



Affiliation vs. Dues

COMPARING MODES OF ACCESS TO FFA

What is the Affiliation Fee Program?

The Affiliation Fee Program allows students who are currently enrolled in secondary agricultural education programs (grades 7th-12th) or graduates who have met the local, state and national requirements to be eligible for all the benefits and opportunities offered through FFA, as a part of the total program delivery. Under the affiliation program, all enrolled students (or graduates) in local agricultural education programs will be considered official FFA members using a scaled affiliation fee, versus a dues model, which only provides benefits to students who pay individual membership dues. Using the affiliation program allows for a greater number of students to be enrolled in FFA and can potentially deliver a cost savings when compared to individual dues costs.

Affiliation Model



Every student, every class, every day.



True integration of classroom instruction, experiential learning and leadership development.



Inclusive – removes barriers.



Engagement of partners – supporting the FFA mission and vision.



Broadens scope and vision of FFA chapters to meet the needs and interests of a broader student population.

Dues Model



Only students with paid membership.



Only a percentage of students receive the benefits of the agricultural education instruction model.



Exclusive – puts barriers in place.



Limits exposure of mission and vision to only those who have paid membership dues.



Limits scope and vision to current members' needs or interests.





PHILOSOPHY OF PROGRAM AFFILIATION

- Involvement in FFA is an integral part of an agricultural education program serving 7th – 12th grade members and therefore should not be optional.
- Participating in FFA activities helps students develop additional employability skills that cannot be duplicated at the classroom level.
- Students understand the role and importance of professional associations in America's workforce.
- Students engaged in a complete school-based agricultural education program will experience a well-rounded education that leads to increased academic performance, lower drop-out rates and career success.
- Twenty-first century skill development through FFA should be offered to every student in every class, every day.



FUNDING OPTIONS FOR AFFILIATION FEE PROGRAM

Consider the following options to help fund your chapter's Affiliation Fee Program:

- Contact your local school district and communicate the value of the Affiliation Fee Program.
- Utilize the school/program operational budget to cover the fee. The affiliation fee is equivalent to many state athletic or school activities fees that are required for student participation.
- Include in your local FFA chapter's annual Program of Activities a fundraiser to help secure affiliation funds.
- Seek local sponsor support to provide the resources and funds to ensure every student in the program has the opportunity to experience the benefits of FFA.
- Contact local civic organizations that might have funding available for student leadership opportunities.
- Tap into your local FFA Alumni chapter to seek financial support to cover affiliation fees.
- Consider applying for educational grants that may be available.



For more information about the Affiliation Fee Program contact your Local Program Success representative or visit [FFA.org](https://www.ffa.org).