



California Future Educators Association



# CFEA COMPETITION GUIDELINES 2014/2015

# GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION

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

- ▶ All California Future Educators Association competitions are open to goodstanding members in high school.
- ▶ **All submissions must be emailed to [vluong@tomorrow.org](mailto:vluong@tomorrow.org) by 5:00 pm PST on April 3rd, 2015.** Each competition will identify what materials are required for submission. Failure to submit required materials by the submission deadline will result in disqualification.
- ▶ Entrants grant CFEA the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any media without compensation.
- ▶ Entrants grant CFEA the right to post photos of students for promotional purposes on the CFEA 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 CFEA State Conference and to post media-related materials on the CFEA 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.
- ▶ **The winner of this competition will be announced at the CFEA State Conference on April 17th, 2015.**



# RESEARCHING LEARNING CHALLENGES

## Contest Purpose

Approximately 2.4 million students in American public schools have been diagnosed with learning challenges and receive special education services (IDEA Part B Child Count, 2010, Students ages 6–21. Available at [www.IDEA-data.org](http://www.IDEA-data.org)). Understanding how to support students with special needs is central to success as an educator. This competition offers FEA students the opportunity to explore deeply and to develop recommendations regarding effective educational supports for students with special needs.

## **This year's CFEA State Competition for Researching Learning Challenges is focused on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).**

According to [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org): "Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors... Autism statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identify around 1 in 68 American children as on the autism spectrum."

Diagnosis of ASD has increased over recent decades, which means that schools are serving more and more students on the autism spectrum. The purpose of this competition is to work collaboratively to learn more about this specific learning disability and to produce a research-supported position paper to explain and to advocate for positive practices in schools to support the education of students on the autism spectrum. Imagine that the local school board has asked you: **"What specific steps should we take to support the education of students with ASD? Also, why should we accept your recommendations?"**

Chapter members will collaborate on a research-supported position paper, which will be no shorter than four full pages and no longer than six full pages in length, to offer their recommendations.

The minimum number of student collaborators is two, but there is no maximum. The position paper must include cited references (MLA, APA, or Chicago style are acceptable) and a works cited sheet, which will not count toward the four-to-six-page length requirement. (Also, the title page doesn't count toward the length requirement. If you're really desperate to get to the minimum length, go back and do more research — there is a lot of quality material out there on this topic.)

*This competition is cross-walked with the following Education and Training Career Cluster Knowledge and Skill Statements: EDC02, EDC07.*

## Competition Guidelines

A. Chapter members should research ASD and best practices to support the education of students with ASD. You are encouraged to embark on this research using traditional sources as well as primary sources (ex. conducting interviews with individuals impacted by ASD or professionals who support individuals with ASD, etc.). Then chapter members should discuss the research in order to determine recommendations for their paper.

B. Chapter members will use the information collected in the research phase to collaborate in creating a position paper. The position paper will include a title page, a works cited page (using MLA, APA, or Chicago citation style) and four-to-six full pages of research-supported recommendations with appropriate context. The works cited and title pages will not count towards the four-to-six page length.

**C. The position paper must be emailed to [vluong@tomorrow.org](mailto:vluong@tomorrow.org) by 5:00 pm PST on April 3rd, 2015. Late submissions will be disqualified.**

## Judging and Scoring

A. The judges' decisions are final.

B. Scoring is based on the Researching Learning Challenges competition rubric found on the CFEA website.

# LESSON DESIGN STEM

**“Leadership tomorrow depends on how we educate our students today — especially in science, technology, engineering, and math.”—President Barack Obama**

## Contest Purpose

Planning, preparing, and delivering effective instruction is the heart of the work of all educators. This competition encourages CFEA members to try out designing a lesson in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM). Quality STEM education for all students can lay a path to personal success and to long-term national prosperity— and skilled teachers are the keys. Also, America is experiencing a critical shortage of skilled STEM teachers; more and more states are offering salary increases and bonuses for well-prepared STEM educators.

This competition is cross-walked with the following Education and Training Career Cluster Knowledge and Skill Statements: EDC01, EDC02, EDPC01, EDPC02, EDPC03, and EDPC04.

## Competition Guidelines

***There are two components to this competition: a written lesson plan and a slide deck presentation.***

### 1. LESSON PLAN

A. The lesson plan must be submitted electronically. The entrant should provide his/her name, the subject, intended grade level, title of lesson, objective of lesson, description of practice activities, desired outcomes of the lesson, and a method of assessing whether the outcomes were achieved.

B. The lesson content and grade level is the entrant’s decision.

C. The lesson plan must be emailed to [vluong@tomorrow.org](mailto:vluong@tomorrow.org) by 5:00 pm PST on April 3rd, 2015. Late submissions will be qualified.

### 2. SLIDE DECK

The entrant will use the lesson plan in the first phase to create an engaging, informative slide deck (PowerPoint or Prezi) presentation. The PowerPoint or Prezi presentation will serve as the visual aid to the chapter’s lesson design. The presentation should not be merely a collection of slides with text from the lesson plan. It should complement the STEM lesson.

B. The PowerPoint or link to the Prezi presentation must be emailed to [vluong@tomorrow.org](mailto:vluong@tomorrow.org) by 5:00 pm PST on April 3rd, 2015. Late submissions will be disqualified.

### Judging and Scoring

A. The judges’ decisions are final.

B. Scoring is based on the Lesson Design STEM competition rubric found on the CFEA website.

