

Exploring Computer Science



FBLA Middle School Competitive Events Guidelines

2022–2023

Objective Test Events

Overview

These events consist of a 45-minute test administered during the National Leadership Conference (NLC).

Eligibility

Each state may submit two entries in each event. Competitors must have paid FBLA national and state dues by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year. These events are for individual competitors only.

NLC Registration

Participants must be registered for the NLC and pay the national conference registration fee to participate in competitive events.

Business Etiquette
Career Exploration
Digital Citizenship
Exploring Computer Science
Exploring Economics
Exploring Technology
FBLA Concepts
Financial Literacy
Interpersonal Communication
Leadership
Learning Strategies
Running an Effective Meeting

Exploring Computer Science

Objective Test Competencies

- Problem solving
- Algorithms and programs
- Logical reasoning
- Basic coding
- Manipulating and analyzing data using digital tools
- Abstraction
- Pattern recognition
- Decomposition

Objective Test Guidelines

- No materials may be brought to the testing site.
- No calculators may be brought into the testing site; calculators will be provided.
- Electronic devices must be turned off and out of sight.
- Bring a writing instrument.

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Competency A: Logical Reasoning	20%
Task	
1. Be able to follow a set of statements to a logical conclusion using deductive reasoning	
2. Be able to follow a set of statements to a logical conclusion using inductive reasoning	
3. Recognize what types of data a website should ask of its users and what it shouldn't for the sake of user privacy	
Competency B: Basic Coding	10%
Task	
1. Understand and use loops	
2. Understand and use conditionals	
3. Understand and use functions	
4. Understand proper variable and function naming	
5. Recognize strings, booleans, and arrays/list	
6. Recognize programming/markup languages used in web design	
Competency C: Manipulating and Analyzing Data with Digital Tools	15%
Task	
1. Basic binary/hexadecimal conversion	
2. Understand and implement an arithmetic mean	
3. Understand and implement an arithmetic median	
4. Understand and implement an arithmetic mode	
5. Understand and implement an arithmetic range	
6. Understand the purpose of a standard deviation	
Competency D: Problem Solving	15%
Task	
1. Understand how computers make decisions	
2. Explain how computers take input and give output	
Competency E: Algorithms and Programs	15%
Task	
1. Explain how a computer might search through data	
2. Be able to recognize a computer program	
3. Recognize the best algorithm for a simple problem (i.e. single loop vs nested loop)	
4. Understand when a nested loop is needed	
5. Associate loops with underlying conditionals	
6. Understand how data is stored in a computer and accessed by programs	
Competency F: Abstraction and Decomposition	10%
Task	
1. Understand the importance of abstraction and decomposition, and be able to define both	
2. Recognize if a process is too specific or broad and can therefore be split or combined	

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3. Be able to perform decomposition on real world problems into a series of steps and processes	
4. Be able to abstract an idea	
Competency F: Pattern Recognition	15%
Task	
1. Be able to deduce the missing element in a patterned series	
2. Recognize patterns in computer code	
3. Be able to correctly sequence a set of objects	
4. Be able to recognize and continue patterns	

General Competitive Event Guidelines

The general event guidelines below are applicable to all FBLA Middle School national competitive events. Please review and follow these guidelines when competing at the national level. When competing at the state level, check the state guidelines since they may differ.

All members and advisers are responsible for reading and following competitive event guidelines.

Eligibility

- **Dues:** Competitors must have paid FBLA national and state dues by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year.
- **NLC Registration:** Participants must be registered for the NLC and pay the national conference registration fee to participate in competitive events.
- **Deadlines:** The state chair, or designee, must register each state competitor on the official online entry forms by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the second Tuesday in May.
- Each state may submit two entries in all events.
- Each competitor can only compete in one event.
- Each competitor must compete in all parts of an event for award eligibility.
- A team shall consist of two or three members.
- All members of a team must consist of individuals from the same chapter.
- If competitors are late for a competitive event, there are no guarantees they will get to compete. Competitive event schedules cannot be changed. PLEASE NOTE that competitive events start in the morning before the opening session of NLC.
- Competitors may be disqualified if they violate competitive event guidelines.

General Competitive Event Guidelines

Repeat Competitors

- Members may compete in an event at NLC more than once if they have not previously placed in the top ten of that event at NLC. If a member places in the top ten of an event at NLC, they are no longer eligible to compete in that event.
- **Modified Events:** A competitor may compete in the same event when the event is modified, regardless of placement at a National Leadership Conference. Note, if the only modification is a name change, competitors may not compete in the renamed event if they have previously placed in the top ten at the National Leadership Conference.
- **Chapter Events:** Competitors may compete in a chapter event as many times as they wish, regardless of placement at a previous National Leadership Conference (Annual Chapter Activities Presentation, Community Service Presentation).

Breaking Ties

- **Objective Tests:** Ties are broken by comparing the correct number of answers to the last 10 questions on the exam. If a tie remains, the competitor who completed the test in a shorter amount of time will place higher. If this does not break the tie, answers to the last 20 questions will be reviewed and determine the winner.

- **Performances:** Judges must break ties and all judges' decisions are final.

National Deadlines

- State chair/adviser must register all competitors for NLC competitive events online by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the second Tuesday in May.
- All prejudged components must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the second Tuesday in May.
- State chair/adviser may make name changes only (no additional entries) by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the first Tuesday in June. Competitor drops are the only changes allowed after this date and onsite.

National Awards

- The number of competitors will determine the number of winners. The maximum number of winners for each competitive event is 10.

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

- FBLA-PBL meets the criteria specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act for all participants who [submit an accommodation form](#).
- The form must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the second Tuesday in May.

General Competitive Event Guidelines

Recording of Presentations

- No unauthorized audio or video recording devices will be allowed in any competitive event. Participants in the performance events should be aware the national association reserves the right to record any performance for use in study or training materials.