

Education Acronyms and Definitions

By no means is this an exhaustive list, but it is a start to knowing some of the terms you might hear throughout the year as a state officer.

First time references in any speech or document should be done using all the words in the name of the organization, if possible. It is appropriate to use the acronym alternatively within the document. Keep in mind your audience may not be familiar with the organizations and thus using the complete title and the acronym interchangeably may be necessary. After all, we want people to know the words behind the acronym for FCCLA, don't we? Those words are what the organization is based upon, not the acronym.

- FCS or FACS – Family and Consumer Sciences.
- FCCLA – Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc.
- MoEFACS – Missouri Educators of Family and Consumer Sciences, a professional organization and an affiliate of the Missouri ACTE. Pronounced as a single word (mo-fax), not individual letters.
- ACTE – Association for Career and Technical Education. Missouri ACTE is the state affiliate. Headquartered in Jefferson City. Pronounced as individual letters.
- AAFCS – American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. Pronounced as “double AFCS” or as individual letters.
- DESE – Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, located in Jefferson City. Central office housed in the Jefferson Building. Consists of several educational divisions, including the Division of Career Education. Family and Consumer Sciences Education is a section within the division. Pronounced as one word or as individual letters.
- CTSO – Career and Technical Student Organization. Pronounced as individual letters.
- FFA – Association for students in agricultural education. Use letters only when referring to the organization.
- FBLA – Future Business Leaders of America; association for students enrolled in business education programs. Pronounced as individual letters.
- DECA – an association of marketing students. Use letters only, spoken as one word when referring to the organization.
- SkillsUSA – association of high school and college students and instructors who are enrolled in training programs in technical, skilled, and service occupations, including health occupations. Formerly known as VICA.
- TSA – Technology Student Association. Pronounced as individual letters.

- SEC – State Executive Council. Pronounced as individual letters.
- SECA – State Executive Council Advisors. Pronounced as individual letters.
- NEC – National Executive Council. Pronounced as individual letters.
- NECA – National Executive Council Advisors. Pronounced as individual letters.
- BOD – Board of Directors. Pronounced as individual letters.
- SEAT – STAR Events Advisory Team. A team of members, advisors and state staff that deal with STAR Events issues and changes on the national level.
- A&A – Alumni & Associates. Pronounced as individual letters.

Acronyms from the past:

- NHA – New Homemakers of America. Pronounced as individual letters.
- FHA – Future Homemakers of America. Pronounced as individual letters.
- HERO – Home Economics Related Occupations. Pronounced as the word hero.
- Home Economics – now evolved into Family and Consumer Sciences. This changed in 1994.