



Early Childhood Education (ECE)

Food, Hospitality, & Human Services

Skilled and Technical Sciences Contests Contest Information

State Qualifying Exam: Yes

National Contest: Yes

Participation: Individual

Contest Description

Competitors demonstrate their knowledge of developmentally appropriate practice and their ability to prepare and implement learning activities for children 3-5 years old. Competitors will prepare a written lesson plan and be interviewed assessing their knowledge of child development and effective teaching strategies. They will demonstrate their understanding of the unique age-related learning characteristics of young children and the relevant social interactions as they implement the lesson.

To Be Evaluated

- Written Lesson Plan (grammar, spelling, neatness, developmentally appropriate goals and teaching methods)
- Interview (grammar, poise, voice, attitude, response to questions)
- Demonstration of lesson (introduction/closing, age appropriateness of lesson, opportunities for children to interact, variety of learning experiences, creativity, personal qualities)

Clothing Requirement

National Requirement:

- For men: Official SkillsUSA white polo shirt with black dress slacks, black socks and black shoes.
- For women: Official SkillsUSA white polo shirt with black dress slacks, black socks or hose or skin-tone seamless hose and black low heel/flat closed-toe shoes.

State Requirement:

- National Requirement OR Black dress pants, white dress shirt/polo, dark socks with dress shoes (closed toe shoes). Additionally, modest necklines are particularly important in this contest for appropriate dress.

Supplies Provided by Technical Committee

You will be given a list of supplies you can use to help you demonstrate your lesson plan. It is not mandatory to use them, they are simply provided as items you would find in a center for use. These supplies will be unknown to the competitors until the morning of the competition.

Supplies Provided by Contestant

Students should ONLY bring the items listed in the “supplied by contestant” section of the National Technical Standards (listed below). No other items will be allowed in the contest area except those supplied by the contest supervisor, with the exception of a snack/drink due to the duration of the contest. Each competitor must have their own set of supplies and will not be allowed to share with other competitors.

Supplies each competitor should bring is: 12” ruler, scissors, scotch tape (1 roll), stapler, staples (1 strip), paper clips (10), ink pens (2-black or 2-blue), sharpened pencils with erasers (3), markers (10 count), crayons (8 count), white school glue (4 oz. bottle), glue sticks (2), construction paper-white (10 sheets), construction paper-assorted colors (10 sheets).

One-page resume that will be turned in at the debriefing.

Additional Information

- Competitors will have access to DAP, but not necessary to cite on written lesson plans.
- Demonstration, not presentation (Demonstrate your teaching abilities to judges)
- There are 6 content areas listed in the technical standards, 3 options will be given to you the morning of competition for you to select from for your lesson plan.
 - -Math, Social Studies, Science, Music & Movement, Food & Nutrition, Language Arts
- The contest will be similar to the contest explanation for Nationals, with the exception of taking a written exam and the planning/presentation time. For this level of the contest, you will have 3-4 minutes to demonstrate your plan.
- During your lesson planning time or as you submit it, there will be a short interview that will account for 25% of your overall score.
- The written lesson plan is 25%, and the demonstration is 50%.
- No use of phones. If you are caught on your phone, you are immediately disqualified!

Possible Interview Questions

1. Why do you want to work in special education/early childhood education/with children/education?
2. What are the three most important qualities about yourself?
3. What do you want to be doing in five years?
4. List five adjectives that describe yourself.
5. To what teams and/or clubs did you belong to as a student?
6. What is your least favorite aspect of teaching?
7. What personal strengths do you find especially helpful in your teaching?
8. What personal weaknesses do you need to improve so that it becomes a strength in your teaching?
9. What role do you want parents to play in your classroom?
10. How have you integrated or how do you plan to integrate technology into your teaching instruction?
11. How would you establish and maintain good communication with the parents of your students?
12. How would you describe your favorite teacher?
13. How would you describe a teacher who was not your favorite?
14. If you could choose to teach any grade level, which would you select and why?
15. What are some rules that you will establish for your classroom? Why those rules?
16. Describe your discipline philosophy.
17. What is the toughest aspect of teaching today?
18. What have been your most positive teaching experiences?
19. What have been your most negative teaching experiences?
20. Define an outstanding teacher.
21. Given a theme, what are some center activities you would provide in a classroom?
22. Describe how the nature vs. nurture controversy plays a part in your teaching environment.
23. How do you handle conflict with your peers?
24. How do you handle stress?
25. How would you handle:
 - a. Various specific behavioral issues
 - b. Parent conflict
 - c. Parents who do not speak the same language
 - d. Children who do not speak the same language
 - e. Suspected abuse situations