

Texas FFA Association

Tentative Area Realignment Timeline

The purpose of this document is to clarify procedures and protocols related to the transition to a new area alignment based on delegate action at the 88th Texas FFA Convention. On July 25, area teacher officers and coordinators met in conjunction with the VATAT Professional Development Conference to collaboratively construct a workable timeline to fulfill the expressed will of the student delegates. It is a *tentative* timeline, since the process is always subject to review of the board of directors and as the transition moves forward, adjustments may be necessary. This is a process never before executed by the Texas FFA Association.

Execution of an area realignment is based on the Texas FFA Policy 33.4, which is the passage which describes a “transition year.” What the policy does not clearly prescribe is when the transition year begins in relation to the delegate action. The Texas FFA Association believes that the prudent course of action is to allow districts and areas to begin laying the groundwork in 2016-17 for a 2017-18 transition year, resulting in full implementation by 2018-19.

One must always begin with the end in mind. Area and districts and their respective transition teams must accomplish the following:

- (1) Draft, post for public review and adopt association bylaws;
- (2) Develop, post for public review and adopt a district alignment;
- (3) Identify career development event provider(s);
- (4) Create necessary financial infrastructure: secure EIN, open bank accounts, approve account signatories;
- (5) Work with Texas FFA Association information technology vendors to begin the process of
- (6) Adopt policies and procedures related to (but limited to): hiring, compensating and evaluation of an area coordinator, area coordinator job description, election of student officers, election of national delegates, rules related to contests, awards and scholarship applications, participation in area student conferences such as summer leadership conferences and greenhand camps.
- (7) Select area/district convention sites;
- (8) Select and contract leadership conference sites;
- (9) Develop transition plans and procedures for electing temporary student officers to preside at the organizational meeting at which bylaws are adopted and to preside at the initial convention at which the first officers are elected.
- (10) Prepare a budget and recommendation for dues to be submitted to the student delegates; and
- (11) Complete the transfer of assets which follow each chapter into new or existing districts and areas.

To this end, the area leadership and representatives of the new and newly constituted areas produced the following tentative timeline:

July, 2016

Areas convene at VATAT Conference to elect transition teams, set dates and times for meetings

September, 2016

- Basic district bylaw model posted on Texas FFA Website for reference

December 31, 2016 - June 1, 2017

- District ALIGNMENT open for public comment within area (Alignments must be approved by the Texas FFA Board of Directors and must be submitted to the fourth quarter board meeting at the latest. If an area finishes the process early, the alignment can be submitted to an earlier quarterly board meeting.)

March-May, 2017

- Spring career development events held in current areas
- Current districts and areas hold award, degree and scholarship selection processes and hold speaking development events.
- Prior to 3rd Quarter BOD meeting, if district alignment proposals are complete and finalized, they can be submitted to BOD for approval.

June 1, 2017

- New Area and District draft BYLAWS to be posted for review
- Final district ALIGNMENT proposals due for BOD approval

July 2017 - January 2018

- New Districts/Area Organizational Meetings: student delegates convene (Date set at 2017 VATAT Conference)
 - Elect temporary officers (student transition teams to preside over organizational meeting and inaugural convention.
 - Adopt Bylaws
 - Policies related to officer elections
 - Dues may be set here or at the inaugural convention in the spring
- New Areas and Districts secure EIN and begin establishing accounts and banking procedures (bylaws must be adopted prior to this step)

March - April 2018

- Transfer of assets from “sending” districts and areas to “receiving” districts and areas.
- Spring career and speaking development events, award, degree and scholarship selections held in current areas

May, 2018

- Current districts and areas hold award presentation assemblies, allowing district and area officer to complete terms of office
- Scholarship selection qualifiers and committee members will remain in current (old) areas
- New Districts and Areas hold inaugural conventions to elect new officers, nominating committee members and talent teams and adopt a budget and a dues rate if this was not done at the organizational meeting.

June, 2018

- Twelve areas send officers to State Leadership Conference and the new areas will conduct area leadership conferences.
- Scholarship selection will remain in the current areas as it relates to area minimums.

July, 2018

- Degrees and Awards will remain in the current (past) areas.
- New areas are seated as voting delegates
- Delegates will caucus in the new areas and the state officer selection process will produce 12 state officers
- Because it is an elective process, talent competition will be in the 12-area format.
- The new areas elect advisory programmatic committee members
- CDE/LDE providers identified

2018-19

Districts and areas compete in new districts and areas for all competitive events and awards.