

A Phased Approach to **Colorado FBLA**

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) should be an integral part of every business program in Colorado. FBLA fosters personal growth, leadership training, career development, teamwork, community service, competitions, and student recognition to supplement the curriculum in Business, Marketing, Entrepreneurship and Finance education.

Colorado FBLA presents the following concepts and suggestions to implement a chapter:

Year 1 – Focus on the Local Level

- Learn what FBLA is and how it will benefit your program.
- Build your chapter policies, bylaws, and other important forms (i.e., Membership Application).
- Check in with the Colorado FBLA State Adviser to register your business class as a FBLA chapter online.
- Familiarize yourself the Colorado FBLA website (www.coloradofbla.org) and the national website (www.fbla.org).
- Select, interview, or elect FBLA chapter officers.
- Host monthly leadership meetings with your officers before school, during lunch, or after school.
- FBLA should be included in your business class. If implemented correctly, it should not require a huge time commitment outside of your classroom.
- Review and participate in state and national programming like Peak Awards and Champion Chapter.
- Take a look at the Competitive Events and pick one or two which naturally fit into your curriculum. To do this, look at the names of the competitions first, then find the guidelines and rating sheets to implement into the classroom.
- Infuse these 1-2 competitions into your curriculum and use them as a classroom assignment for the whole class. The students will love it!
- Attend a District Leadership Conference and network with other FBLA chapters.
- Recognize the accomplishments of your FBLA students within your school. Give as many students an award as possible.

Year 2 – Focus on the State Level

- Register your school as a FBLA chapter online.
- Elect classroom officers and include leadership training in your curriculum. FBLA provides some classroom activities to teach leadership development.
- Start a FBLA bulletin board in your classroom and/or create a social media presence for your chapter.
- Add a social, community service, or professional development event to your program. This could be a lunch-time barbecue, a service project, a guest speaker, a field trip, or team up with another Career & Technical Student Organization (CTSO) for a school-wide social event.
- Invite guest speakers to your local chapter or leadership meetings.
- Complete Peak Awards and/or Champion Chapter programs.
- Add another FBLA competitive event to your curriculum.
- Have your FBLA chapter attend and/or compete at the FBLA district and state leadership conferences.
- Recognize the accomplishments of your FBLA students. Give as many students an award or recognition as possible.

Year 3 – Focus on the National Level

- Register your school as a FBLA chapter.
- Elect FBLA officers. Officers can be generated from your previous year's officer pool.
- Attend the Colorado and/or National FBLA Fall Leadership Conference with your officers.
- Have your FBLA officers develop a school-wide program which includes fun social events, community service, career development, competition, and student recognition.
- Make your FBLA chapter visible in the school. Visibility can happen with a showcase display, bulletin board, participation in school assemblies, posting a FBLA banner in your classroom, having students wear a FBLA jacket or polo shirt, publicize FBLA competitions and winners in school-wide announcements, publish an article in the school newspaper, FBLA pictures in the school yearbook, using FBLA officers in school events, etc.
- Continue leadership training within your classroom. Remember, the leadership lessons are designed to develop leadership skills in all FBLA members. These lessons should be an integral part of your curriculum.
- Add another FBLA competition to your curriculum. You will now have 3-4 competitions infused into your curriculum. The more FBLA events implemented, the more students will have a chance to compete and receive awards.
- Partner with local businesses to provide business tours and allow students to experience the real-world businesses.
- Hold career-based trainings or experiences like a mock interview day with local businesses.
- Participate in National FBLA Week.
- Complete both Peak Awards and Champion Chapter programs.
- Have your FBLA chapter compete in the FBLA district and state leadership conferences.
- Recognize the accomplishments of your FBLA students. Give as many students an award as possible. Paper certificates and ribbons are very inexpensive but are highly valued by students. You could have classroom winners and school-wide winners. Announce your winners publicly through the school announcements, newsletter, school newspaper, awards assembly, yearbook photos, and video yearbook.
- Establish a FBLA Wall of Excellence in your classroom or display case. Post pictures of district, state and national winners.
- Promote school pride by competing in the leadership conferences. Send as many students as possible to the FBLA National Leadership Conference. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for student growth and recognition.

The above steps make it easy to integrate FBLA into any business program with very little time commitment outside of the classroom. In Colorado, CTSOs are expected to be an integral part of every CTE classroom. Students develop leadership and responsibility by running the FBLA chapter and doing the work. A teacher should support, encourage, and guide the organization. FBLA is meant to improve a teacher's curriculum, promote student leadership development, and add classroom excitement. FBLA encourages team interaction, develops skills, promotes competition, provides student recognition, and creates a needed sense of belonging for students. With such important benefits, FBLA should be available to all Career and Technical Education Business, Marketing, Entrepreneurship & Finance students.