The Franchise Business Plan involves the development of a comprehensive business plan proposal to buy into an existing franchise.

Participants in the Franchise Business Plan will:

- prepare a written proposal for becoming a franchisee
- present the proposal in a role-playing interview

**EVENT OVERVIEW**

- This event consists of two major parts: the written document and the oral presentation. The written document will account for 60 points, and the oral presentation will account for the remaining 40 of the total 100 points.

- Each event entry will be composed of one to three members of the DECA chapter. All participants must present the project to the judge. All participants must respond to questions.

- The body of the written entry must be limited to 20 numbered pages, including the appendix (if an appendix is attached), but excluding the title page and the table of contents.

- The Written Event Statement of Assurances and Academic Integrity must be signed and submitted with the entry. Do not include it in the page numbering.

- The oral presentation may be a maximum of 15 minutes in length, including time for judge’s questions.

- The judge will evaluate the presentation, focusing on the effectiveness of public speaking and presentation skills and how well the participants respond to questions that the judge may ask during the presentation.

**KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS DEVELOPED**

Participants will demonstrate knowledge and skills needed to address the components of the project as described in the content outline and evaluation forms.

Participants will also develop many 21st Century Skills, in the following categories, desired by today’s employers:

- Communication and Collaboration
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Flexibility and Adaptability
- Information Literacy
- Initiative and Self-direction
- Leadership and Responsibility
- Media Literacy
- Productivity and Accountability
- Social and Cross-cultural Skills

Many Common Core Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts & Literacy are supported by participation in DECA’s competitive events.
WRITTEN ENTRY GUIDELINES
The written entry must follow these specifications. Refer also to the Penalty Point Checklist and the Written Entry Evaluation Form.

WRITTEN EVENT STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. This must be signed and submitted with the entry. Do not include it in the page numbering.

TITLE PAGE. The first page of the written entry is the title page. It must include in any order, but is not limited to, the following:
- FRANCHISE BUSINESS PLAN
- Name of high school
- School address
- City, State/Province, ZIP/Postal Code
- Names of participants
- Date

Title page will not be numbered.

TABLE OF CONTENTS. The table of contents should follow the title page. The table of contents may be single-spaced and may be one or more pages long. The table of contents page(s) will not be numbered.

BODY OF THE WRITTEN ENTRY. The body of the written entry begins with Section I, Executive Summary, and continues in the sequence outlined here. The first page of the body is numbered “1” and all following pages are numbered in sequence. Page numbers continue through the bibliography (required) and the appendix (optional).

This outline must be followed. Points for each section are included on the Written Entry Evaluation Form. Each section must be titled, including the bibliography and the appendix.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
   One- to three-page summary of the business model

II. BUSINESS HISTORY, BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES
   A. Describe the company for you wish to purchase franchise rights
   B. List your short-term (next 12 months) and long term objectives
   C. Describe the company’s major successes and achievements to date
   D. Describe the company’s challenges and obstacles
   E. Describe the requirements to franchise

III. BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT
   Describe how environmental factors such as the local, national, or international economy, changes in population, interest rates, changes in levels of employment, etc. may affect your business

IV. PRODUCTS AND/OR SERVICES
   A. List and describe the products and/or services offered

V. PRESENT MARKET
   A. Describe the present market (geographic location of your potential customers, types of customers)
   B. Describe the growth potential in your market
   C. Describe the current pricing policy
   D. If the business is seasonal, explain how the company adjusts to seasonal factors

VI. COMPETITION
   A. List the company’s primary competitors in your market. Identify their strengths and weaknesses
   B. List the advantages the company has compared to its primary competitors
   C. List the disadvantages the company has compared to its primary competitors

VII. MARKETING PLAN
   A. Describe the company’s existing marketing techniques, strategies and tools
   B. Describe the marketing techniques, strategies, and tools you will use in the future to promote the business
VIII. MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION
   A. Describe your management team and its strengths and weaknesses
   B. Describe your plan to further develop your management team
   C. Describe your management succession plan—who will take over in the event of the incapacity or continued absence of any owner or key employee?
   D. Describe the need for, and how you will obtain, additional management personnel based on present and projected sales

IX. BUSINESS RESOURCES
   A. List the major operating equipment that you will purchase or lease
   B. List major suppliers, location and payment terms
   C. Identify other outside resources used or needed to fulfill customer requirements
   D. Describe quality control procedures
   E. Describe the availability of skilled labor to meet your company needs
   F. Describe the type and extent of necessary training that will be required to upgrade the skills of labor and administrative employees and the estimated cost
   G. Projected number of full-time and part-time employees
   H. Organizational chart

X. FINANCIAL PLAN AND DATA
   A. Describe the company’s sales and profit trends
   B. Outline your strategy and timing for obtaining capital
   C. Two-year projected operating statement
   D. One-year projected cash flow statement

XI. CONCLUSION
   Specific request for financing, summary of key points supporting the financial request

XII. BIBLIOGRAPHY
   A bibliography is required. Include a list of the sources of information used in the written document.

XIII. APPENDIX
   An appendix is optional. Include in the appendix any exhibits appropriate to the written entry but not important enough to include in the body; these might include sample questionnaires used, letters sent and received, general background data, minutes of meetings, etc.
**PENALTY POINT CHECKLIST**

In addition to the Written Entry Guidelines, participants must observe all of the standards on the Penalty Point Checklist on page 54. These standards are designed to make competition as fair as possible.

**PRESENTATION GUIDELINES**

- Prior to the presentation, a judge will evaluate the written portion of the entry. The major emphasis of the written entry is on the content. Drawings, illustrations and graphic presentations (where allowed) will be judged for clarity, not artistic value.
- The participants will present the project to the judge in a 15-minute presentation worth 40 points. (See Presentation Judging.)
- The presentation begins immediately after the introduction of the participants to the judge by the adult assistant. Each participant must take part in the presentation.
- Each participant may bring a copy of the written entry or note cards pertaining to the written entry and use as reference during the presentation.
- If time remains, the judge may ask questions pertaining to the proposal.
- Only visual aids that can be easily hand carried to the presentation by the actual participant(s) will be permitted. The participants themselves must set up the visuals. Wheeled carts, moving straps or similar items may not be used to bring visuals into the area. Set up time is included in the total presentation time. Participants must furnish their own materials and equipment. No electrical power or internet connection will be supplied. Alternate power sources such as small generators are not allowed. Sound may be used, as long as the volume is kept at a conversational level.
- Materials appropriate to the situation may be handed to or left with judges in all competitive events. Items of monetary value may be handed to but may not be left with judges. Items such as flyers, brochures, pamphlets and business cards may be handed to or left with the judge. No food or drinks allowed.
- If any of these rules are violated, the adult assistant must be notified by the judge.

**PRESENTATION JUDGING**

Participants will make a 15-minute presentation to you. As the judge, you are to assume the role of a potential source of capital for the business.

At the beginning of the presentation (after introductions), the participants will present the proposal. Allow the participants to complete this portion without interruption, unless you are asked to respond. Each participant must take part in the presentation.

If time remains, you may ask questions that seem appropriate, based on your notes or on the written entry (if provided).

At the conclusion of the presentation, thank the participants. Then complete the Presentation Evaluation Form, making sure to record a score for all categories. The maximum score for the evaluation is 40 points.
## WRITTEN ENTRY EVALUATION FORM

Please refer to the Written Entry Guidelines for a more detailed explanation of these items.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LITTLE/NO VALUE</th>
<th>BELOW EXPECTATIONS</th>
<th>MEETS EXPECTATIONS</th>
<th>EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS</th>
<th>JUDGED SCORE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. One- to three-page description of the business model</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>4-5-6</td>
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### BUSINESS HISTORY, BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2. Description of the company, objectives, company successes and challenges and requirements to franchise</td>
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### BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

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<tr>
<td>3. Description of how environmental factors may affect the business</td>
<td>0-1</td>
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### PRODUCTS AND/OR SERVICES

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>4. List of and descriptions of the products and/or services offered</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
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### PRESENT MARKET

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<th>JUDGED SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Description of the present market, growth potential and pricing policy</td>
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### COMPETITION

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<td>6. List of the company’s primary competitors in the market and identification of their strengths and weaknesses</td>
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### MARKETING PLAN

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7. Description of existing and future marketing techniques and strategies</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
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### MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION

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<tr>
<td>8. Description of the management team, management team development plan, succession plan, and the need for additional personnel</td>
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### BUSINESS RESOURCES

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<tr>
<td>9. Identified major operating equipment, major suppliers, payment terms, outside resources, quality control procedures, availability of skilled labor, training needs, number of full-time and part-time employees, and developed an organizational chart</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>2-3</td>
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### FINANCIAL PLAN AND DATA

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</table>
| 10. Description of the company’s sales and profit trends  
  • Outline of strategy and timing for obtaining capital  
  • Two-year projected operating statement  
  • One-year projected cash flow statement | 0-1 | 2-3 | 4 | 5 |  |

### CONCLUSION

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<td>11. Specific request for financing, summary of key points supporting the financial request</td>
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### WRITTEN ENTRY TOTAL POINTS (60)

JUDGE __________
## PRESENTATION EVALUATION FORM

### PRESENTATION

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1. Opening presentation; description of the plan; organization, clarity and effectiveness of the presentation

### TO WHAT EXTENT DID THE PARTICIPANTS:

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<td>2-3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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</table>

2. Assess opportunities for venture creation
3. Determine feasibility of venture ideas
4. Assess start-up requirements
5. Evaluate risk-taking opportunities
6. Explain the complexity of business operations
7. Determine relationships among total revenue, marginal revenue, output and profit
8. Describe marketing functions and related activities

### PRESENTATION TOTAL POINTS (40)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Written Entry (60)</th>
<th>Presentation (40)</th>
<th>Subtotal (100)</th>
<th>Less Penalty Points</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
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JUDGE: __________