testing Eligibility. Students must have tested online in November and scored a 60 or higher on the cluster exam that matches their event. Principles Events must have qualified from Region Competition in December.

Individual Series Events

Accounting Applications Series
Apparel & Accessories Marketing Series
Automotive Services Marketing Series
Business Finance Series
Business Services Marketing
Entrepreneurship
Food Marketing Series
Hotel & Lodging Management Series
Human Resources Management Series
Marketing Communications Series
Quick Serve Restaurant Management Series
Restaurant & Food Service Management Series
Retail Merchandising Series
Sports & Entertainment Marketing Series

Principles of Business Administration Events

Principles of Business Mgmt & Administration
Principles of Finance
Principles of Hospitality & Tourism
Principles of Marketing

Personal Financial Literacy Event

Personal Financial Literacy

Testing for the Competency Events will take place during State CDC. The **Top 10** will be recognized on stage at State CDC and eligible for Competition at ICDC.

2026 State Only Events

Participation in the following events depends on State Qualifying Testing Eligibility. Students must have tested online in November and scored a 60 or higher on the Business Administration Core Exam for all Middle School Principles Events listed below. SBE Competition participation is dependent on if your chapter submitted a manual in the DECA SBE Certification Program by January 13th.

Presentation Events

SBE Competition
MS Marketing Role Play
MS Principles of Business Mgmt & Admin
MS Principles of Entrepreneurship
MS Principles of Finance
MS Principles of Hospitality & Tourism
MS Principles of Marketing
MS Promotional Pitch
MS Theme Speech

Testing for the Middle School Principles Events will take place during State CDC. The top 8 will be recognized on stage at the Awards Session and the top 3 will receive trophies.

2026 Team Decision Making Events

Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making
Buying & Merchandising Team Decision Making
Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making
Financial Services Team Decision Making
Hospitality Services Team Decision Making
Marketing Management Team Decision Making
Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making
Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making

Participation in Team Decision Making Events is dependent on Region Eligibility. Students must have qualified in TDM Events from their Region Competition in December.

Testing for Team Decision Making Events takes place during State CDC. The **Top 10** will be recognized on stage at State CDC and eligible for Competition at ICDC.

2026 Professional Selling Events

Financial Consulting
Hospitality & Tourism Professional Selling
Professional Selling

Testing for Professional Selling Events takes place during State CDC. The Top 9 will be recognized on stage at the Awards Session and eligible for Competition at ICDC.

Eligibility for Competitive Events

- All affiliated chapters are eligible to have 1 participant/team per competition. Chapters wanting to enter more than 1 individual/team must use extra competitor slots
- Chapters may not have more than 3 entries in an event (except for Business Growth Plan, Finance Operations Research, and Financial Literacy Project - these events can have 4 entries)
- Students are only allowed to compete in 1 Competitive Event at State CDC