



March 1 SkillsUSA Membership Policy and Exception Process

March 1 is the national membership deadline for students to be eligible for national competitions or to serve as national voting delegates or national officer candidates.

To avoid student disappointment, the national headquarters recommends that state associations enforce the March 1 eligibility requirement for *all* members participating at State Leadership and Conference events. Participating or winning at state conference *does not* exempt a student from meeting the March 1 national deadline requirement.

If a SkillsUSA association allows a student to compete/participate at the state level who does not meet the March 1 deadline and that student wins, it is the state SkillsUSA director's responsibility to talk to the advisor, student and parent or guardian and advise them that the student is not eligible for nationals. Experience has taught us that it is not sufficient for states to have these conversations *before* permitting the student to compete; the conversation must also take place immediately *after* the competition to avoid disappointment and frustration for the advisor and student. Because it is a state decision, the SkillsUSA Customer Care Team or membership staff will direct members who are not eligible for nationals due to missing the March 1 membership deadline back to the state SkillsUSA director.

If the state SkillsUSA director wishes to submit a **March 1 Exception Request Form**, they should work with the advisor/school to determine that the student meets the Exception Policy requirements. This policy is mandated by the SkillsUSA Board of Directors. Please review and communicate the Exception Policy requirements with the advisor/school *before* submitting documentation and provide all information in Step #1 through Step #5. The state association director *must provide all required documentation at one time* when they submit the March 1 Exception Request Form. Submissions without the full documentation will not move forward in the evaluation process. The [March 1 Exception Submissions](#) form opens the week of March 6. The Exception to March 1 Deadline policy can be found in the [State Director Information Hub](#). For questions, contact Patty Duncan at pduncan@skillsusa.org.