

**2026 SOUTHERN SECTION
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
(SSLC)**



BEYOND
the **STARS**



**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON
800 N STATE COLLEGE BLVD. FULLERTON, CA 92831
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome 3

Tentative Schedule of Events..... 4

Registration Information 5

Registration & Conference Requirements..... 6

Competitions with Extra Steps 7

Performance Competitions 8

Online Testing Information 9

Conference Dress Code..... 10

Section Officer Applications for 2026-2027 11

Qualifiers for State Leadership Conference 12

Online Registration Help 13-17

Online Competition Submission Help..... 18

Important Dates..... 19

GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Date:

January 24, 2026

Location:

California State University, Fullerton
800 N State College Blvd. Fullerton, CA 92831

Start/End Time:

8AM: Registration Opens
2PM: Awards Ceremony Ends

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions regarding the conference or competitive events please contact Dr. Ramirez, Southern Section Director, via email at JRamirez@cafbla.org.

WELCOME

We are working hard to make this year an experience you won't forget! Our goal is to make sure you and your members soar "Beyond the Stars" at SSLC this year. The 2025-2026 California competitive event guidelines will be in effect. Please check out the latest competitive events guidelines: [Competitions](#).

We are excited to see all Section members thriving this year. Please work with your members to ensure that they know conference protocol and that they are ready to go to their designated events upon arrival at the conference.

This will be a great event, and we expect our members and advisers to adhere to the rules in place so everyone feels safe and can enjoy the event. Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me as soon as possible so they can be addressed.

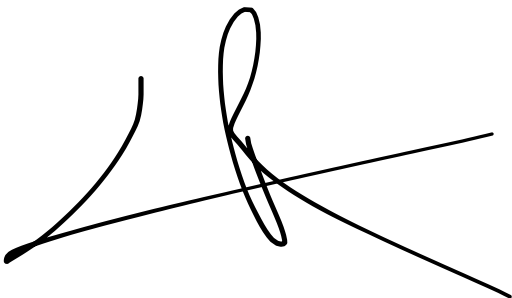
As you already know, SSLC will continue implementing "On-Site Testing" for all Objective Tests. All objective testing will take place before SSLC at each of the chapter's location (January 20-22, 2026). Please make the necessary arrangements and adjustments with your school administration and prepare your members to test at your location on the designated days and times. Regarding performance competitions, these will take place at SSLC during the designated times.

Please encourage your members to realize their leadership potential by running for a Southern Section Office. This truly is a great opportunity for them to gain valuable leadership skills and to network with members and officers from throughout the section and state. The deadline to apply is December 19th, 2025, by 5pm. The Southern Section Officer Candidate Guide and Application can be found [here](#).

Also, be sure to select two members as voting delegates for the section officer's election at SSLC.

We encourage you to come and experience the thrill of competition at SSLC. Please try to encourage all your members to compete in more than one competition this year. We are looking forward to seeing you in January!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dr. Jorge Ramirez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Dr. Jorge Ramirez
Southern Section FBLA, Director

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8-8:45AM	REGISTRATION (Advisers Only)	Quad
8-8:45AM	MORNING REFRESHMENTS	Quad
8:45-9:15AM	OPENING SESSION	Auditorium
8:45-11AM	PERFORMANCE EVENTS Job Interview Intro to Public Speaking Public Speaking Impromptu Speaking Creed Sales Presentation Future Business Leader	Meeting Room TBD Meeting Room TBD Meeting Room TBD Meeting Room TBD Meeting Room TBD Meeting Room TBD Meeting Room TBD
9:30-10:10AM	WORKSHOP I	Auditorium/Classroom
10:20-11AM	WORKSHOP II	Auditorium/Classroom
11AM-12:30PM	LUNCH	Quad
12:30-2PM	AWARDS CEREMONY	Auditorium

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

ONLINE CHAPTER AFFILIATION DUES & REGISTERED MEMBERS

All Members must be paid FBLA members through the National system by January 9, 2026, to compete.

Step 1:

Go to [FBLA Connect](#) to register all members. Only members who are listed as “active members” in FBLA Connect will appear in Blue Panda. If you have questions about registering your members, please contact: hello@cafbla.org.

Step 2:

All members need to be registered and assigned to the competitions selected by the registration deadline. To register members, log in to <https://app.gobluepanda.com>. More instructions on how to registers members and assign them to competitions can be found at the end of this conference guide.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE & COSTS

Last day to register: January 9, 2026 (includes “late-registration, see page 19 for more information).

COST:

- \$45 per member
- \$25 per adviser/chaperone

Registration Check

- Send check payable to “CAFBLA-Southern Section” (REMINDER: checks written to wrong name will be returned)
- All checks must be mailed to: PO Box 1440, Owasso, OK 74055. We will not accept checks on-site.

E-invoices

- E-invoices will be sent via email to chapters by JANUARY 24, 2026

COMPETITION RESTRICTIONS

The number of competitors a chapter can enter in each competition will be based on the chapter’s paid membership:

- 1-49 members:** 1-3 competitors
- 50-74 members:** up to 4 competitors
- 75-100 members:** up to 5 competitors
- 100+ members:** up to 6 competitors

Members can compete in TWO Individual or Team events, but no more than two. If a member is entered into the Creed Contest, they may compete in three events total. Email Dr. Ramirez ASAP if this pertains to a member in your chapter.

REGISTRATION & CONF. REQUIREMENTS

TRANSCRIPTS / PROOF OF GRADE LEVEL

All members entered in the following events must submit one PDF of Transcripts or Proof of Grade level for all students via email by January 16, 2026, to Dr. Ramirez, Southern Section Director:

Transcripts:

Accounting: Must not have had more than two semesters of accounting instruction. Transcripts must be submitted online through Blue Panda. More information can be found on page 18.

Proof of Grade Level is for the events for members in 7th-10th grades:

Creed, Intro. to Business Communication, Intro. to Business Concepts, Intro. to Business Procedures, Intro. to FBLA, Intro. to Information Technology, Intro. to Marketing Concepts, Intro. to Retail and Merchandising, and Intro. to Public Speaking.

WHAT MATERIALS TO BRING TO SSLC

1. **Required Forms:** Members are required to have the following forms on hand and filled out in the Advisers possession during the event. These will be checked at Registration to ensure all members are approved to attend this event by their Parent/Guardians. Required Forms for ALL STUDENT ATTENDEES:
 - a. Permission & Medical Release Form
 - b. COVID-19 Acknowledgement & Personal Responsibility Policy
2. All competitors are required to have a Photo ID or printed copy of schedule/transcript (with picture and name of student on it), or they will NOT be allowed to compete. A digital school-issued ID will be accepted, but an image on a cell phone or other device will not be allowed.

VOTING DELEGATES

Chapters are required to participate in the delegates-voting process. Please assign two voting delegates for selecting the 2026-2027 Southern Section officer team. Voting will take place during lunch. Delegates need to report to the Auditorium to vote during this time.

CONFERENCE DRESS CODE

The required Dress Code for this conference is Business Professional. Please review this with your members BEFORE the conference. See Page 10 for more information. Members not adhering to Dress Code will receive a penalty in their competition score.

ACTIVITIES/WORKSHOP

Two workshops will be held at SSLC; each member needs to attend both (unless they are participating at a performance event). More instructions will be provided at the opening ceremony.

COMPETITIONS WITH EXTRA STEPS

The following competitions require an extra step in the competition process:

Production Event:

- Computer Applications

Pre-Judged:

- Future Business Leader
- Job Interview

PRODUCTION EVENT

Step one: Request a test. The Production Test Request Form is due to Manuel Rapada, Competitive Events Coordinator, by December 19, 2025. The form can be found here: [Competitions](#).

Step two: Members complete and submit their test. Tests must be submitted online by January 9, 2026

More information about submitting School-Site test see page 18.

PRE-JUDGED

Event materials for these competitions need to be submitted online through Blue Panda.

Please review the dedicated [website](#) for all info regarding the pre-judged events

Due date to submit pre-judged materials: January 9, 2026.

Members who participate in Job Interview do not need to take an objective test, only Future Business Leader competitors. For Job Interview and Future Business Leader, a live performance in front of judges will be graded and required at SSLC.

More information about submitting pre-judged materials see page 18.

CREED COMPETITION

If one of the members is participating in the Creed competition in addition to two other competitions, please email Dr. Ramirez (JRamirez@cafbla.org)

PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADER (FBL)

The top 10 in this event will be selected based on preliminary scores of application materials. Competitors must bring a folder with one copy of application materials to the conference. Review the event guidelines, including the “California FBLA Guidelines” section. Finalists (Top 10) and interview times for this event will be sent to Advisers the week of the Conference.

INTRO TO PUBLIC SPEAKING / PUBLIC SPEAKING

Speech times for these events will be sent to Advisers the week of the Conference.

JOB INTERVIEW

The top 10 in this event will be selected based on preliminary scores of application materials. Competitors must bring a folder with one copy of application materials to the conference. Review the event guidelines, including the “California FBLA Guidelines (Section and State)”. Finalists (Top 10) and interview times for this event will be sent to Advisers the week of the Conference.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

Times for this event will be drawn and sent to Advisers the week of the Conference.

SALES PRESENTATION

Event Specifics:

- One submission per chapter (Individual/Team)
- This event will present live at SSLC.

Review the event guidelines, including the “California FBLA Guidelines (Section and State)”.

ONLINE TESTING INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

All Objective Test Competitive Events will take place between January 20 and January 22 at the chapter's location. Chapter advisers will be responsible for accessible devices and access to the internet on the day of the event. All objective testing will be taken online.

Members can take two tests in one day; members can only test on the day and time assigned; tests will be open for only one hour (advisers determine the time, more information below); all members testing on a specific subject need to test at the same time; members need to test at the school under the supervision of a proctor.

TESTING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, January 20, 2026:

All tests will be available but only during the time selected.

Wednesday, January 21, 2026:

All tests will be available but only during the time you selected.

Thursday, January 22, 2026:

All tests will be available but only during the time you selected.

Proctors

Chapter advisers can act as their students' proctor. However, no more than 30 students should be testing at a time. If more than 30 students need to test at a given time, an extra proctor will be needed. Members can test before period 1, during all periods, during proctor's prep period, after last period. A form (provided) will need to be submitted to Dr. Ramirez by January 16, 2026, with all the times requested for each objective test. More than one objective test can be provided during the same time requested.

CONFERENCE DRESS CODE

Advisers: Please spend time prior to the conference reviewing the dress code and assisting your members in dressing professionally. Members dressed inappropriately will receive a penalty in their competition scores. This can be avoided with some guidance.

FBLA members and advisers should develop an awareness of the image one's appearance projects. The purpose of the FBLA Conference Dress Code is to uphold the professional image of the association and its members, and to prepare students for the business world.

Appropriate attire is required for all attendees—advisers, members, and guests—at all general sessions, competitive events, section meetings, workshops, and other activities unless otherwise stated in the conference program. Conference name badges are part of this FBLA Conference Dress Code and must be worn for all conference functions.

Professional attire acceptable for official FBLA activities include:

- **Males:**
 - Business suit with collared dress shirt, and necktie or
 - Sport coat, dress slacks, collared shirt, and necktie or
 - Dress slacks, collared shirt, and necktie.
 - Banded collared shirt may be worn only if sport coat or business suit is worn.
 - Dress shoes and dress socks. Socks must be the same color as suit.

- **Females:**
 - Business suit with blouse or
 - Business pantsuit with blouse or
 - Skirt or dress slacks with blouse or sweater or
 - Business dress
 - Dress or skirt hem length may be no higher than three inches above the knee.
 - Capris or gauchos with coordinating jacket/suit, worn below the knee.
 - Dress shoes with 2-inch heel or less.

Inappropriate attire for both men and women includes:

- Jewelry in visible body piercing, other than ears
- Denim or chambray fabric clothing of any kind, overalls, shorts, skorts, stretch or stirrup pants, exercise or bike shorts.
- Backless, see-through, tight-fitting, spaghetti straps, strapless, extremely short, or low-cut blouses/tops/dresses/skirts
- T-shirts, Lycra, spandex, midriff tops, tank tops, bathing suits
- Sandals, athletic shoes, industrial work shoes, hiking boots, bare feet, or over-the-knee boots
- Athletic wear, including sneakers and low-cut ankle socks.
- Hats or flannel fabric clothing
- Bolo ties
- Visible foundation garments

SECTION OFFICER APPLICATIONS 26-27

THE DECISION TO RUN FOR SECTION OFFICE

Service as a Southern Section Officer is an opportunity to gain valuable leadership experience and contribute to the development and advancement of California FBLA. The Officer Candidate Guide provides information about Southern Section Officer Candidate eligibility, the application and campaign process, and an overview of the expectations, responsibilities, and activities of Southern Section Officers.

Complete Applications must be submitted via email as one PDF file to Dr. Ramirez, Southern Section Director, at JRamirez@cafbla.org on or before December 19, 2025, by 5pm. Applications submitted after the deadline, for any reason, will not be accepted.

To be successful in the candidate process, be sure to carefully review and consider the following:

- Review the [Officer Candidate Application](#) and be familiar with section officer responsibilities and candidate requirements. Section President application below.
- Meet with your local chapter adviser, family, school administrators, employers, and other significant parties to discuss running for section office to gain their support.
- Familiarize yourself with California FBLA's mission, history, bylaws, publications, programs, and activities. The Chapter Management Handbook and the state and national websites are excellent resources (to find these materials).

POSITIONS

Officer Positions are open to candidates in 7th to 12th grade during the 2025-2026 school year. The positions are:

- President (See Application below. Mandatory Zoom meeting on December 10 at 4:30pm)
- Vice President of Activities
- Vice President of Memberships
- Vice President of Competitions
- Recording Secretary
- Outreach Coordinator
- Public Relations
- Leadership Associate

NOTE: The President will simultaneously hold the office of State Vice President representing Southern Section and must be able to complete the duties of both.

PRESIDENT POSITION

Download the Section President Application [HERE](#)

Direct all inquiries and questions about Southern Section Officer Applications to
Southern Section Director, Dr. Ramirez, at JRamirez@cafbla.org

QUALIFIERS TO SLC

FIRST Place Winner at Southern Section:

Creed

FIRST & SECOND Place Winners at Southern Section:

Impromptu Speaking
Intro to Public Speaking
Job Interview

Public Speaking
Sales Presentation

FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH, & FIFTH Place Winners at Southern Section who each have a final score of at least 30:

Computer Applications

FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH, FIFTH, & SIXTH Place Winners at Southern Section:

Accounting	Insurance & Risk Management
Advertising	International Business
Agribusiness	Introduction to Business Communication
Business Communication	Introduction to Business Concepts
Business Law	Introduction to Business Procedures
Business Management	Introduction to FBLA
Computer Problem Solving	Introduction to Information Technology
Cybersecurity	Introduction to Marketing Concepts
Data Science & AI	Introduction to Retail & Merchandising
Economics	Marketing
Entrepreneurship	Personal Finance
Future Business Leader	Real Estate
Health Care Administration	Securities & Investments
Hospitality & Event Management	Sports & Entertainment Management
Human Resource Management	

Click [the "Events Starting at State" folder in the California competitive event guidelines](#) to review events that begin at the State Leadership Conference (SLC) in April!

ONLINE REGISTRATION HELP (ADVISERS ONLY)

ADVISERS: READ ALL OF BELOW BEFORE LOGGING INTO BLUE PANDA.

Log in to <https://app.gobluepanda.com>.

Click “Login with FBLA Connect.”



User Login Judge Code

Login with FBLA Connect

~ OR ~

Username:

Password:

[Forgot Password?](#)

Remember Me Stay Logged In

Login

Enter your FBLA Connect email address and password.



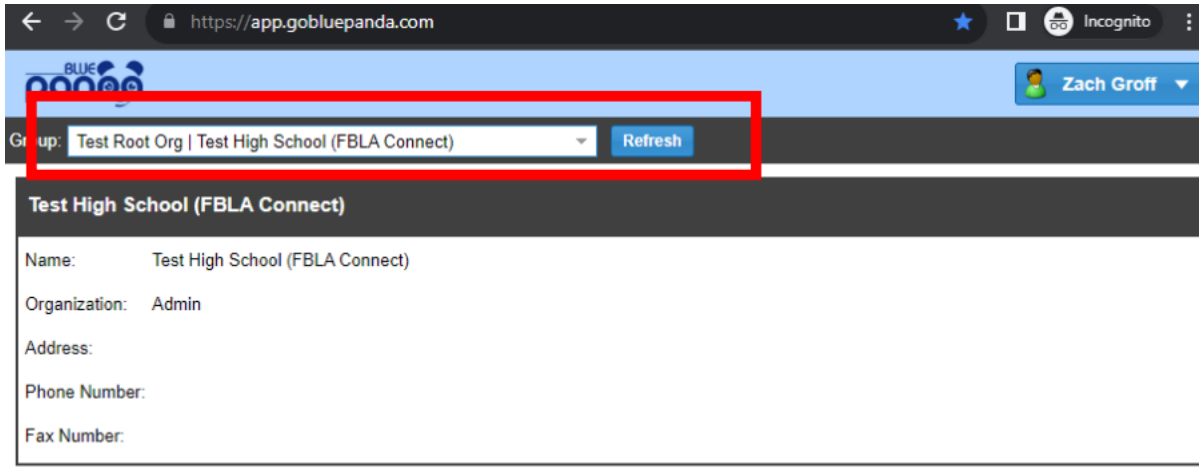
Email Address

Password

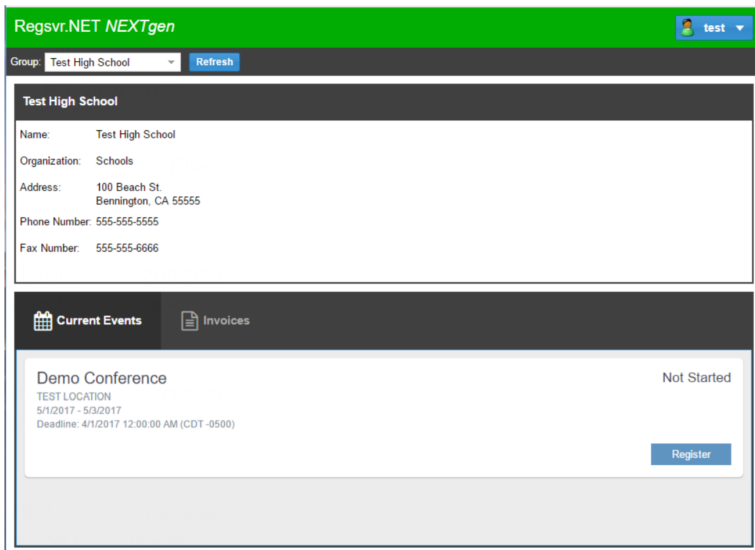
[Forgot Your Password?](#)

ONLINE REGISTRATION HELP (ADVISERS ONLY)

In the Blue Panda dropdown, select the “California FBLA | [Your Middle/High School’s Name]” option. This will give you access to California FBLA’s section and state conference registrations.



Click “Register” for the 2026 **Southern** Section Leadership Conference.



On the ATTENDEES screen, click the “ADD” button, and, first, register yourself as adviser. On the drop-down list, select the “Adviser” option. Once you do that, you will see editable fields, but they will probably be initially populated with the name of one of your students. Delete that name, and enter your own information and all remaining fields. Register any other adults attending as advisers.

Once advisers are registered, you will begin registering students by switching the drop-down to one of the “Student” options. Middle school chapters should select the "MS Student Participant" registration when registering their students. High school chapter members only should be registered under the attendee type “HS Student Participant.”

ONLINE REGISTRATION HELP (ADVISERS ONLY)

Don't see your student's name in Blue Panda?

- Go to [FBLA Connect](#).
- Go to Members > Transition Members.
- Make sure all students are listed in the middle "member" column.
- If a missing student is in the "unpaid student" column with no dollar sign next to their name ...
 - Select their name, then "transition to member."
 - Click "view the quote, convert to an invoice later."
 - Near the bottom of the invoice, select "Convert to Invoice."
 - Email the invoice number to Alyssa Gonzalez at agonzalez@cafbla.org
 - You will not pay this invoice. CA FBLA will pay this invoice on your behalf based on the affiliation tier you selected on your affiliation form.
- If a missing student is in the "unpaid student" column with a green dollar sign next to their name ...
 - Email the invoice number to Alyssa Gonzalez at agonzalez@cafbla.org
 - You will not pay this invoice. CA FBLA will pay this invoice on your behalf based on the affiliation tier you selected on your affiliation form.

Be sure to carefully check and update student grade levels. Students must show proper grade levels in Blue Panda in order to enter grade specific events.

If you have students with special needs, please provide a clear explanation of the student's needs in addition to checking the Special Needs box.

If you have students with dietary requirements, please provide a clear explanation of the student's needs in addition to checking the Dietary box.

For each student, double check spelling, grade level and email address (both editable in Blue Panda, and be sure to supply *personal* email addresses for each student so that important notifications will not get caught in school district spam filters.

If you change anything in Blue Panda, please understand that it also needs to be corrected in FBLA Connect for future purposes, as the information does not sync the other way.

ONLINE REGISTRATION HELP (ADVISERS ONLY)

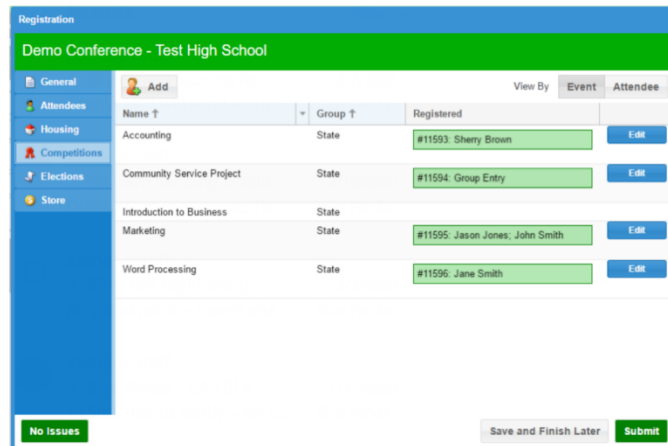
Once you have a given student registered under “ATTENDEES”, you will be able to assign events to them under “COMPETITIONS”. In the Competitions module, you have the option to enter students in events either BY EVENT or BY ATTENDEE (toggle top right).

Adding Entries

Add - Select the event and click "Add" (You don't have to click the event first, but it does make it easier)

Tip: Click "Add" to create a registration for each Individual or Team. Once you've added the one Individual or Team, click OK and then click Add to create another.

Edit - Click the "Edit" button next to the registration you wish to edit.

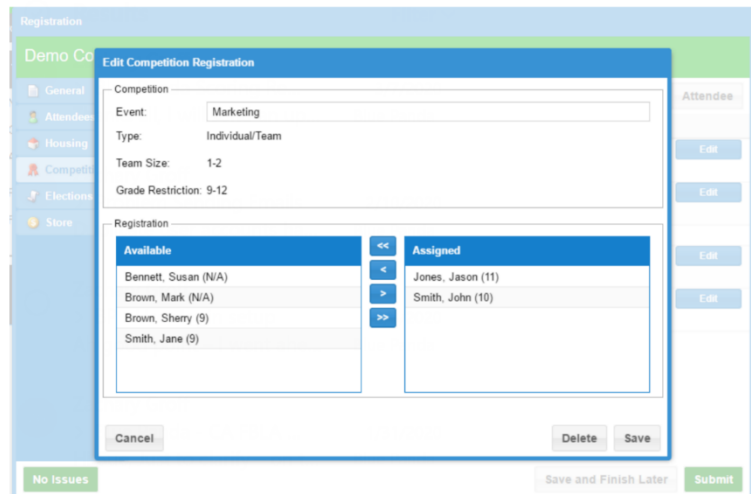


The screenshot shows the 'Registration' interface for 'Demo Conference - Test High School'. It features a sidebar with navigation options: General, Attendees, Housing, Competitions, Elections, and Store. The main area displays a table of registered attendees for various events. The table has columns for Name, Group, and Registered. The events listed are Accounting, Community Service Project, Introduction to Business, Marketing, and Word Processing. Each event has a corresponding 'Registered' value and an 'Edit' button.

Name	Group	Registered	Edit
Accounting	State	#11593: Sherry Brown	Edit
Community Service Project	State	#11594: Group Entry	Edit
Introduction to Business	State		
Marketing	State	#11595: Jason Jones, John Smith	Edit
Word Processing	State	#11596: Jane Smith	Edit

For team events, see right:

Continue assigning events to student attendees until complete. Double-check all of your event entries before submitting.



The screenshot shows the 'Edit Competition Registration' interface. It displays the competition details: Event: Marketing, Type: Individual/Team, Team Size: 1-2, and Grade Restriction: 9-12. Below this, there are two columns: 'Available' and 'Assigned'. The 'Available' column lists attendees: Bennett, Susan (N/A), Brown, Mark (N/A), Brown, Sherry (9), and Smith, Jane (9). The 'Assigned' column lists attendees: Jones, Jason (11) and Smith, John (10). Navigation arrows are present between the columns. At the bottom, there are 'Cancel', 'Delete', and 'Save' buttons.

In FINAL QUESTIONS, you will be asked to supply the names of the primary attending adviser, your two official voting delegates and your voting delegates' email addresses (yes, again—so we can quickly get them for emailing voting forms). For Computer Applications, you will also be asked to supply the name and email of your proctor.

You may log back in to adjust at any time until **JANUARY 9, 2026**, to finally hit the SUBMIT button—but don't forget to do that! Your registration will not be official until the SUBMIT button is pressed for the last time up until **JANUARY 9, 2026**.

Even after clicking the final SUBMIT button, you will be able to log back in and edit your registration up until the final deadline on **JANUARY 9, 2026**.

ONLINE REGISTRATION HELP (ADVISERS ONLY)

Chapters will receive an e-invoice from California FBLA after registration in Blue Panda closes. Through the e-invoices, chapters are able to see their balance due, and pay via credit card or check.

Questions?

- **About the conference:** Please contact Dr. Ramirez, Southern Section Director, at JRamirez@cafbla.org.
- **About members who are not showing up in Blue Panda and how to use FBLA Connect:** Please contact Tiffany Perez, Chapter Support Manager, at hello@cafbla.org.
- **About CA FBLA's competitive event guidelines and how to use Blue Panda:** Please contact Manuel Rapada, Competitive Events Coordinator, at mrapada@cafbla.org.

REGISTRATION OPENS FOR THE 2026 SSLC ON NOVEMBER 17, 2025

NOTE: Only **CHAPTER ADVISERS** should be registering members for this event. Do **NOT** allow students to register your chapter.

ONLINE COMPETITION SUBMISSION HELP

Advisers will submit materials (documents and/or links) required for certain competitive events using the “Items Due” tool in Blue Panda. As soon as an adviser registers a student for an event with pre-judged material submissions, a **new orange button for “Items Due”** will appear on the conference box immediately after log in to Blue Panda.

Demo Conference In Progress

TEST LOCATION
5/1/2019 - 5/3/2019
Deadline: 4/1/2019 12:00:00 AM (CDT -0500)

[Continue](#)

Additional Items Due: 3/6

Clicking the “Items Due” button will take the adviser to the screenshot below. Depending on the event, clicking the **Upload** button on the right will open a box to either input a URL or browse the computer for the item to upload.

Competition ↑	Due By ↑	Entry	Asset	
Word Processing Job #1		Jane Smith	Please Click Button To Upload	Upload
Word Processing Job #2		Jane Smith	Please Click Button To Upload	Upload
Job Interview Resume	2/1/21 5:00 PM ...	Jason Jones John Smith	Please Click Button To Upload	Upload
Job Interview Resume	2/1/21 5:00 PM ...	Philip Smith Maegan Belissai	Please Click Button To Upload	Upload

[Close](#)

Broadcast Journalism - Submission

Competition: Broadcast Journalism

Entry: XXXXXXXXXX

Item Due: Submission

URL:

[Cancel](#) [Save](#)

Job Interview - Resume

Competition: Job Interview

Entry: Jason Jones
John Smith
Test High School

Item Due: Resume

File: [Browse...](#)

[Cancel](#) [Save](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER 2025

17 SSLC Registration Opens

DECEMBER 2025

- 19 Last day to submit applications for 2026 - 2027 Southern Section Officers— Email it as one PDF file to Dr. Ramirez (JRamirez@cafbla.org) by 5pm.
- 19 Last day to request the required On-Site Testing Application for: Computer Applications
*****Request the production test and register students for these events in Blue Panda by December 19. No students can be added to this event after December 19.**
- 26 Last day to register members for SSLC, regular fee.
- 27 Late registration begins; late fee applies. (\$10 extra per registration)

JANUARY 2026

- 9 Last day to add members to the Membership system, FBLA Connect
- 9 Last day to register members for SSLC, late fee applies.
- 9 Last day to submit the required materials for the following competitions: Future Business Leader and Job Interview
- 9 Last day to submit the required tests for: Computer Applications
- 16 Last day to submit transcripts and proof of grade level (see page 6 for more information)
- 16 Last day to Mail Conference Registration Check (email Dr. Ramirez if you need to send it later)

Mail to: PO Box 1440, Owasso, OK 74055

Payable to: "CAFBLA - Southern Section"

NOTE: Include invoice with payment

20-22 Objective Testing at Chapter's location

24 Southern Section Leadership Conference!