

Question 3: How do you manage your time between DECA, teaching and other duties? Do you get release time to help coordinate DECA?

Allen Gancarz

In my situation I was also a department leader for occupational education with a load of 17 teachers. Fortunately, I was given only three classes. (My schedule for years included two marketing classes and one business ownership.) I probably spent 80 percent of the extra time that I was given on coordinating DECA projects. (The bookstore was also part of my duties—all profits were retained by our DECA chapter.)

Mike Karpie

It took my school district four years to realize that one needed a period to manage DECA. That was after I had 140 kids in the program for about three years. You need to sell them on what you're doing. About 80 percent of what we do deals with the community. We are the BEST public relations tool the district has. It's an easy sell when you are working with area businesses and doing tons of community service work.

DECA is a big time commitment. It takes time away from other things in your life, BUT it has always been worth it. Each advisor must determine how much commitment he or she wants to put into it. The kids will know, and the more you work, the more they will. It adds value to your class and to what you do each day. The longer you do it, the more the kids come back to visit, and you know you are on the right track.

Lucinda Mason

I don't have release time for DECA—wish it were so! I manage my time by using every minute, and I prioritize. If it has to be done by the end of the week, then it is a priority until it is done. I am a co-op coordinator, so I do have the benefit of having about 1 3/4 hours in the afternoons to get some things done. I limit my coordination visits to two days (or sometimes three) a week, so that I can use the other days for planning, copying, grading, etc.

Dennis Sweetapple

NO! Palm Beach County looks at DECA as co-curricular and expects me to do the job on regular school time. Time management is very important, and scheduling teaching duties, DECA activities, school store and fund-raising keeps me very busy and sometimes working late at school.

Debbie Tixier

I get no release time for coordinating DECA. Managing the teaching, the chapter, DECA paperwork, competition, snack bar and other duties is difficult. We are expected to wear many different hats, and you have to be very committed. I normally put in long days. You have to really believe in the program, and what it does for kids.