

General Competition Information



Note: The following guidelines apply to **all** 2015 Future Educators Association National Competitions. Please copy and distribute these pages to each student competing in a competition.

- **Competitions will take place on Thursday, April 23 and Friday, April 24, 2015 at the FEA National Conference at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia, which all competitors must attend.** (Competitors in the FEA Leadership Award competition will not need to participate in any onsite judging.)
- All individual competitions are open to good-standing FEA members in middle school and high school. (Students may or may not be affiliated with an FEA chapter.) All chapter competitions are open to good-standing FEA chapters in middle school and high school. **Please note: middle school will compete with high school. They will not have their own division.** A couple of select competitions are open to college level students. They will compete in their own division.
- If a competitor is from a state that holds state competitions they must first qualify at their state conference before competing at the FEA National Conference. Contact your state director to see if your state offers competitions.
- **All competitor materials must be uploaded by Noon (Eastern Time), March 16, 2015.** Each competition will identify what materials are required for submission prior to the competition. Failure to submit required materials by the submission deadline will result in disqualification. **Students who have qualified for nationals by placing in the top five in state-level competitions also must submit their entries on the national website by the deadline to compete at the national conference.**
- For states that offer state-level competitions, the top five places in each competition offered by the state will be eligible to compete at the FEA National Conference; no other entrants from states that offer the competition at the state level will be eligible for those state-level-offered competitions. For states that do not offer state-level competitions, students may register to compete in those events at the FEA National Conference. (For example, if you want to compete in Impromptu Speaking but place sixth or lower in your state level Impromptu Speaking competition— or don't compete in the state level competitions at all, you unfortunately can't compete in Impromptu Speaking at the FEA National Conference this year. If you live in a state that didn't hold an Impromptu Speaking state-level competition, you may register to compete in that event at the FEA National Conference.) This applies to all FEA National Competitions.

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TEACH. REACH. LEAD!

General Competition Information



- **All video files that are submitted in advance must be in .mp4 format.** Videos that are not in this file format will not be accepted and will be immediately disqualified. Videos will not be accepted by mail.
- Students may enter up to a total of three (3) combined events.
- Advisors may enter up to three (3) students per chapter in each individual event and one (1) team for chapter events. **All chapter events require at least two and no more than four student representatives per chapter to participate in the judging session at the FEA National Conference.**
- Competitors must report to their assigned areas on time. Failure to report at their scheduled time can result in disqualification. All advisors will be provided a schedule of all of their students' scheduled competition times prior to the conference.
- Competitors may allow advisors and other non-competitor spectators to be in the judging room with the participant during their competition. Peer competitors will not be permitted as spectators.
- Competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire. **(See here for a detailed explanation of what is and is not permissible as "business casual.")** Points will be deducted from the entrant's score for failure to follow the stated dress code.
- Certificates will be awarded to the top 10 entries. Awards will be presented to the top three (3) entries in each category.
- Entrants grant PDK International, the sponsoring organization for FEA, the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any media without compensation.
- Entrants grant PDK International, the sponsoring organization for FEA, the right to post photos of students for promotional purposes on the state FEA website.
- All source media used for the competition must be cited in competition submissions.
- All submitted materials must reflect original work from the 2014-2015 school year. Material that may have been submitted in previous years is ineligible.
- Written permissions for copyrighted material must be obtained for the rights to display and present media-related materials at the FEA National Conference and to post media-related materials on the FEA website. All permissions obtained to use copyrighted material must be included with entry submission. (Note: This requirement does apply to music used in videos and other media-related materials. It does not apply to artifacts collected for a project.) Failure to accomplish this will result in disqualification.

Entries must be submitted online at: www.futureeducators.org under "National Conference"

For event inquiries call: 800-766-1156 or email fea@pdkintl.org

2015 Job Interview Competition

COMPETITION TYPE: Individual—Closed to spectators

ELIGIBILITY: FEA High School Students



Contest Purpose

The Job Interview Competition is an opportunity for FEA members to develop and practice their interview skills, as well as cover letter and résumé writing skills. In this competition, entrants apply for a position as a paraprofessional (a link to position description can be found below). This includes submitting a cover letter explaining why the entrant is a good candidate for the position, as well as a résumé that details relevant work, volunteer, and educational experiences.

Judges will review the cover letters and résumés and — just like any job application/interview process — candidates will be interviewed for a paraprofessional position. Interviews will take place on-site at the FEA National Conference. The judges will act as the school district's hiring committee and will ask questions of the job candidates one at a time. The candidate who submits the strongest cover letter and résumé and performs the best in the interview will be honored as the winner at the FEA National Conference. Since high school graduates are eligible to be employed as paraprofessionals in many districts, this competition offers an immediate opportunity for a real-world application of the work entailed in participation.

This competition is cross-walked with the following Education and Training Career Cluster Knowledge and Skill Statements: ESS02, ESS04, ESS09, and EDC09.

Competition Guidelines

- A. Entrants will apply for the following teaching assistant position: **Paraprofessional** (see [job description](#) included in this PDF.)
 - B. The cover letter must follow a standard cover letter format; review the information on this link (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/723/03/>) to see expectations for formatting and content of a successful cover letter. Note: You do not need to already possess a high school diploma to participate in this competition, but be sure to indicate in your materials when you expect to receive the diploma.
 - C. The cover letter should be typed and in English. It should not exceed one page.
 - D. The cover letter should complement, not duplicate, the entrant's résumé. The cover letter should explain the reasons for the entrant's interest in the position and school and identify his or her most relevant skills or experiences. The letter should express a high level of interest and knowledge about the position.
 - E. The résumé may follow a standard résumé format; review the information on this link (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/719/1/>) to see expectations for formatting and content of a standard résumé.
- However, students may use alternative résumé formats if they feel that will put them in the best possible position to obtain the job they are seeking. (Always remember your audience!)
- F. The résumé should be typed and in English. It should not exceed two pages.
 - G. The résumé should include at least two references.
 - H. All information in the cover letter and résumé must be truthful.
 - I. The interview will last for approximately 15 minutes. All contestants will be asked similar interview questions by a panel of judges acting as the district's hiring committee.

Judging and Scoring

- A. The judges' decisions are final.
- B. Scoring is based on the Job Interview Competition rubric.

How to Enter

- A. Students must register and submit all required materials online for the competition by the submission deadline stated on the General Competition Information sheet.
- B. Print the confirmation page for your records after completing the online submission form.

2015 Job Interview Competition



POSITION: Paraprofessional

Application Deadline: March 16, 2015

Starting Date: Aug. 1, 2015

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: Paraprofessional

Qualifications:

1. Have a high school diploma or equivalent at start of employment. (Note: You do not need to already possess a high school diploma to participate in this competition, but be sure to indicate in your materials when you expect to receive the diploma.)
2. Proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking the English language.
3. Have authorization to work in the USA.
4. Have a clear record of service from prior employers, if any.

Please send application materials to:

Kelly Independent School District
Attn: Elena Garcia, Director of Human Resources
2020 Main Street
Anytown, USA 01776

Kelly Independent School District is seeking paraprofessionals for the coming school year. Paraprofessionals are teaching assistants who provide instructional services to students under the general supervision of a certified teacher. In New York City, most paraprofessionals work in special education and early childhood education settings. Full-time paraprofessionals receive a generous benefits package (healthcare, paid leave, pension, etc.) and may avail themselves to opportunities such as tuition assistance and paid release time for college study. Full-time employees are also entitled to a salary above the minimum (\$21,713), based upon college credits and/or related work experience. For example, the starting salary for a paraprofessional with 45 college credits and no experience is currently \$26,343.

PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of the paraprofessional is to assist teachers with class work and/or assist with the daily care of students with emotional, cognitive, physical handicaps, autism and other special needs. Their responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, the following tasks:

1. One-on-one or small group instruction as outlined by the teacher
2. Reinforcing behavior through the use of positive behavior support
3. Teaching daily living skills such as independent feeding, dressing, toileting
4. Aiding occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech teachers and adaptive physical education providers during instruction
5. Guiding and assisting students in small group instruction settings with class routines and in transitioning from one activity to the next
6. Teaching students, under direction of teacher in the following areas: recreation, motor, vocational, socialization and communication utilizing the workshop model in Literacy and Mathematics
7. Assisting students with ambulation within the school premises and on class trips
8. Lifting, feeding, toileting and diapering after receiving appropriate training
9. Collecting data documenting student behavior for instructional purposes
10. Writing anecdotal information concerning student behavior
11. Providing language assistance for bilingual students

Position Type: Part-time or Full Time

Positions Available: 10

* Some material in this document was edited and reproduced from <http://schools.nyc.gov/Careers/SubPara>.