

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION

FACT SHEET FALL 2025

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Illinois State Board of Education, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL 62777

Dr. Tony Sanders, State Superintendent of Education

Dora Welker, Division Administrator, College and Career Readiness Division

Kimberly Johnson, ISBE Principal Consultant

BPA IL ASSOCIATION

Business Professionals of America Illinois Association is an organization for students enrolled in Middle School, High School, and Post-secondary Schools with Business/Office Education, Marketing, and Computer Education Programs who are interested in developing and utilizing personal leadership and business skills.

Chairman of the Board, Illinois Association, **Cori Irvin**

Vice Chairman of the Board, **Position Open**

Secretary of the Board, **Position Open**

Business Professionals of America Illinois Association
Professional Services Contractors:

Executive Director/State Advisor, **Rosie McManamon**, Glenbrook South H.S. (GBS)

Alumni Director & PS Virtual Chapter Advisor, **Position open**

Competitive Events Director, **Dave Saunders**

Assistant Competitive Events Director, **Graham Brown**, Oswego East and **Rosie McManamon**, GBS

Technology Liaison - **Chris Skryzpkchak**, Waubonsie Valley H.S.

Assistant Competitive Events Director, **Steve Bridges**, Willowbrook H.S.

Comptroller, **Nick Valenziano**,

Assistant Comptroller, **Jeff Graham**

Facilities Director, **Rosie McManamon**, GBS

Conference Director, **Graham Brown**, Oswego East H.S.

Assistant Conference Director, **Cori Irvin**.

Leadership Director, **Ashley Yurchak**, Hinsdale South H.S.

Assistant Leadership Director, **Kelly Pecka**, Hinsdale South H.S.

Web Master, **Steve Bridges**, Willowbrook H.S.

Business Professionals of America Illinois Association State Officers:

President, **Irene Ahn**, Glenbrook South H.S.

V. P. -- Special Recognition Awards, **Debanshi Day**, Neuqua Valley H.S.

V. P. -- State Newsletter, **Aanya Shah**, Hinsdale Central H.S.

V. P. – State Projects, **Emily Park**, Waubonsie Valley H.S.

V.P. -- Torch Awards, **Aastha Jindal**, Neuqua Valley H.S.

Secretary, **Mahi Chikani**, Glenbrook South H.S.

Treasurer, **Ekansh Mohapatra**, Waubonsie Valley H.S.

Historian, **Zaara Singh**, Hinsdale Central H.S.

Business Professionals of America (OEA) was established in Illinois during the 1967 - 1968 Membership Year.

Professional and student **2024-2025 membership** in Business Professionals of America Illinois Association was **2,294**.

State Membership dues: **\$10**

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The state service project for Business Professionals of America is **Special Olympics**.

The **State Leadership Conference** (SLC) will be held at the **Doubletree Oak Brook**, **February 26-28, 2026**.

The **Illinois Association Professional Cup Award** was established in the spring of 1992. The first chapter to win the Cup was **Morton East**.

The Leadership Award Scholarship was renamed the **Rita Brake Leadership Scholarship** in 1989, in honor of the late Rita Brake, a past state officer.

Senator Debbie DeFrancesco Halverson, was the first recipient of the **Illinois Association Hall of Fame Award**, established in 1998.

Additional **Illinois Association Hall of Fame Members** are: **Glenna J. Magee Pyzik** and **Marquez Brown**.

Each year an **Outstanding Advisor** is recognized at SLC with the presentation of the **Ron Ciastko Outstanding Advisor Award**.

ICCCTSO (Illinois Coordinating Council for Career & Technical Student Organizations) includes the following organizations:

- **BPA**
- **DECA**
- **Emerging Educators Rising**
- **FBLA**, Future Business Leaders of America
- **FCCLA**, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
- **FFA**
- **HOSA**, Health Occupations Students of America
- **PAS**, Post-Secondary Agricultural Students
- **PBL**, Phi Beta Lambda (Collegiate Business – FBLA)
- **Science Olympiad**
- **Skills USA**
- **TSA**, Technology Students Association

NATIONAL BPA

Executive Director, National Business Professionals of America, **Patrick Schultz**

National Secondary President, Business Professionals of America, **Rishabh Barve**

National Post-Secondary President, Business Professionals of America, **Allyssa Norman**

National Business Professionals of America headquarters:
1365 King Avenue
Columbus, OH 43212

Business Professionals of America (formerly OEA) was organized in **Wisconsin in 1966**.

The Office Education Association legally and operationally became **Business Professionals of America**, **July 1, 1988**.

Four Divisions of Business Professionals of America: **Middle Level, Secondary, Post-secondary, and Alumni**.

Representing all Divisions there are **18 chartered state associations** with National Business Professionals of America Members as well as members from Puerto Rico, South Korea, and China.

2024 - 2025 National Business Professionals of America **membership** was **61,000**

National Membership dues: **\$14**

The membership pin is worn on the **left side**

The official colors of Business Professionals of America are **navy blue, red, and tan**

2025-2026 National theme:

Amplify Your Impact



Business Professionals of America Emblem:



Our **emblem** signifies **honor, dignity, and the importance of business in America**.

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The **four points** represent **ambition, leadership, sociability, and poise**.

The **stripes** represent **education, citizenship, loyalty, patriotism, competency, and dependability** essential characteristics of every successful business professional.

The **bar** represents the **service provided by those engaged in business occupations**, to themselves, to their employers, and to their nation.

The **quill and inkwell** represent those early leaders who developed American independence, our free enterprise system, our democratic system of government, and our codes of social behavior that has brought this nation to a position of world leadership. This portion of our emblem signifies **leadership, scholarship, character, and courage**.

The **torch** signifies the **ambition** of our members as they strive to achieve goals that bring recognition to

themselves and to our national organization that is composed of state associations and local chapters.

The seven torch categories that symbolize the ideals of Business Professionals of America are **Love, Hope, Faith; Cooperation; Knowledge; Service; Leadership; Friendship; and Citizenship**.

There are **four levels** in the Torch Awards program:

- **Executive Award**
(Local level – 10 pts)
- **Diplomat Award**
(Area level – 30 pts)
- **Statesman Award**
(State level – 50 pts)
- **Ambassador Award**
(National level – 70 pts)

The **national service project** for Business Professionals of America is the **Special Olympics**.

The national **Professional Cup Award** was established in **1990** as part of the Special Recognition Program. The first state to win the Cup was **Michigan**.

Business Professionals of America Week is always the **2nd full week in February**.

The **2026 National Leadership Conference** is scheduled to be held in **Nashville, TN from May 6-10, 2026**.

The **Workplace Skills Assessment Program** is an integral part of Business Professionals of America. The goal of the program is to provide all business students with the opportunity to demonstrate workplace skills learned through business education curricula.

The Workplace Skills Assessment Program is divided into the following six areas: **Finance; Business Administration; Management Information Systems; Digital Communication & Design; Management, Marketing, & Communication; and Health Administration**.

Virtual Competitive Events are offered only at the **National Level**.

Area Competitive Events are scheduled in November 2025 through January 2026.

State Competitive Events are part of the State Leadership Conference February 26-28, 2026.

National Competitive Events are part of the National Leadership Conference – May 6-10, 2026.

Business Professionals of America Pledge:

We are met in a spirit of friendship and goodwill as we prepare for careers in a world-class workforce. We work together to develop professionalism and leadership through Business Professionals of America and pledge our loyalty to our nation.

Rosie McManamon
Illinois Association
Executive Director/State Advisor
Last updated 01/09/26