

2022 Regional Competition Standards Guidance

You may or not be aware that we are replacing the tool lists with the Competition Standards document for our competitions at the regional and state levels. The pandemic has allowed us to conduct a review of our current practices and revamping our tool lists is an area we have identified for improvement. This memo will explain why we are making this change, what the new document will look like, and what to expect as we get closer to competition season.

The competition tool lists were documents that contained all the information needed in preparation for regional and state competition. These documents contained information on location and time of the contest, but also specifically explained the details of the contest. Although the tool lists used a standardized template, not all contained the same information and tool lists for the same contests across six different regions varied. Some contained more information than others and provided more instruction to the competitor than what was needed.

As students progressed from regionals to state, the tool lists and the information they provided were not much different. The documents still provided detailed information on the exact specifics of the contest and were extremely thorough in length. As the students progressed to nationals, some were shocked on the lack of contest information provided at national competitions. This left our students at a disadvantage.

This led us to review our current tool list practices with the intention of making it better. Below you will find the reasons why we are making these changes.

1. Students who qualified for national competitions were not given the same level of information as they were at regional and state competitions. This puts our Ohio competitors at a disadvantage.
2. Competitions are to mimic real workplace scenarios where students are to compete and be evaluated on predetermined skills. Our tool lists provided too much information which enabled the student to practice over and over, which is not practical in the real world. Workers are expected to report to work with a set of assumed skills and perform. Our competitions should reflect this practice.
3. Tool lists varied drastically across all six regions. This left some of our regional medal winners less prepared for state competition.
4. Regional host sites are responsible for developing and managing the contests. They are also responsible for creating the tool lists. The previous process was burdensome to our regional host sites and was difficult to manage at the state level.

The new regional guidance document for this year and moving forward will be called Regional Competition Standards. This will be a one-to-two-page document that provides all the information the student will need to compete. Below is a chart that shows what will be included in the document along with an explanation.

Date, Location, Time	Date, time and location of the contest. Please remember this could be different for offsite contests.
Contest coordinator	Contest coordinator and their contact information. CONTEST COORDINATORS SHOULD ONLY BE CONTACTED IF A SCHOOL IS RUNNING LATE OR WILL NOT BE ATTENDING AN OFFSITE COMPETITION. All contest questions should be directed to the regional host site or to ODE.
Purpose of Contest	Explains what the contest is evaluating and why.
Testing	Testing information if a contest is using a test. Not all contests use a test.
Eligibility	Number of competitors a school may send based on our program guidelines.
Clothing	Specific detailed expectations for the clothing requirements of the competitions. Failure to follow these expectations could result in a penalty.
Provided by contestant	Materials, tools, or other items the contestant will need to bring in order to compete.
Contest Skilled Performance Standards	Standards selected from the National Technical Standards that the competitor will be evaluated on. Please review the 2021-2022 SkillsUSA National Tech Standards for detailed information on each skilled performance standard.

Each contest will be developed in the context of the Skilled Performance Standards the student will be evaluated on. The standards chosen were based on how previous contests were conducted, so competitors should not expect anything significantly different.

There will be no further information given than what is shown in the above chart. There will be no pictures of haircuts, blueprints, or any other additional items released before the competition.

One contest will have additional information released along with the competition standards: Welding Fabrication. This contest is a team event that constructs an item before regional competitions. We will be providing instructions and a blueprint for the Welding Fabrication competition.

If you have any question, please reach out to Robert Kornack at Robert.Kornack@education.ohio.gov.