



# 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).