**SkillsUSA Utah “Who May Compete” policy**

Revised 2-8-23

**Who May Compete at the SkillsUSA Utah Leadership and Skills Conference and the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference:**

SkillsUSA contestants must be active, properly registered SkillsUSA student members in their respective divisions whose membership registrations and membership dues payments have been completed prior to 11:59 pm mountain time of February 15th. This is SkillsUSA Utah’s membership deadline.

SkillsUSA competitor divisions:

SkillsUSA recognizes three separate competition divisions: Middle School Division, High School Division, and College/Postsecondary Division. Some competitions are open to all three divisions. Some competitions are designated as “Middle school only” or “High school only”. Please refer to the current published official SkillsUSA Utah contest list, which is available on the SkillsUSA Utah state website at utahskillsusa.org.

SkillsUSA Utah’s definition of a Middle School student:

Middle school contestants are 7th, 8th, and in some cases 9th grade students enrolled in a middle school or junior high school public educational institution during the school year immediately preceding the National Leadership and Skills Conference. Middle school students must be registered SkillsUSA members at the school where they are currently enrolled. If a 9th grade student is enrolled at a high school, the student must compete as a high school contestant. If a 9th grade student is enrolled at a Junior High School, the student must compete as a middle school contestant.

Special note for middle school students: Middle school students must fully comply with the Local Education Agency’s (LEA) and the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) policies and procedures for participation in local, regional, state and national SkillsUSA events.

SkillsUSA Utah’s definition of a High School student:

High school contestants are students enrolled in a coherent sequence of courses or a career major at a public educational institution that prepares the student for further education and/or employment related to technology, the health industry, trades, or industry. Furthermore, a high school contestant must be earning credit toward a high school diploma/certificate or its equivalent during the school year immediately preceding the National Leadership and Skills Conference.

A student who has not yet graduated from high school must register as a high school student member and compete as a high school contestant, even if they are enrolled part-time or full-time at a college/postsecondary institution. A student is considered to be a “high school contestant” until they have earned their high school diploma or its equivalent. A student that graduates from high school mid-year may be allowed to compete as a college/postsecondary contestant if they are enrolled at a college/postsecondary institution, they are registered as a college / postsecondary student member at the college/postsecondary institution, and they provide proof of high school graduation by sending the SkillsUSA Utah state director a copy of the high school diploma or its equivalent prior to completing the state conference registration process.

SkillsUSA Utah’s definition of a College/Postsecondary student:

College/postsecondary contestants are students that have previously earned a high school diploma or its equivalent, and are enrolled in a coherent series of courses or a career major at a college/postsecondary public educational institution that prepares them for further education and/or employment related to technology, the health industry, trades, or industry.

College/postsecondary contestants must be earning credit toward a postsecondary degree/certificate during the school year immediately preceding the National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Number of competitors/teams allowed per contest:

SkillsUSA Utah Leadership and Skills Conference:

Schools may enter one middle school, one high school and one college/postsecondary student/team in each division designated competition, unless otherwise stated on the contest status sheet or in the specific contest rules. Please refer to the current published SkillsUSA Utah “Contest Status Sheet” document for more information, which is available on the SkillsUSA Utah state website at utahskillsusa.org.

SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference:

States may enter one middle school, one high school and one college/postsecondary student/team in each division designated competition, unless otherwise stated in the specific contest rules.

Related career and technical education program requirement:

Student contestants in SkillsUSA Utah Skilled and Technical Science competitions, the current Demonstration Events, and some Occupationally Related competitions must be currently enrolled in a Utah State Board of Education approved career and technical education course or program of study that is significantly related to the specific SkillsUSA Utah competition. This requirement ensures that the student has received the required safety instruction and has developed career entry level skills and competencies to safely and effectively compete at local, regional, state, and national competition events. The school must have an active SkillsUSA chapter.

Student contestants in SkillsUSA Utah Leadership Development competitions and some Occupationally Related competitions may be any properly registered SkillsUSA student member at the public educational institution. The school must have an active SkillsUSA chapter.