M E M O R A N D U M

TO: SkillsUSA Georgia Postsecondary Advisors

FROM: Tjazha Mazhani, State Director

DATE: November 3, 2026

2027 SkillsUSA Championships

We hope that you are having a great fall semester and you are re-energized for the 2026-2027 SkillsUSA year. Planning has already begun for the annual State Conference and Championships, which is scheduled for March 11-13, 2027. Contests will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center, Hyatt Regency Atlanta, and remote sites where applicable.

The plan is to establish technical committees composed of business and industry and community and educational agency leaders to take over the major responsibility of designing and conducting leadership, occupationally related and skilled and technical sciences contests to promote invaluable learning experiences, improve the quality of our contests, and to make them equitable for everyone participating.

In addition, the SkillsUSA Georgia Postsecondary website is up and will be updated with the latest information. The address is: www.skillsusagaps.org. Our SkillsUSA Advisor Listserv will be the main mode of communication and information dissemination for Georgia Postsecondary (email tmazhani@tcsg.edu to be added); however, there is information available on the national site as well at www.skillsusa.org..

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College Assessment Fee:

Each chapter must pay an administrative fee of $1,000. Invoices have been sent to your college student activities coordinator/director, please verify prior to submitting additional payments.

There are no refunds for any fees.

Membership and Registration Deadlines:

It is important for advisors to obtain a firm commitment from interested students before completing the conference registration. The Planning Committee uses registration information to make decisions about the design of contests and the facilities/materials needed to conduct them.

To be eligible to compete in the State SkillsUSA Championships, the registration must be completed no later than 11:59 p.m. on January 29. No changes will be accepted after this date.

To be eligible to compete in the State and National competitions, all membership rosters must be submitted electronically by January 27 and conference registration must be submitted electronically no later than January 29. Students who are not competing in any Championships contests can also register, electronically, by January 29. Observers are welcome to attend. Advisors must also be registered by January 29.

It is essential that registration fees and membership dues be paid promptly. **On February 5, a report will be run and any contestants listed, who are not paid members, will be purged from the system and will not be allowed to compete.**

Membership fees ($15 per student and $34 per advisor) should be submitted to the national office. Instructions for submitting State Conference Registration fees ($150 per person) will be communicated at a later date.

There are no refunds for any fees.

NOTE: Remember to register alternate students for team events such as Quiz Bowl, Health Knowledge Bowl, and Welding Fabrication as "Participants". Please note alternates must be SkillsUSA members by January 27 in order to be able to be switched onto a team if the opportunity arises. Remember to also register models for the Nail Care and Esthetics contests, who must also be SkillsUSA members.

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Blue Panda & Hotel Accommodations

Conference registration is $150 per person. A block of rooms has been secured at The Hyatt Regency Atlanta. Room fees are $289 for singles/doubles, $318 for triples, and $348 for quads. Overnight hotel parking is $60 per night. Information will be provided at a later date on bus parking.

DO NOT CONTACT THE HOTEL DIRECTLY.

Blue Panda instructions for hotel reservations and billing will be communicated at a later date. The deadline for Blue Panda hotel reservations will be February 5.

There are no refunds for any fees.

Opening & Awards Ceremonies:

Both ceremonies will be held at The Hyatt Regency Atlanta. The Opening Ceremony will take place on Thursday, March 11 at 8 p.m.. The Awards Ceremony will be held Saturday, March 13 at 10 a.m.

Themes:

The 2026-2027 theme is, **SkillsUSA: Level Up.** This is also the theme for the Chapter Display, Prepared Speech, and Promotional Bulletin Board contests for both state and national contests.

The 2027 themes for the Barbering and Esthetics competitions will be released by November to the Competition Updates page of the SkillsUSA National Website, you will use the same theme for the state and national contests. Additional contest updates from the national office including the barbering and esthetics themes will be located here: https://www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-championships/contest-updates/. It is your responsibility to keep informed on any additional contest updates from the national office posted on the website. State contest updates are located here: https://skillsusagaps.org/slsc/

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Competition Scoring:

All competitions will be scored in the following areas:

- Performance (hands-on)
- Oral professional assessment (interview with the Technical Chair or Judge)—If Applicable)
- The SkillsUSA Professional Development test
- Preliminary contest related test (If applicable)

Online Testing:

All contestants must take their Professional Development Test online in advance of the competition. A large portion of competitions will also have the preliminary testing portion of the competition held in advance, this is mostly for skilled and technical science contests although a few leadership and occupationally related contests also have a preliminary test.

Online testing will occur February 8-19. The SkillsUSA National Office testing platform will be used to administer testing. Any online testing questions may be directed to skillsusagaps@tcsg.edu. Technical assistance once testing has begun should be directed to customercare@skillsusa.org.

Dress Code:

Refer to pages 15-16 in the Advisor's Guide for the dress code.
https://www.skillsusagaps.org/advisors_corner/SkillsUSA_Georgia_Postsecondary_Advisors_Guide.pdf

During the Awards Ceremony, students who are inappropriately dressed will not be allowed on stage to receive their medals. **This dress code applies to both advisors and students and will be strictly enforced.** Advisors, please inform your students of the dress code prior to their competition.

Safety:

Everyone is asked to remain diligent in remaining safe during competition. There will be no procedures related to the pandemic mandated at the conference, at this time. GWCC pandemic cleanliness procedures will continue, including remaining a cashless facility. Please ensure your

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students have alternate means besides cash, to purchase anything from the GWCC including food.

Anyone who is deemed unsafe to participate for illness, will be sent home as soon and as safely as possible. Inability to safely compete on the competition date will disqualify any competitors.

Contests:

All students competing in the State Championships must be registered electronically on the SkillsUSA website www.skillsusa.org no later than January 29. **No additional contestants can be added after the January 29 deadline.** Email the State Director if there are any changes/drops after this date, it is critical to have an accurate count for supplies/materials/equipment.

Prizes:

Each chapter is asked to sponsor contests by bringing a 1st place prize valued at $75.00; a 2nd place prize valued at $50.00 and a 3rd place prize valued at $25.00 for each contest it will sponsor. These are minimum values; prizes of higher value are welcome. Each chapter will be asked to provide prizes for 2 contests each.

State Officers:

Please encourage your students to become SkillsUSA State Officers. It is a very rewarding experience that will provide opportunities to enhance their leadership abilities. If you have interested students, please contact Derek Smith (dsmith2@atlantatech.edu) and she will send you a State Officer packet**. The deadline to return the State Officer packet is February 12.** State Officer Candidates will take their online qualifying exam anytime during February 8-19. State Officer Interviews will occur virtually on February 24.

ALL State Officer candidates must arrive with their campaign materials to the conference by 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 11. Additional details will be provided later.

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Chapter Excellence Program

CEP recognizes achievement as it relates to the integration of the SkillsUSA Framework in chapter program of work activities. By using the Framework as a guide, chapters have a blueprint for creating relevant activities that encourage participation and foster an understanding of student learning attained during each activity. **Applications for CEP Level 1 and Level 2 are due February 12.** Level 1 and Level 2 chapters are recognized at the State Conference. The highest scoring Level 2 chapters will be submitted for possible Level 3 national recognition. Any CEP questions may be directed to skillsusagaps@tcsg.edu.

Advisor of the Year

The Advisor of the Year award recognizes and honors dedicated career and technical education instructors who serve as SkillsUSA advisors. **The Advisor of the Year application is due February 19. There will be a state prize of $500 for this year's state winner.**

Please note that Advisor of the Year candidates must come from chapters who have submitted CEP Level 2 Applications, per national guidelines. Any AOY questions may be directed to skillsusagaps@tcsg.edu.

Technical Standards/State Guidelines

All paid professional members (advisors) of SkillsUSA have access to the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards, be sure to look at the 2026-2028 version to find out of all the new changes for in-person contests. Please note that students do NOT have access to this so you MUST send them to your students.

As always, there will be both state and national contest updates provided, as applicable. State Contest Updates are located here: https://skillsusagaps.org/slsc/. National Contest Updates are located here, including theme information: www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-championships/contest-updates/

Reminders:

1. Contestants in contests that require verbal presentations must use the proper name of the National organization, SkillsUSA. Failure to do so will result in penalty points being assessed.

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2. **You must have a copy of the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards 2026-2028 to find out all of the new changes** (note: students do not have access to the Technical Standards, as paid Professional Members it is the responsibility of the Advisor to ensure your students have a copy).

3. Contestants may compete for only two years in the same contest.

4. Dual enrolled high school students are **not** eligible to compete in postsecondary competitions. They must compete on the secondary level.

By now, most main chapter advisors have received the Membership Package or Kit that is a great resource for recruiting members and organizing the chapter. If you have not received the Membership Kit, you can request one by going to SkillsUSA.org.

ORGANIZING THE CHAPTER

A main responsibility of SkillsUSA advisors is to organize the chapter by conducting officer elections and developing a plan of work for the 2026-2027 year. The key to an active and strong chapter is an enthusiastic and informed advisor. The SkillsUSA Website has a number of training modules and resources that advisors can access to improve their knowledge of the organization and become familiar with their responsibilities.

Georgia Postsecondary new and existing advisor training meetings will occur online through TCSG's Blackboard (note: this is different from your college Blackboard). Contact skillsusagaps@tcsg.edu with any questions about this training.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Advisors should contact Dr. Tjazha Mazhani (tmazhani@tcsg.edu) of the Technical College System of Georgia to get their names on the SkillsUSA Listserv which is one of the main communication tools. In addition, the website is being expanded to include important advisor information. Advisors can learn a lot by networking and sharing with each other.

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ADVISOR CHALLENGE:

The following are advisors challenges:

- Recruit and submit names of students who want to be state officer candidates
- Expand membership in SkillsUSA by recruiting members from satellite campuses as well as the main campus
- Explore having a set of officers at each former main college campus and then establishing an overall set of officers with representatives from each campus
- Recruit and prepare students who want to participate in the Championship contests.
- Conduct a local SkillsUSA Championships among participants for main campuses and satellite centers. (This is essential to avoid sending students to state level competition who have not completed enough of the program to be competitive)
- Read e-mails sent via the SkillsUSA Listserv as well as information posted on the website
- Express enthusiasm about the organization and be positive and encouraging with students
- Provide feedback to the state planning committee regarding student experiences with contests
- Inform students of the value in participating in the SkillsUSA Championships including the recognition one gets, possibly earning the right to participate in state level Championships which may result in earning valuable prizes, and possibly earning the right to represent the State of Georgia in the National Championships. Participating in competitive is a very valued point on resumes and employment portfolios.
- Accompany officers to the Fall Leadership Conference.
- Infuse the SkillsUSA framework into your local activities and trainings.
- Submit at least a Level 1 application for the Chapter Excellence Program

IMPORTANT DATES:

There are several important dates that advisors need to meet for the 2026-2027 Year as follow:

- Georgia Fall Leadership Conference: November 13-14
- Membership Deadline: Wednesday, January 27
- Conference Registration Deadline: Friday, January 29
- Blue Panda & Hotel Reservations Deadline: February 5 (Lead College Advisor ONLY)
- Resumes/Documents/Online Testing (for Contestants & State Officer Candidates): February 8-19 (cutoff for swaps February 17)
- Chapter Excellence Program Deadline: February 12
- State Officer Application Deadline: February 12
- Advisor of the Year Application Deadline: February 19
- Select Local/Remote Contests: February 18 or February 19
- State Officer Candidate Interviews (virtual): February 24
- SkillsUSA Opening Session: March 11
- SkillsUSA Career Expo: March 11-12
- SkillsUSA Contests at GWCC & Host Hotel: March 12 (select contests occur March 11)
- SkillsUSA Awards Ceremony: March 13
- SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta: June 21-26

Should you have any questions regarding the State competition or any information contained in this correspondence, please contact the State Director Tjazha Mazhani at (404) 679-1685 (tmazhani@tcsg.edu). Please know that the national SkillsUSA Hotline is available to answer most of your questions at (844) 875-4557 (customercare@skillsusa.org).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and continued support of SkillsUSA Georgia Postsecondary!

Contest listing will be released soon.

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