

# DECA GUIDELINES + CONDUCT

ICDC 2026



# DECA

## ATTENDANCE CRITERIA

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The DECA Inc. Board of Directors has specified that there must be **a minimum of one adult advisor for every eight high school division student delegates**. An adult advisor may be any adult named by the DECA chartered association advisor to serve the chartered association in this capacity. The adult advisor must register for the conference, pay the registration fee and be in attendance for the entire period of the conference. There are no restrictions on the number of adult advisors who may attend. In reference to the required minimum, all coordinators, parents, supervisors and teacher educators are eligible.

To be eligible to attend the International Career Development Conference, each high school division member must meet these basic criteria:

- Be an active member of a division of DECA. Membership must be recorded on an official DECA membership roster and be on file with DECA Inc.
- Have the approval of the DECA chartered association advisor.
- Have the approval of the DECA chapter advisor.
- Have the approval of the school administration.
- Have the approval of parent or guardian unless 21 years or older.

Any professional, alumni or collegiate division member meeting the above criteria is eligible to attend the International Career Development Conference.

In addition to the above criteria, high school division members must meet one (1) of the following criteria:

- Be a chartered association participant in one of the international competitive activities. Competitors must be on a submitted roster by February 15.
- Be a DECA Inc. scholarship award recipient.
- Be a chartered association, area or regional officer.
- Be a voting delegate representing his/her chartered association for his/her division.
- Be a delegate to one of the following:
  - Aspire
  - Elevate
  - Empower
  - Ignite
  - School-based Enterprise Academy (SBE)
  - Thrive
- Be a chartered association delegate by receiving special permission from the DECA chartered association advisor (limited to 1% of the chartered association's DECA Inc. membership in the high school division).

Allocation for competitors and chartered association representatives are based on each chartered association's membership in the high school division on June 30 of the previous calendar year. Please refer to the allocation schedules included for details.



# DELEGATE CONDUCT PRACTICES + PROCEDURES

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The Board of Directors for DECA Inc. requires each delegate attending the International Career Development Conference to read and complete the **Attendance Permission Form** and return to the **DECA chartered association advisor** as partial completion of attendance requirements.

- The term “delegate” shall mean any DECA member, including advisors, attending conferences (high school, collegiate, alumni, professional).
- There shall be no defacing of public property. Any damage to any property or furnishing in the hotel rooms or building must be paid for by the individual or chapter responsible.
- Delegates must wear identification badges and wristbands at all times.
- Delegates shall refrain from using inappropriate or profane language at all times.
- Delegates shall refrain from written, verbal, physical or electronic activities that may lead to harassment, hazing, bullying or damaging property.
- The use of any harassment against anyone on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation or disability is prohibited.
- Delegates shall respect the rights and safety of other hotel guests.
- Delegates shall not possess alcoholic beverages, narcotics or weapons in any form at any time under any circumstances.
- Delegates shall refrain from gambling—playing cards, dice or games of chance for money or other things of value.
- Use of tobacco products and electronic cigarettes by delegates is prohibited at all DECA functions.
- Delegates must adhere to the dress code at all times.
- Delegates must not dress or behave in a manner than can be interpreted as sexually explicit.
- Students shall keep their adult advisors informed of their activities and whereabouts at all times.
- No delegate shall leave the hotel (except for authorized events) unless permission has been received from chapter and chartered association advisors.
- Delegates should be prompt and prepared for all activities.
- Delegates should be financially prepared for all activities.
- Delegates are required to attend all sessions and activities assigned including workshops, competitive events, committee meetings, etc., for which they are registered unless engaged in some specific assignment scheduled at the same time.
- Delegates will spend nights at their assigned hotel and in their assigned room. No guests allowed during curfew hours. Delegates will be quiet at curfew.
- Curfew will be enforced. Curfew means the delegate will be in their assigned room.
- Chartered associations will be responsible for delegates’ conduct.
- Delegates ignoring or violating any of the above rules will subject their entire delegation to being unseated and their candidates or competitive events participants to being disqualified. Individual delegates may be sent home immediately at their own expense.
- Tasteful casual wear will be accepted during specific social functions as designated during orientation.

## NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

DECA Inc. is committed to creating and maintaining a healthy and respectful environment for all of our emerging leaders and entrepreneurs. Our philosophy is to ensure all members, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status, are treated equally and respectfully. Any behavior in the form of discrimination, harassment or bullying will not be tolerated. It is the responsibility of all members to uphold and contribute to this climate.



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## PRESIDENTIAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

A Governance Committee will be appointed for the High School Division. The purpose of the committee will be to act upon all violations of the **Delegate Conduct Practices and Procedures** within the division. The conduct guidelines were approved by the Board of Directors for DECA Inc. and apply to adult advisors as well as student delegates.

A copy of the **Delegate Conduct Practices and Procedures and ICDC Dress Code** may be found in this section. **The dress code applies to all participants while in the convention center and convention facilities.** The Board of Directors of DECA Inc. requires every student delegate to read and complete these forms as partial completion of ICDC attendance requirements. Please make sufficient copies for your delegates to sign and return to you prior to the International Career Development Conference. Chartered association advisors may wish to bring these forms with them to the conference for possible reference. PLEASE DO NOT MAIL THE FORMS TO DECA INC.

The chartered association advisor will be notified (in writing) of all violations. Notices may require the committee to assemble and take such action as is outlined in the **Conference Conduct Practices and Procedures**.

## CODE OF ETHICS FOR ADULT ADVISORS

DECA offers training to those students who have a career objective in the field of marketing, finance, hospitality, management or entrepreneurship. Individual conduct and appearance is a phase of this training. This phase of the education program becomes apparent at DECA's International Career Development Conference.

Since a good example is one method of teaching, and students participating in the conference are impressionable, a **Code of Ethics** is set for adult advisors.

It becomes the responsibility of each and every participant to see that proper conduct is adhered to at all times. Violations of these practices and procedures will be referred to the president of the Board of Directors for DECA Inc.

- Advisors shall conduct daily meetings with participants for progress reports, time schedules and other activities.
- Advisors shall keep an agenda for each student so that they may be reached at any time during the conference.
- Each chartered association shall arrange to have one advisor on call at all times.
- Each advisor shall be responsible for seeing that participants adhere to all conduct practices and procedures.
- The rules as stated in the **Delegate Conduct Practices and Procedures and the Dress Code** are called to your attention for review and should govern the behavior of advisors as well as students.

# DECA

## DRESS CODE

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Professional appearance is an important aspect of the overall preparation of DECA members for the business world. To that end, DECA supports a dress code for its career-based functions that exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism while being non-discriminatory between genders.

DECA's Board of Directors has developed official dress standards for the International Career Development Conference. Students, advisors and chaperones must follow the dress code.

Competitors must wear an official DECA blazer during interaction with the judges. While official DECA blazers are not required during briefing and testing, professional business dress is required. Professional dress should also be worn to all conference sessions including workshops and special meal functions such as luncheons.

For a more polished, professional appearance, it is recommended that attendees wear appropriate hosiery/socks.

All skirts and dresses must be at or below the knee.

**AN OFFICIAL DECA BLAZER IS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE RECOGNITION OR AN AWARD ON STAGE.**

### WHEN APPEARING BEFORE JUDGES AND ON-STAGE

- Official DECA blazer
- Dress slacks or dress skirt or business dress
- Collared dress shirt and appropriate neckwear (necktie, ascot, scarf) or dress blouse
- Dress shoes

### DECA GENERAL SESSIONS, MEAL FUNCTIONS, EVENT BRIEFING, MANUAL REGISTRATION AND TESTING

- Business suit or sport coat or blazer (blazer optional)
- Dress slacks, dress skirt or business dress
- Collared dress shirt, dress blouse or dress sweater
- Blazer optional
- Dress shoes
- Necktie/scarf (optional)

### DECA BUSINESS CASUAL

- Casual slacks (e.g., Dockers), blouse or shirt, socks and casual shoes.
- Jeans, t-shirts and athletic shoes are not included in business casual attire.

### UNACCEPTABLE DURING DECA ACTIVITIES

- Skin-tight or revealing clothing
- Midriff-baring clothing
- Swimwear
- Athletic clothing
- Leggings or graphic designed hosiery/tights
- Clothing with printing that is suggestive, obscene or promotes illegal substances
- Unacceptable types of dress shoes include boat shoes, canvas or fabric shoes, flip flops or casual sandals, athletic shoes, industrial work shoes and hiking boots.

*When judging adherence to the dress code, DECA asks that advisors, teachers and chaperones use observation as the tool for assessing compliance. DECA does not support or condone the touching of students or their clothing as a means of determining whether or not a student is following the dress code guidelines.*

*Any medical exceptions to this code must be documented by the chapter advisor in the conference headquarters prior to the beginning of the conference.*



# ATTENDANCE PERMISSION FORM

## ATTENDANCE

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to attend the 2026 DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. I also do hereby on behalf of him/her absolve and release the school officials, the DECA chapter advisors and the assigned chartered association DECA staff from any claims for personal injuries or illness which might be sustained while he/she is en route to and from or during the DECA sponsored activity.

## EMERGENCY

Any medical exceptions to this code must be documented in the conference headquarters prior to the beginning of the conference. This is the responsibility of the local advisor.

I authorize the advisor to secure the services of a physician or hospital, and to incur the expenses for necessary services in the event of accident or illness, and I will provide for the payment of these costs:

### LOCAL HOSPITALS

**Grady Memorial Hospital**

80 Jesse Hill Jr Dr SE  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
Main: (404) 616-100

**Piedmont Hospital**

1968 Peachtree Road NW  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
Main: (404) 605-5000

**Emory University Hospital****Midtown**

550 Peachtree Street NE  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
Main: (404) 686-4411

### PHARMACIES

**CVS**

235 Peachtree St  
Atlanta, GA, 30303  
(404) 577-4054

**CVS**

133 Peachtree St North (GA  
Pacific Bldg), Suite 305  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
(404) 522-6330

We have read and agree to abide by the delegate conduct practices and procedures and dress code. We also agree that the school officials, the DECA chapter advisors, the chartered association, DECA staff, or the Conference Conduct Committee members have the right to send the student home from the activity at our expense, provided that he/she has violated the delegate conduct practices and procedures and/or his/her conduct has become a detriment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter Advisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Official Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Insurance Company Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Number



# DELEGATE INFRACTION NOTICE

TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Chartered Association Advisor or State Supervisor      State/Province

It has been reported that \_\_\_\_\_ of your state/  
province delegation violated the following delegate conduct practice and/or procedure:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dress code   | <input type="checkbox"/> No identification badge     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defaced public property  | <input type="checkbox"/> In unauthorized place       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Possession of alcoholic beverages/narcotics  | <input type="checkbox"/> Curfew regulations          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use of alcoholic beverages/narcotics   | <input type="checkbox"/> Unauthorized date           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smoking (including vaping) in a DECA blazer while officially representing state/province association of DECA | <input type="checkbox"/> Unauthorized transportation |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)      |

on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
date time

For the benefit of the thousands of DECA members who will be privileged to attend the International Career Development Conference in future years, it is necessary for all current ICDC delegates to abide by established conference rules. The exemplary image of DECA must be upheld.

A word of caution to those who care should be sufficient.

Major infraction reports require appropriate action by the Conference Conduct Committee.

Please bring this notice to the immediate attention of all parties involved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson  
Presidential Governance Committee