

How to Start a DECA Chapter

DECA works with you to make your job easier and your curriculum more interesting by providing programs, projects and classroom activities that help develop students' leadership, career and social skills.

The following is a suggested sequence for organizing a new chapter:

1. Recruit interested students. A minimum of 10 students and one advisor are all that you need to start a chapter.
2. Meet with the appropriate school administrator. After determining student interest, meet with the appropriate administrator from your school to make your DECA presentation. Include the following points:
 - DECA is a co-curricular program.
 - DECA enhances students learning experiences.
 - DECA helps provide skills students will need for life.
 - DECA is an international student association.
 - DECA activities provide opportunities to develop career interests and practical job skills, develop leadership abilities, and understand and appreciate civic responsibility and ethical values.
 - DECA provides opportunities for student and school recognition through its Competitive Events Program, leadership development programs, and extensive scholarship program.
3. Contact your state DECA advisor or DECA headquarters for membership procedures. They will provide initial membership materials and instructions and a chapter roster. Complete the membership roster and collect the appropriate dues. You will then receive a new chapter certificate and membership pins and cards for each member listed on your roster. You will also begin to receive chapter packets, and members will receive a subscription to *Dimensions*, the DECA student magazine.
4. Start planning meetings and activities
 - Explain the benefits of DECA membership.
 - Discuss the responsibilities and duties of chapter officers, as well as campaign and election procedures.
 - Plan the chapter's first activities—community service, social event, fund-raiser or attending a conference.

You are on your way!