**Texas FFA Association**

**Policy Handbook**

**Section 22: State Scholarship Selection and Administration**

**June 5, 2018**

**22.3 Selection Criteria and Process—Texas FFA Academic Scholarship Program**

(a) An at-large chairman and vice-chairman, elected by the Area VIII teachers and shall serve a term generally consistent with the current Career Development Event cycle and concludes at the end of the state professional improvement conference at the beginning of the new cycle. Each district may submit to the Area Coordinator, the names of two qualified teachers as nominations for members of the committee. Each area shall elect one agricultural science teacher to serve as a voting member and one alternate to serve on the state scholarship committee which shall serve as an advisory committee to the Board of Directors.

(b) Selection of scholarship recipients is conducted on a competitive basis. Criteria used in selecting scholarship recipients includes:

(1) academic achievement as reflected by class rank,

(2) SAT or ACT scores,

(3) completion of agricultural science instruction

(4) achievement in agricultural science/FFA program: leadership development events, career development events, supervised agricultural experience program, individual leadership and other FFA activities

(5) financial need, and

(6) interview performance.

(c) There is no interview process at the Area VIII Convention

(d) Evaluation committees used to score applications shall be comprised of an equal number of agricultural science teachers from each administrative district. However, the committee shall not be prohibited from conducting the process should a district fail to send representatives. A majority of areas must be represented to conduct any evaluation process. Individuals who have a vested of interest as a teacher or parent in the outcome of an area selection process may serve on the area evaluation committees.

(e) Each administrative area conducts an elimination process in compliance with all applicable Texas FFA Association policies. Applications shall be submitted to the area selection process by whatever timelines and methods are adopted by the respective administrative areas.

(f) All submitted applications become the property of the state association and shall be retained by the Texas FFA until they are released to scholarship donors or back to the respective area coordinator.

(g) The total number of state scholarship qualifiers shall be a percentage above the total number of scholarships. The said percentage and the minimum number of applications allowed to each area shall be fixed by the Board of Directors. The remaining qualifier positions shall be prorated based on area membership using a formula approved by the Board of Directors. Area membership shall be determined using the average of the last three completed membership years. In addition to the state qualifiers, each area shall designate two applications to be alternate qualifiers.

(h) Applications must be received at the Texas FFA Headquarters on or before the date set by the state chairperson. Applications shall be scored and ranked by an evaluation committee. The top applicants shall be invited to interview for a scholarship. Alternate applications shall be scored and ranked in a separate pool.

(i) In all scoring processes, the two highest scores and two lowest scores are dropped from the scoring total.

(j) The number of State finalists shall be equal to the number of scholarships available. No area shall be awarded less than eight finalists. Based on application scores, the scholarship finalists shall be broken into interview pools which best fit the dollar amount breaks in the continuum of scholarships. Each pool shall be evaluated by a separate interview committee. Interview positions shall be determined by draw and the interview schedule shall be posted online and area coordinators shall be notified via e-mail following the conclusion of the application evaluation process. Candidates who withdraw from the interview process shall be replaced by the next highest ranking alternate, unless such withdrawal causes an area to have less than ten finalists. In such case, the highest ranking, fully qualified candidate from the respective area shall be designated as a finalist. If no fully qualified replacement from the respective area is available, the alternate shall be selected from the at-large pool.

(k) In the event of a tie during the final ranking at degree check, the following will be used as a tie breaker in order as listed:

1) FFA Activity Score,

2) Student’s GPA generated on the application,

3) Need Narrative Score,

(l)The committee shall not discriminate against applicants declaring non-agricultural majors but such candidates may be eliminated by donor criteria should they not qualify for a non-major specific scholarship. Scholarship candidates who do not qualify for a scholarship by virtue of declared major shall be replaced by the highest ranking alternate selected at large from the alternate pool, unless such disqualification places the area’s scholarship total below eight, in which case the highest ranking, qualifying alternate from his or her respective area shall be moved to a finalist position. In such case when an eligible candidate from a corresponding area is unavailable, the highest ranking alternate, selected at large shall be moved into the recipient roster as positions are available.

(m) Due to donor requirements, it is possible that finalists selected for an interview will not receive a scholarship.

(n) Grievances and appeals related to area selection processes must be submitted to the Area Coordinator no later than the end of the next working day following the completion of the selection process in question. Qualitative evaluation decisions which are inherent to judging applications and candidates may not be appealed. All appeals and grievances will be answered prior to submission to the State Office.

(o) Teachers and students should expect the Texas FFA Scholarship process to be conducted with the same quality of standards that are consistent with the core values of the Texas FFA Association. As a result, committee members and volunteers may be excused from serving on any state level committee indefinitely due to ethical and confidentiality violations, such as but not limited to releasing selection results via social media, phone or email before the official results have been posted by the Texas FFA Association.

(p) Unofficial results from the State Selection in Austin and interview process at Degree Check will have a review period of up to business days after the committee concludes. This review period will ensure that there are no technical/human errors and results will be posted as soon as the FFA Executive Director approves the review. Once the results are posted on the Texas FFA website, they will be deemed ‘Official Results.’

(q) Official results shall be posted on-line and announced via Area VIII website.

**22.4 Candidate Eligibility and Application Requirements**

(a) To be eligible to apply for a Texas FFA College Scholarship, an applicant must:

1. be an active member of the Texas FFA Association for the current year and at least two of the three previous years, be listed on the State FFA Roster, and be in good standing with the Texas FFA Association and all Texas FFA College Scholarship sponsors.

2. be a U.S. citizen. If the applicant’s transcript reflects a place of birth other than the United States, proof of naturalization must be shown to a high school records official (principal, counselor, registrar, etc.) or the agricultural science teacher, who will then verify it as part of the application.

3. declare intent to attend a Texas college or university in the fall semester of the application year.

4. be a current year graduating senior.

5. upon graduation, have completed at least three (3) academic calendar years and at least five

(5) different semesters of instruction in agriscience and/or agribusiness during grades 9 through 12. Course credits received through Credit By Examination shall not count towards satisfying the five (5) different semesters of instruction. All agriscience and agribusiness courses taken in one semester shall be counted as one semester of instruction.

6. score at least **1000** on the SAT or at least **19** on the ACT.

7. be in the upper one-half of his/her class, based on scholastic rank, for the first three and one-half (3.5) years of high school for all scholarships, except the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Wallrath Educational Foundation, Star of Texas Scholarships, which require that the student be in the upper one-fourth.

8. be present in **Official FFA Dress** (according to Texas Standards) at all scholarship interviews (district, area, and state).

9. submit the most current Texas FFA Scholarship Application.

10. Candidates who receive a Terry Foundation Scholarship are NOT eligible to receive a Texas FFA Academic Scholarship.

(b) The Texas FFA College Scholarship Application must:

1. be generated as a PDF by the official online Texas FFA Scholarship Application 4

2. have all applicable pages completed

3. contain all requested signatures

4. contain no supplemental pages that are not requested

5. be accompanied by the student’s official transcript for the first three and one-half (3.5) years, which is signed by a school records official (principal, counselor, registrar, etc.) and certified with a school seal. The academic achievement record must include a photocopy of the college entrance exam's Official Report of Scores Label indicating the student's SAT and/or ACT scores. If more than one page is submitted, each page of the academic achievement record must display a school seal.

6. be submitted in an official FFA award folder.

(c) All scholarship recipients MUST BE PRESENT in Official FFA Dress (according to Texas Standards) at the State FFA Convention scholarship sponsors' dinner and the awards ceremony in order to receive an FFA scholarship. Any exceptions must be approved by the Texas FFA Association. Petitions for exceptions resulting from extenuating circumstances must be filed with the Texas FFA Executive Director no later than July 1. Texas FFA reserves the right to verify identity of interviewees and recipients.

**22.8 Ryan Mott Memorial Scholars**hip

(a) Ryan Mott was the 1997-98 Area IV State FFA Vice President from Quanah, Texas. He passed away in 1998 after a short but courageous battle with cancer. This memorial scholarship was established by his family and friends to honor his dedication to the FFA organization and its members. It will provide one student with a $1,000 scholarship, which will be distributed through the Texas FFA Foundation. This scholarship is intended to recognize students within the FFA that possess the same outstanding qualities as Ryan. The scholarship recipient will be a person who is kind, courteous, hardworking, and dedicated to the FFA. The person should also possess strong leadership and communication skills (which they use on an individual basis as well as in a team situation). Furthermore, ACT or SAT scores will not be considered as a primary factor when selecting the scholarship winner. Instead, the student’s personal characteristics and FFA involvement will be the two major deciding factors.

(b) Scholarship candidates who have advanced to the state scholarship selection process in the Texas FFA Scholarship program are not eligible to compete for the Ryan Mott Scholarship. The John Justin Standard of the West Award is not part of the Texas FFA Scholarship Program is does not affect eligibility for the Ryan Mott Memorial Scholarship.

(c) To apply for this scholarship, a student must complete the latest revised application and submit it for review at each applicant’s appropriate district or area convention. If any part of the application is incomplete, it will be rejected.

(d) The application must:

1. Be typed.

2. Be accompanied by an official transcript

3. Be accompanied by three letters of recommendation. (one from the local FFA advisor, one from a community member, and one from a past/present employer (if possible) or a school administrator)

4. Include a senior year photograph

(e) Applicants may undergo interviews at each level of competition. This decision should be made by the local officials. The applicants advancing to the state level will go through an interview process at the state degree check.