

TSA's Ten Member Minimum Policy

This past year a new strategic plan for TSA was implemented for the primary purpose of strengthening the organization. One of the four major goals of the strategic plan is to create leadership opportunities at the local, state and national level. As a result, the TSA, Inc. Board of Directors approved a policy requiring all TSA chapters to have a minimum of ten members. The board of directors believes it is limiting to promote leadership development if a chapter has less than ten members.

Additionally, the purpose for this new policy is to provide a variety of new and improved services and resources for TSA's members. These include online chapter membership affiliation and national conference registration through a newly designed national TSA web site. Now every affiliated chapter receives a free tri-fold of CD ROMs which include competitive event rules, membership materials and leadership lessons. This tri-fold has a value of \$225. Requiring a ten member minimum per chapter allows TSA to "break even" financially while providing these requested services and resources. As technology continually changes it is TSA's goal to keep its members informed through updated electronic and print publications, as well as through e-mail, an online community and website features.

Instituting the ten member minimum policy helps insure that TSA chapters provide a well-rounded program for their members. Ideally, TSA chapters should offer leadership and committee opportunities to plan related activities and service projects, as well as prepare for a variety of competitive events. The membership affiliation policy of requiring ten members per chapter also helps TSA state delegations. By requiring a certain number of chapter members the state delegations will benefit. There will be more state delegation members participating at state conferences, more state officer candidates, and more members to share the responsibility of managing the state delegation. State departments of education will value stronger TSA participation through more chapter members within the local education agencies.

If your chapter does not meet the ten members per chapter requirement, affiliation can still take place by paying the fee for ten members. Chapters with fewer than ten members can then undertake a recruitment campaign to encourage other students to be a part of TSA and then complete their roster at a later date.

The TSA, Inc. Board of Directors and the National TSA Officers believe that strengthening TSA through the implementation of the ten member minimum per chapter will be beneficial to everyone within the organization.