



## Frequently Asked Questions about Homeschoolers and FACCS Competitions

### How does FACCS determine individual homeschooler eligibility?

For the purpose of FACCS competitions, a homeschooler is one:

- who is not enrolled full-time in any type of school or academy (Christian, private, charter, public, online, or distance learning) for academic purposes,
- whose parent or guardian has registered with the local school district home school education office, and
- who is NOT enrolled in a FACCS/IACCS Member School or Homeschool Group.

### What are the options for my homeschooler to participate in FACCS competitions?

There are two options for participation:

- As a part of a FACCS Member Homeschool Group.
  - In this option, a group of homeschool parents come together and join FACCS as a Homeschool Group. Normally, these are pre-existing co-op groups or support groups.
  - The group must join FACCS annually by September 1<sup>st</sup> by completing a Homeschool Group Membership packet. Membership dues and assessment fees apply.
  - The group must enroll using the Member School/Homeschool Group online form.
  - Competition entries for the entire group are permitted up to the number permitted per Member School.
- As an individual homeschooler.
  - In this option, parents individually ENROLL their children to participate in the competition program. Must enroll as an individual homeschooler at [www.faccs.org/competitions](http://www.faccs.org/competitions)
  - Do not need to join FACCS as a group – there are no membership dues or fees.
  - Total number of individual homeschool entries are limited.
  - Registration fees per competition will be higher than Member School or Homeschool Group fees – to be stated at time of registration.

### What must I do to get my homeschooler pre-registered as an individual homeschooler in FACCS competitions?

- ENROLL via the FACCS Portal.
- Pay the enrollment fee.
- We will send you all of the competition information once your homeschooler is enrolled.

### Which competitions are available for my homeschooler?

All five of the FACCS competitions are available to homeschoolers. Most have both individual and group categories that facilitate individual homeschooler participation. Visit the FACCS website for more information about each competition. The only competition that is solely “group” based is the Brain Bowl in which teams of 3-6 compete in an academic quiz bowl. If your homeschooler wishes to participate in the Brain Bowl, he/she may do so. We will assemble individual homeschoolers into teams as long as we have at least 3 registered.

### **Explain the registration process for each competition.**

- When registration for each event opens (usually 8 weeks before the scheduled event), you will receive an e-mail with all registration information for each event enrolled.
- Register your homeschooler for the competition via the online registration form and pay the registration fee in a timely manner.
- As individual homeschoolers, space is limited by a maximum number of entries per category/grade/division. Slots for homeschoolers are distributed on a *first-come, first-served basis*. *i.e* Once we have filled the maximum number of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students for the Regional Spelling Bee (3 openings), the grade will be closed to any more 5<sup>th</sup> grade homeschool students.

### **How do I know in which grade my child should participate?**

The following age-based chart will be used to determine into which grade/level a homeschooler may enter in FACCS competitions. An active school year runs from September 1st – July 1st.

- **1st grade:** student is six (6) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
- **2nd grade:** student is seven (7) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
- **3rd grade:** student is eight (8) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
- **4th grade:** student is nine (9) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
- **5th grade:** student is ten (10) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
- **6th grade:** student is eleven (11) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
- **7th grade:** student is twelve (12) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
- **8th grade:** student is thirteen (13) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
- **High School:** student is fourteen (14) to seventeen (17) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.

### **In which region would my homeschooler participate?**

When you enroll your homeschooler for FACCS competitions, you will be asked to list the county of primary residence. That county will determine the region for competition purposes. We will notify you with the region information in which your child will be participating. You can also see a map of the regions by county on our website.

### **Does my homeschooler have to be a Christian to participate?**

Technically, FACCS does not require that any individual participant claim any type of religious affiliation, whether Member School, Homeschool Group, or individual homeschooler. However, since our association is primarily a ministry to Christian colleges and schools, it should be understood that all that services we provide will be framed within a Christian point of view. Hence, individual homeschoolers and their parents are expected to understand that Christian principles, standards, and activities (like prayer, devotional messages, etc.) will accompany all competition events.

### **Is the *Abeka Academy* a Homeschool Group?**

Yes and No.

- The ***Abeka Academy “Accredited Program”*** is FACCS Accredited Member School. Therefore, if your homeschooler is enrolled in this program, all competition enrollment, registration, and participation must be handled through the Abeka Academy.
- The ***Abeka Academy “Independent Study Program”*** is NOT a FACCS Member School or Homeschool Group. Therefore, if your homeschooler is following this program, he/she is considered an individual homeschooler. All enrollment, registration, and participation must be handled by you, the parent.