



Weeki Wachee High School  
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**HERNANDO**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Learn it. Love it. Live it.

**Kevin Bittinger**  
Assistant Principal

**Mildred Murrman-Dudley**  
Assistant Principal

**Brandy Sladek**  
Assistant Principal

Dear School Board Members,

Weeki Wachee High School respectfully submits this letter to inform the Hernando County School Board of our intent to participate in the 2026 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Student Leadership Conference (NLC) to be held June 28 – July 3, 2026, in San Antonio, Texas. This out-of-state field trip represents a culminating academic and career-technical learning experience for our students enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Business Academy pathways.

The FBLA National Leadership Conference is the highest level of competition and leadership development for student members nationwide. Students attending have already demonstrated academic excellence and professional readiness by qualifying through regional, district, and state competitive events. While at NLC, students will participate in nationally recognized competitive events, leadership workshops, industry-aligned training sessions, and experiential learning opportunities, including career-focused site visits such as a Game Design Studio tour. These experiences reinforce real-world applications of classroom instruction while exposing students to postsecondary and workforce pathways.

This trip directly aligns with Hernando County School District's CTE initiatives, which emphasize career readiness, employability skills, industry credentials, and leadership development. FBLA programming integrates business, finance, marketing, entrepreneurship, and information technology standards while promoting critical skills outlined in Florida's CTE frameworks, including communication, collaboration, professionalism, problem-solving, and ethical leadership. At the school level, participation supports Weeki Wachee High School's Business Academy mission by extending learning beyond the classroom and fostering student engagement through rigorous, authentic experiences.

The approximate cost of \$1,800 per student includes round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, conference registration, ground transportation, event fees, and most organized meals. Families are responsible for limited out-of-pocket expenses such as breakfasts, incidental meals, and personal purchases. To minimize financial barriers, students have engaged in extensive fundraising efforts throughout the school year. No district instructional funds are used for student travel expenses. Attendance at the FBLA National Leadership Conference is a transformative opportunity. Students gain exposure to national business leaders, collaborate with peers from across the country, build professional networks, and represent Hernando County Schools on a national platform. These experiences have a proven impact on student confidence, postsecondary readiness, scholarship opportunities, and career decision-making.

All students will be supervised by approved school personnel and follow Hernando County Schools' Code of Conduct as well as FBLA conference expectations. Safety, accountability, and student well-being remain top priorities throughout travel and conference participation.

We appreciate the School Board's continued support of experiential learning opportunities that elevate student achievement and showcase the strength of Hernando County's CTE programs. Please feel free to contact me should you require additional information.

Thank you,

Administrator's Signature

4/2/26

Date

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