

2026 Ohio State Leadership Conference Advisor Guide

February 23-24, 2026
Columbus, Ohio



WELCOME

The Business Professionals of America, Ohio Association, State Leadership Conference brings together competitors, business and industry partners, advisors, and vendors to provide an opportunity for Ohio career-technical education students to showcase their development of leadership skills and career-related competencies. The State Leadership Conference (SLC) is the highlight of the Ohio Association year and helps more than 2,300 members accomplish these objectives. The Workplace Skills Assessment Program (WSAP) events, state officer elections, Torch Award Ceremony, and evening entertainment are highlights of the conference.

During State Leadership Conference, attendees will:

- Compete in state-level Workplace Skills Assessment Program (WSAP) competitive events;
- Attend sessions designed to develop leadership and team building skills;
- Build a network by connecting with members and professionals from around the state of Ohio;
- Strengthen their professional and technical skills; and,
- Experience Columbus, Ohio!

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

Health and safety are paramount. Ohio BPA considers the health and safety of all who attend the State Leadership Conference, including our attendees, staff, partners, volunteers and on-site vendors/service providers, as our top priority.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMMING

Conference Programming

The Ohio BPA SLC Schedule of Events is listed on the Ohio BPA Website and a detailed posting will be outside of Regency Ballroom and Union Meeting Room on day of event.

- [State Leadership Conference - Ohio BPA State Association](#)

STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

Sunday, February 22

Time	Activity
4:00p-4:50p Battelle Hall	Rehearsal for State Officers Casual Attire
6:00p-7:30p Battelle Hall	6:00-7:00 State Officer Candidate Panel Interviews Campaign Managers set-up Campaign Tables 7:00-7:30 Candidate & Campaign Manager Orientation Meeting Candidates-Professional Attire; Campaign Managers- Business Casual or Prof Attire

Monday, February 23

Time	Activity
8:30a-11:00a	Registration Packet & Conference T-shirt Pick-Up by advisors → Foyer outside of Regency Ballroom & Battelle Hall
9:00a-5:00p	Some contests to begin at 9:00am Optional selection during registration Competitive Events Judged-Prof Attire; Computer Events-Prof or Bus Casual All ML/PS → 9:00a-1:00p
11:00a-6:00p	Grading Room → All Graders arrive 15min after end of contest time → Time slot will be given during registration process → Bring a laptop/device – Pens & Calculators will be supplied
1:00p-2:50p	1:00-1:20 Meet the Candidates 1:25-2:25 State Officer Candidate Speeches 2:30-2:50 Voting Delegate Session Candidates-Professional Attire; Delegates/Audience-Business Casual or Prof Attire
3:00p	Hotel Check-In
1:30-4:30	On-Site Open Event Testing for Secondary Level ML/PS – 10:00-1:00

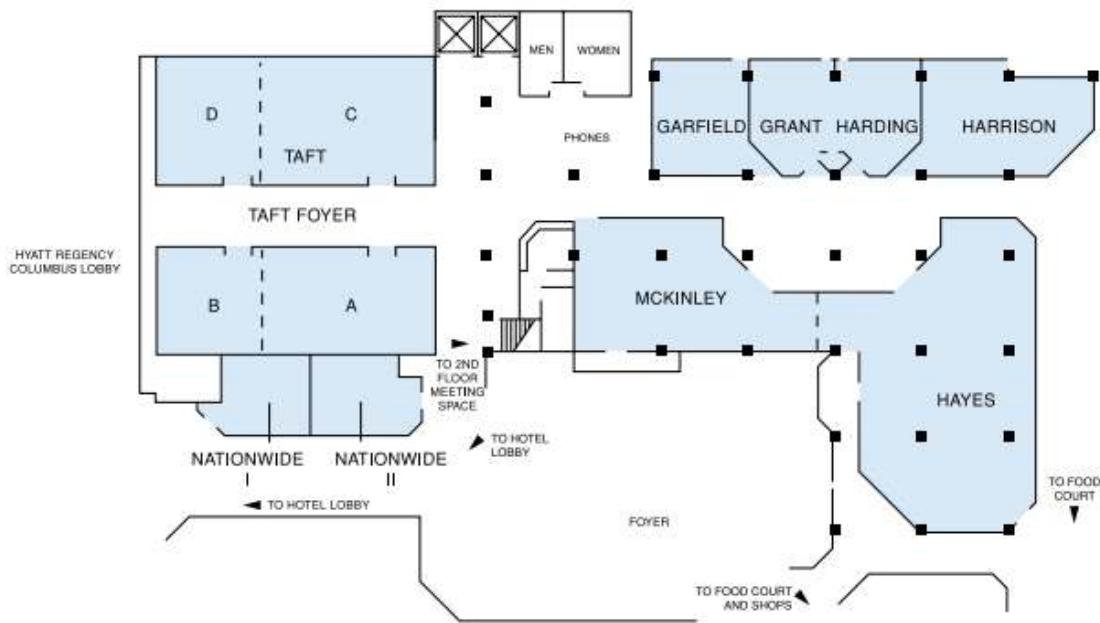
4:00p-5:00p Battelle Hall	Middle Level & Post-Secondary Grand Awards Ceremony → Professional attire required to go on stage.
8:00p-9:00p	Torch Awards Ceremony SLC T-Shirt and/or Business Casual
9:30p-10:30p	ThinkFast Interactive – Evening Entertainment SLC T-Shirt & Casual Attire
11:00p	Curfew

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

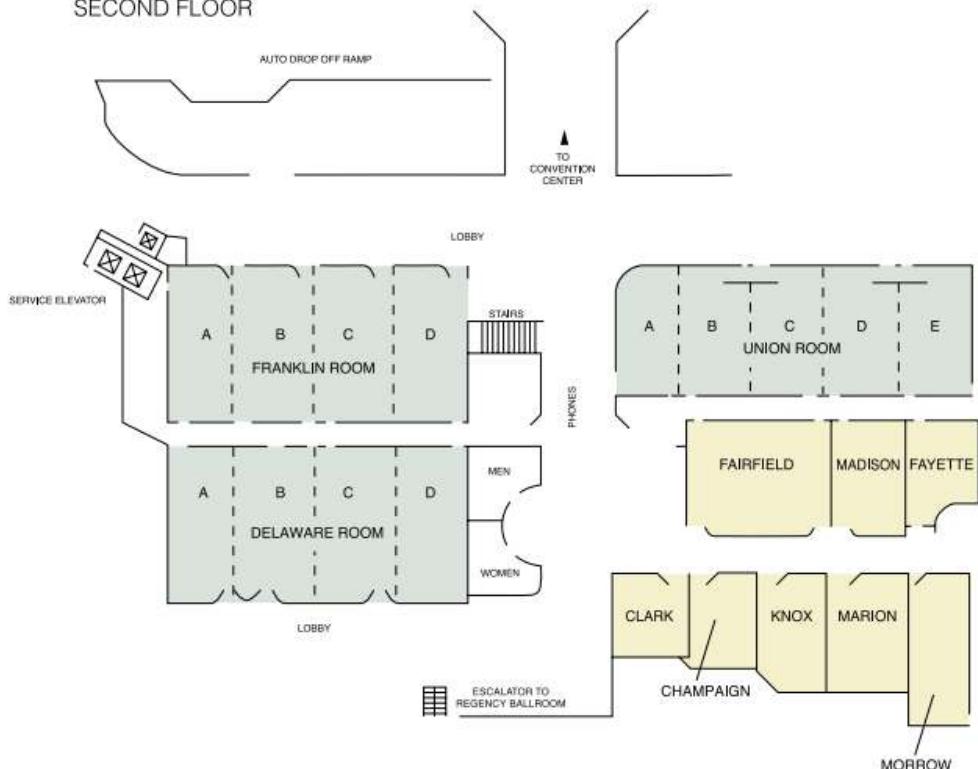
Time	Activity
9:20a	Doors Open to Grand Awards Ceremony
9:50a-12:00p	Grand Awards Ceremony → Professional attire required to go on stage.

Hyatt Regency Map

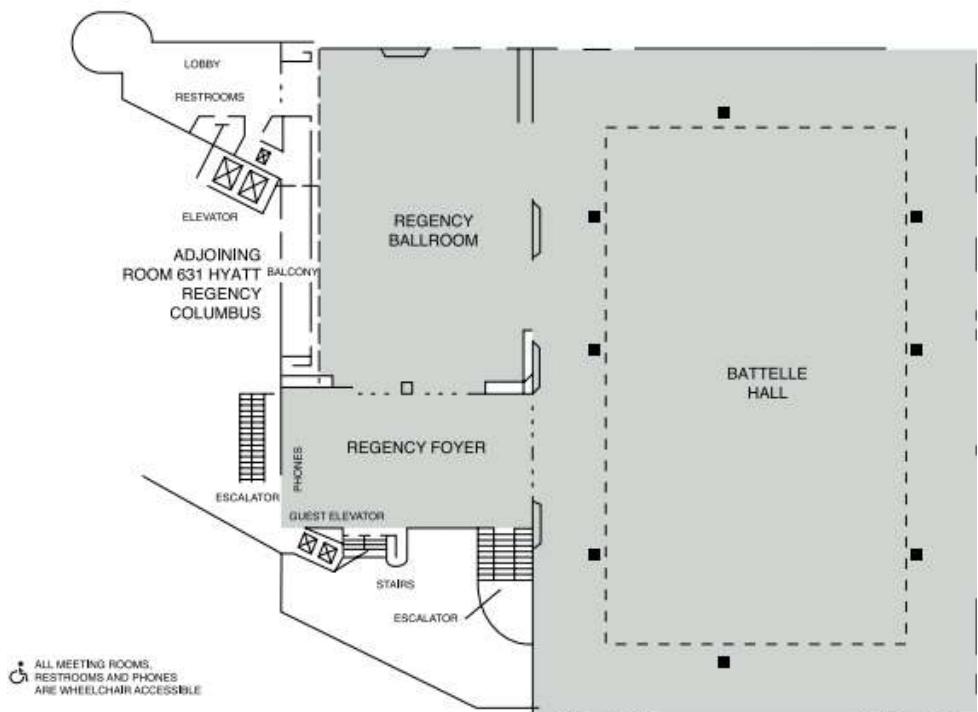
MEETING ROOMS FIRST FLOOR



MEETING ROOMS
SECOND FLOOR



REGENCY BALLROOM
AND EXHIBIT ROOM
THIRD FLOOR



On-Site Event Testing

Regency Ballroom & Union A/B Meeting Rooms: Judged Events -- 9:00am-5:00pm

Franklin Rooms & Delaware Rooms: Computer labs for Written Events -- 9:00am-4:00pm

→ Open Events objective tests from 1:30pm-4:30pm, ML/PS from 10:00-1:00.

State Officer and Delegates Session

On Monday, 12 state officer candidates will present their campaign speeches.

→ All members are encouraged to attend and listen.

Voting Delegates: Each Ohio Association chapter may select up to five (5) students to attend SLC to serve as voting delegates. Competing in an SLC event is not required.

Students designated as voting delegates must be officially registered in that role (even if they are also competing) and are required to attend all election-related sessions and events. Delegate votes represent their chapter, therefore, attendance by all chapter members is highly encouraged. There will be time for them to discuss who to vote for.

Torch Awards Ceremony

Battelle Hall: Since, ceremony ends close in time to the evening entertainment, attendees GOING on stage may wear their SLC T-shirts with Business Casual pants/skirt or just Business Casual Attire. All others may wear their SLC T-shirts with casual attire.

Grand Awards Ceremony Live Stream

The Grand Awards Ceremony on Tuesday morning will be live-streamed. The viewing link will be shared on Instagram (@ohiobpa) and sent directly to advisors via email.

Monday Evening Activity: ThinkFast Interactive

The Ohio Association State Officers welcome all members to ThinkFast Interactive, a highly interactive and visually stimulating event that includes multiple-choice trivia and participant polling questions related to age-relevant academic and pop culture trivia about topics such as music, TV, movies, art, literature, science, math, geography, history, and pop icons. Check out their website: [Home - ThinkFast Interactive](#)

Come to enjoy the show or choose to compete for a chance to win prizes and Gift Cards! The Showdown will take place Monday evening from 9:30pm-10:30pm.

→ Wear your SLC T-Shirts!!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Fees

Registration fees for the 2025 Ohio BPA SLC include:

- a SLC T-shirt
- ThinkFast Interactive evening activity
- Meeting room rentals
- All materials, awards, production, and other costs associated with conference

Description	Rate if registered by 1/30/26	Late Rates for registration 2/2/26-2/6/26
Students, Advisors and Chaperones	\$80.00	\$100.00
State Officer Candidates, Campaign Managers and Voting Delegates*	\$80.00	\$100.00
CEAC Member (State or National)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administrators/Bus Drivers	\$0.00	\$0.00
Current State Officers	\$0.00	\$0.00

*State officer candidates, campaign managers and voting delegates, **even if they are also competing**, must be registered as a candidate, campaign manager or voting delegate for planning purposes. Voting delegates can be switched at SLC.

Registration Procedure

All students, advisors and chaperones attending the conference are required to register for the conference using the [online registration system](#)

- ➔ Link will not work until registration officially opens.

Conflicts

Ohio BPA understands that members may face uncontrollable circumstances such as weather, school transportation issues, or testing conflicts. To assist with these situations, a **Conflict Room** will be available in **Delaware C** from **12:00 PM to 3:00 PM**. If any of

these conflicts affect your scheduled test time, please report to Delaware C, and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Ohio BPA acknowledges that its members are active leaders and students with many responsibilities. While schedule/name change requests for competitive events are not guaranteed, Ohio BPA will make every effort to accommodate requests submitted before **Friday, February 6, 2025**. Any requests made after this date—including those made during the State Leadership Conference—will be reviewed and **charged a \$25.00 processing fee** per change. Members are encouraged to plan ahead and review all personal, school, and work commitments before confirming their participation in SLC.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel Rates | \$220 per room per night

The Ohio Association must meet its contractual obligations to the Hyatt Regency Columbus and Hilton Columbus Downtown before we can book blocks at surrounding hotels. Each room – Single, Double and/or Quad – is \$220/night.

Hyatt Regency | 350 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Hilton Columbus | 402 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Overflow → In such cases that additional housing is necessary, attendees will be placed in overflow hotels near Hyatt Regency.

Check-In Procedure

Advisors will be responsible for obtaining room keys from the front desk and distributing them to their chapters.

Hotel check-in begins at 3:00pm.

→ Please note...sleeping rooms may not be available upon arrival, so please plan accordingly.

Luggage storage will be available at hotels. **Do not leave items unattended in other areas of the venue.**

Check-Out Procedure

Check-out is **PRIOR** to the Grand Awards Ceremony on Tuesday Morning.

Luggage storage will be available at hotels. **Do not leave items unattended in other areas of the venue.**

Damage

Any damage to any property or furnishing in the hotel rooms or venue facilities will be the responsibility of the local chapter advisor and school district.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment must be received by February 20, 2026 to avoid late fees.

Remit payment to:

**Ohio BPA
25 S. Front Street, 6th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215**

OR – Pay online using a credit card. Ohio BPA will pay the 3% processing fee.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Judge Recruitment

Business Professionals of America, Ohio Association, is a career-technical student organization that serves over 13,000 members. For the State Leadership Conference to run smoothly, we need judges.

Do you know any professionals interested in judging or grading competitive events? If so, have them sign up here: [Judges and Sponsors - Ohio BPA State Association](#)

- ➔ Receive one (1) registration reimbursement of \$80.00 for every two (2) judges/graders recruited to sign up **AND** fulfill their responsibilities.

New BPA Advisors! Don't have student attendees or competitors this year? Volunteer at SLC in exchange for free conference registration – an \$80 value.

- ➔ Contact Tina Krosse at Tina.Krosse@education.ohio.gov if interested.

Technology at State Leadership Conference

Business Professionals of America, Ohio Association will be hosting on-site computer labs (230 laptops and 90+ iPads) for competitions that require AnswerWrite and JudgePro systems.

Students competing in **programming events** (Java, C++, C#, Python, etc.) are required to bring their own **laptops that are USB/flash drive compatible**.

Students participating in Judged Events, like NLC, are urged to present from their laptop and use the table provided for their presentation. Use of a portable monitor is optional.

APG Assignment

All advisors are expected to sign up for one shift as a proctor, grader or contest assistant. Position selection is a part of the conference registration process.

Conduct

The Business Professionals of America Code of Ethics states: "Each individual assumes a number of obligations, one of which defines professional conduct. This Code of Conduct is an extension of the classroom situation. A professional code of conduct is required as would be proper for the classroom. This means that during Business Professionals of America functions, individuals are responsible for maintaining a high professional standard of conduct." Advisors are responsible for the conduct of their students and guests at all times throughout the conference events.

→ **Failure to conduct oneself in the appropriate manner may result in dismissal from SLC and disqualification from attending the NLC.**

Dress Code

Professional appearance is an important aspect of the overall preparation of Ohio members for the business world.

- Professional Attire: Judged events, awards ceremony, and going on stage
- Business Casual Attire: Computer tests, workshops, and Torch Ceremony
- Casual Attire: Worn outside of the above activities -- school appropriate
 - Wear your SLC T-shirt to ThinkFast Entertainment on Monday evening.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Ohio BPA is committed to creating and maintaining a healthy and respectful environment for all attendees. Any behavior in the form of discrimination, harassment or bullying will not be tolerated. It is the responsibility of all attendees to uphold and contribute to this climate.

THINGS TO DO IN COLUMBUS

North Market | Central Ohio's Public Market

North Market is a 145-year-old vibrant public market made up of Ohio's best independent merchants, farmers, and makers. <https://northmarket.org/>

Ohio Statehouse Tours | Capitol Square

Guided tours are available every day, except on state holidays. Please call 614-728-3726 to schedule a tour for groups of more than 10 people. [The Ohio Statehouse](#)

COSI | Center of Science and Industry

COSI is a nationally esteemed science center that has delighted Central Ohio with all things science for 58 years. For groups of 12+: \$10.50 per person, all teachers have free entry. The Titanic exhibit will also be happening at this time and would be an additional \$10 to attend. COSI recommends calling in early February to schedule your visit. [School Field Trips - COSI](#)

National Veterans Memorial and Museum | E. Broad Street

This museum is the only place where the stories of our veterans, their families and the Fallen – across all branches of service and all eras of conflict – are told together.

<https://nationalvmm.org/>

Easton Town Center

Easton features 200+ best-in-class retailers alongside exciting dining options, Ohio's largest movie theater and pedestrian-friendly open-air town squares, fountains, and parks.

<https://eastontowncenter.com/>

Ohio History Center | Bring History to Life

Visit the Ohio History Center, the state's repository for comprehensive collections of materials in the fields of history, prehistory and natural history. It also houses the state's archives and historical library. <https://www.ohiohistory.org/education/field-trips/>

Buca di Beppo Columbus | Arena District

In the spirit of Italian culture, our group menus are served family-style, meant to be shared and feature our large Buca di Beppo portions! Our fun and festive semi-private dining rooms are uniquely decorated making Buca the perfect place for hosting your banquet or gathering. Contact Anne Anderson for reservations, carryout options and questions: aanderson@earlenterprise.com or 614-821-0196



BUSINESS
PROFESSIONALS
of AMERICA

DRESS CODE GUIDE

This guide provides acceptable and unacceptable dress examples that apply to BPA national events. State associations may define their own dress code policies to use at regional or state-level events.

Business Professional Dress

Attire for all judged competitive events and to go on stage during any general sessions:

- Suit jackets, blazers, or dresses
- Tops: Dress shirts with ties or blouses
- Bottoms: Dress pants or skirts
- Shoes: Close-toed dress shoes, heels, or flats



Business Casual Dress

Attire for competitive events inside all computer labs (i.e., open events lab, certification labs, etc.), leadership development workshops, campaign rallies, caucuses, exhibit halls, and general sessions, if not going on stage:

- Tops: Polos, oxford shirts, sweaters, dresses or blouses
 - Sleeveless shirts should be worn with a cover-up, such as a blazer or sweater
- Bottoms: Dress pants or skirts
- Shoes: Dress shoes, heels, or flats



Casual Dress

Attire for tours, special events, and service activities:

- Tops: T-shirts, sweatshirts, and other casual tops
- Bottoms: Jeans, shorts, or other casual bottoms
- Shoes: Any footwear, including sneakers or sandals



Additional Notes

- All attire must not include any offensive graphics or slogans.
- All shirts should cover the midriff.

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

The following items are prohibited in all conference areas:

- Strapless, spaghetti straps, tube tops, halter tops, and midriff tops
- Spandex, lycra, or transparent clothing
- Cut-offs and clothing with rips or tears
- Clothing with inappropriate words and pictures
- Mini/short skirts or dresses more than 2' above the knee
- Swimwear



Members who are uncertain about unacceptable attire should ask their chapter advisor, state leader, or any of the BPA conference staff.