FTA Resource Guide

2026-27

Dear FTA advisor,

Welcome to the 2026-27 school year! I hope it's off to a great start. Thank you for taking time to advise future educators. Enclosed in this guide you will find everything you need to have a fantastic year with your FTA chapter. Please complete our chapter registration form as soon as possible. You can find the form on page 8 or use the qr code on that page to access the online registration form. Please complete it as soon as possible so we can make sure we have accurate records of your chapter.

https://msta.wufoo.com/forms/mehoqfk14re42d/

FTA State Meeting and College Fair
Wyndham Executive Center (same location as previous years, new hotel name)
Columbia, MO
Nov. 18
9am-12pm State Meeting

This year will include the opportunity for students to attend breakout sessions about the teaching profession. We'll also have a chance for FTA advisors to connect with each other. We will still have a general session, elect new state ambassadors and the college fair.

Enclosed in this guide you will find:

- Chapter renewal form-can be filled out on paper or online due Nov. 1
- FTA goals and objectives
- An action plan for planning your chapter's year
- Ideas for activities and programs
- Service Project Award Application-due Nov. 9.
  - We love to hear about your chapter's work. Please complete the service project award application and submit any supporting documents (photos, video, testimonials, etc)
- 2027 FTA Ambassador candidate form – due Nov. 9.
  - We will elect next year's ambassadors at our meeting. If you have students who are interested in serving as an ambassador for 2027 they will need to be present at our meeting on Nov. 18 and give a speech of no longer than two minutes explaining their involvement in FTA and ability to plan and lead next year's meeting. All interested students can graduate no earlier than Nov. 2027.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call (800-392-0532) or email (kmeyer@msta.org).

Sincerely,

Krista Meyer

Krista Meyer
Coordinator of Student Programs

Yearly Action Plan Form

You may use this form at your FTA meetings to plan your activities and fundraisers for the year.

School Year: _____

August:

September:

October:

November:

December:

January:

February:

March:

April:

May:

June:

July:

FTA Goals and Objectives

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Future Teachers of America, established in 1937, had its beginning in a vastly different setting than exists today. At its origin, the secondary school division of FTA was designed to serve as a recruitment organization for the teaching profession. It continues to serve this purpose.

Recruiting indviduals from diverse backgrounds is cruicial for the future of education. "Grow Your Own" programs are a way for school districts to attract students to return to the district as an educator. FTA can serve as a piece of the "Grow Your Own" plan of a district.

An effective FTA program recognizes these priorities and will provide students with:

- Perspective of education and its role in society
- Procedures for bringing about change in education
- Means for exploring the expanding variety of careers in education
- Opportunities to work with educators outside the school setting
- Ways of communicating educational concerns in an organized manner
- Leadership experiences
- Human development experiences

These objectives provide opportunity for students to gain a perspective of education that allows an understanding of the importance of teaching and the critical place of education in a democratic society.

To start an FTA Chapter:
http://www.msta.org/fta/
MSTA 1-800-392-0532
Kim Taube Ext. 1501 or ktaube@msta.org

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Recognizing the basic needs of students, Future Teachers of America is designed to be meaningful to students and to the education profession.

Goal:
To provide opportunity for secondary school students to participate in making their education relevant to their present and future needs.

Objectives:

- Improve the selection and content of course offerings through student involvement in curriculum review and revision
- Provide curriculum enrichment through a program of mini-courses
- Provide opportunities for civic involvement
- Build better student-community and school-community relations through cooperative activities with civic and community groups
- Improve understanding and communication between students and teachers by providing planned opportunities for dialogue
- Provide increased mutual support between members of the teaching profession and the FTA organization through planned cooperative activities
- Improve individual skills in understanding and working with people through real-world activities
- Provide opportunities to gain an appreciation and understanding of differing cultural backgrounds through activities and programs

Goal:
To provide a means for secondary school students to participate in realistic education activities to assist in making decisions about future education careers.

Objectives:

- Experience the many facets of teaching and other education careers by establishing student assistance projects
- Gain insights into working with children and understanding differing sociological settings through tutoring/mentoring
- Provide a variety of educational and cultural experiences by hosting exchange programs between FTA chapters
- Explore a wide variety of educational programs and career opportunities through visits to innovative or specialized schools
- Gain insights into college life, course requirements, and career possibilities by visiting colleges and universities
- Explore information about colleges, teacher education programs, educational supply and demand statistics, and scholarship/financial aid information

Activity and Program Ideas

Suggested Actions for FTA

1. Become insightful about careers in education by:
   - Visiting/touring universities, colleges, schools and departments of education
   - Invite professors from local colleges to speak.
   - Invite education students from nearby colleges and universities to talk about their experience.
   - Attending state conferences.

2. Improve the image of teaching and provide service by:
   - Initiating teacher appreciation activities.
   - Assisting teachers with classroom responsibilities.
   - Participating in teacher shadowing activities.
   - Serving as peer tutors.
   - Establishing teacher cadet program

3. Build professional understanding by:
   - Giving chapter members and advisers rewards and recognition.
   - Providing an opportunity among students and teachers within the school district to network with students and teachers in other districts.
   - Ask district teachers and administrators to present about their career

4. Provide a link between the community and teaching by:
   - Seek support from school business partners.
   - Providing services for elderly citizens, hospitals, nursing homes and other school service agencies.
   - Providing contact with children in daycare, recreational and educational settings.

5. Strengthen the relationship between college/university by:
   - Having a current student of the college of education serve as a mentor.
   - Giving a student representative the opportunity to speak at local school meetings.
   - Keeping lines of communication open with colleges/universities to maintain a close relationship.

School-Related Activities

1. Ask for permission from the school to use a wall or corridor to display posters depicting positive attitudes about teaching.
2. Offer assistance at events that are teacher/parent oriented (examples: PTO/PTA, open house, meet the teacher, back to school night, etc.)
3. Host/participate in activities with other school clubs and organizations.
4. Assist new students with orientation to the school/district.
5. Offer chapter members the opportunity to tutor elementary/middle school students.
6. Organize a day for chapter members to shadow a teacher.
7. Offer to assist at the end of the quarter/semester to help teachers clean, grade papers, record grades, complete paperwork, etc. for more hands-on experience.
8. Choose a day for a faculty breakfast where chapter members serve faculty. If funds are limited, ask local businesses for discounts or donations.
9. Work with school counselors to research information on college and career information on options for studying education.
10. Send birthday cards to teachers.
11. Attend a meeting of the local board of education.

Community-Related Activities

1. Institute a tutoring program for local elementary and middle schools
2. Encourage chapter members to join faculty for after school and extra-curricular activities.
3. Form partnerships with students volunteering at preschools or daycare centers.
4. Establish a scholarship fund for FTA members. Seek monetary assistance from community organizations and local businesses
5. Host a Senior Citizens' or Grandparents' Day and invite residents of the community to school.
6. Provide services such as reading to the elderly.
7. Ask for chapter president or other members to speak at community organization meetings.
8. Meet with the local Chamber of Commerce about activities where FTA could be involved.
9. Encourage recognition and support from local businesses for chapter events.
10. Invite your community to FTA chapter events.

College/University-Related Activities

1. Invite representatives from colleges and universities to be guest speakers.
2. For exposure to a variety of colleges and universities arrange an orientation for chapter members.
3. Offer student teachers an opportunity to participate and become involved with FTA chapter activities.
4. Have FTA students sit in on a teacher preparation course and talk to college of education students.
5. Attend FTA State Meeting and College Fair Nov. 18, 2026 at the MSTA Convention in Columbia.

Recruitment and Retention for New Members

Recruitment Strategies:

1. Invite members to a get-to-know and ask each member to bring one or two students who are interested in becoming teachers. To add to the fun have your current members share their favorite part of being a member. Discuss upcoming events emphasizing benefits students will receive as a member such as scholarship opportunities, hands-on opportunities, etc.
2. If your school has a newspaper, ask if it would be possible to have a reporter write a featured story on your FTA club. Have a member talk to the reporter about positive experiences and all the activities if possible.
3. Word of mouth can be a great way to achieve growth. Some possible ideas to achieve this is asking students to recruit a certain number of new students. Offer prizes or incentives for those that recruit the most new members and maybe offer a small incentive to new members to encourage students to apply. Ask all current teachers to recommend students they feel might be interested.

While striving to enhance membership with new members, chapters must not forget to do what it must to retain active previous year members. Encourage officers/current members to make contact with the new members explaining to them advantages of membership. It's important to strive to make all members, new and experienced, feel welcome. Some things that will help aid in this is giving members opportunities for ownership and responsibility in the future.

FTA t-shirt order

FTA t-shirts can be ordered at this link:
https://msta.wufoo.com/forms/m1nxb135095qfpu/

Shirts are $9 each.

You can specify whether you would like to pick up your shirts at our state meeting on Nov. 18 or have them delivered to your school.

All ordered must be placed by Oct. 22.

Outstanding FTA Service Award

FTA Chapter:_____

Number of Members in Chapter: _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please attach a description of your service project. Include all aspects of the project: planning, execution, beneficiaries, as well as and any media attention received.

In addition to your description you may submit a youtube video, powerpoint, slideshow, etc. describing your project.

Send this information to kmeyer@msta.org on or before Nov. 9, 2026.

2027 FTA Candidate for State Ambassador

Ambassadors will help plan and execute the 2027 FTA State Meeting. No more than two ambassadors can serve from the same school.

Eligible students can graduate no earlier than Nov. 2027. Ambassadors will meet virtually with MSTA staff and other ambassadors to plan the 2027 meeting. All candidates must be present at the 2026 State FTA meeting and give a speech no longer than two minutes about their qualifications.
Students must submit this form before the meeting.

Name:_____

Email address: _____

Grade level:_____

FTA Chapter:_____

FTA Chapter Information Form 2026-27

You can complete this information and pay chapter dues online:
https://msta.wufoo.com/forms/mehoqfk14re42d/

School Building Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/St./Zip:_____ _____ _____

Chapter advisers:

Advisor 1 name _____

Advisor 1 email _____

Advisor 1 Phone Number _____

Is advisor 1 a member of MSTA? ❑ Yes ❑ No

Advisor 2 name (if applicable) _____

Advisor 2 email _____

Advisor 2 Phone Number _____

Is advisor 2 a member of MSTA? ❑ Yes ❑ No

Number of FTA members (approx)*_____

Are you starting a new chapter or renewing your chapter?

_____new chapter $30 *(your school hasn't had FTA for 3 years or more)*

_____renewal $30

Does your school have a cadet teaching program? ❑ yes, for credit ❑ yes, not for credit ❑ no

Mail this form and a check to:
FTA
PO Box 458
Columbia, MO 65205