Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) should be an integral part of every FCS Career and Technical Education program in Alabama. FCCLA fosters personal growth, leadership training, career development, teamwork, community service, and student recognition to supplement the curriculum in FCS Education.

The Alabama FCCLA State Adviser suggests the phased approach below to implement FCCLA into the FCS program:

**Year 1**

1. Learn what FCCLA is and how it will benefit your program. Do Step 1 and/or Power of One with your classroom.
2. FCCLA should be included in your FCS classroom instruction. If implemented correctly, it should not require a huge time commitment outside of your classroom.
3. It is easy to infuse FCCLA into the FCS curriculum.
4. Become familiar with the FCCLA National Web site.
5. Familiarize yourself with the FCCLA membership kit, especially the DVD. (Free from FCCLA)
6. Take a look at the 32 STAR Events and pick one or two STAR Events which naturally fit into your curriculum.
7. Infuse these 1-2 STAR Events into your curriculum and use them as a classroom assignment for the whole class. The students will love it!
8. Elect Classroom officers.
9. Take students to a Fall Alabama FCCLA Camp Rally.
10. Request an Alabama State Officer Visit.
11. Register your FCS class as a FCCLA Chapter with the state and nationals. (Some schools include the FCCLA registration cost as part of their class fees. If you fund registration through class fees, then FCCLA membership should be noted in the course disclosure statement.)
12. Take your FCCLA Star Event participants and members to the Alabama FCCLA State Conference.
13. Recognize the accomplishments of your FCCLA students within your school. Give as many students an award as possible.
14. Take students to FCCLA National Leadership Conference.

**Year 2**

1. Elect classroom officers and include leadership training in your curriculum.
2. Leadership training is given to all students as an integral part of your curriculum. FCCLA provides excellent lesson plans, including classroom activities to teach leadership development.
3. Hold leadership meetings with your officers before school, during lunch, or after school.
4. Elect school wide officers utilizing previous year officers who rejoin FCCLA.
5. Register your school as a FCCLA Chapter with the state and nationals.
6. Attend the FCCLA Fall Joint Leadership Development Training with your classroom student officers, or attend with those students that show leadership potential and could run for office the following year.
7. Add a social, community service, or career development STAR Event to your program. This could be a lunchtime barbecue, a service project at Thanksgiving or Christmas, a guest speaker, a field trip, or team up with another Career & Technical Student Organization (CTSO) for a school-wide social event.
8. In addition to FCCLA STAR Events utilized in the previous year, add 1-2 additional STAR Event to your curriculum.
9. Start a FCCLA bulletin board in your classroom.
10. Take students to a Fall Alabama FCCLA Camp Rally.
11. Request an Alabama State Officer Visit.
12. Take your FCCLA Star Event participants and members to the Alabama FCCLA State Conference.
13. Recognize the accomplishments of your FCCLA students. Give as many students an award as possible.
14. Take students to FCCLA National Leadership Conference.

**Year 3**

1. Elect school-wide FCCLA officers. School-wide officers can be generated from the two previous year’s classroom officers or members who are currently paid FCCLA members.
2. Register your school as a FCCLA Chapter.
3. Include leadership training in your curriculum. Leadership training is given to all students as an integral part of your curriculum. FCCLA provides excellent lesson plans, including classroom activities to teach leadership development.
4. Hold leadership meetings with your officers before school, during lunch, or after school.
5. Have your FCCLA officers develop a school-wide program which includes fun social events, community service, career development, competition, and student recognition.
6. Make your FCCLA Chapter visible in the school. Visibility can happen with a showcase display, bulletin board, participation in school assemblies, posting a FCCLA banner in your classroom, having students wear a FCCLA jacket or polo shirt, publicize FCCLA STAR Events and winners in school-wide announcements, publish an article in the school newspaper, FCCLA pictures in the school yearbook, using FCCLA officers in school events, etc.
7. If more than one class is participating in FCCLA, elect class representatives to attend the school-wide FCCLA Leadership Meeting. The FCCLA Leadership Meeting is run by the school’s FCCLA officers and could be held before school, during lunch, or after school. Make sure the class representatives are given assignments to take back to their classes.
8. FCCLA classroom representatives could also serve as school-wide officers. However, allowing other students to serve in classroom leadership positions benefits more students and creates a pool of potential students to run for school-wide offices the following year.
9. Continue leadership training within your classroom. Remember, the leadership lessons are designed to develop leadership skills in all FCCLA members. These lessons should be an integral part of your curriculum.
10. Add 2-3 more FCCLA STAR Event to your curriculum. You will now have 4-5 STAR Events infused into your curriculum. The more FCCLA STAR Events that are incorporated into the curriculum, the more students will have a chance to compete and receive awards.
11. Attend the FCCLA Fall Joint Leadership Development Training.
12. Take students to a Fall Alabama FCCLA Camp Rally.
13. Request an Alabama State Officer Visit.
14. Participate in National FCCLA Week.
15. Recognize the accomplishments of your FCCLA students. Give as many students an award as possible. Paper Certificates and ribbons are very inexpensive, but are highly valued by students. You could have classroom winners and school-wide winners. Announce your winners publicly through the school announcements, newsletter, school newspaper, awards assembly, yearbook photos, and video yearbook.
16. Take the chapter’s FCCLA Star Event participants and members to the Alabama FCCLA State Conference.
17. Establish a FCCLA Wall of Excellence in your classroom or display case. Post pictures of area, state and national winners.
18. Promote school pride by competing in the Alabama FCCLA State Conference. Send as many students as possible to the FCCLA National Leadership Conference. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for student growth and recognition.

**Year 4**

1. Elect school-wide FCCLA officers. School-wide officers can be generated from the two previous year’s classroom officers or members who are currently paid FCCLA members.
2. Register your school as a FCCLA Chapter.
3. Include leadership training in your curriculum. Leadership training is given to all students as an integral part of your curriculum. FCCLA provides excellent lesson plans, including classroom activities to teach leadership development.
4. Hold leadership meetings with your officers before school, during lunch, or after school.
5. Make your FCCLA Chapter visible in the school. Visibility can happen with a showcase display, bulletin board, participation in school assemblies, posting a FCCLA banner in your classroom, having students wear a FCCLA jacket or polo shirt, publicize FCCLA STAR Events and winners in school-wide announcements, publish an article in the school newspaper, FCCLA pictures in the school yearbook, using FCCLA officers in school events, etc.
6. Have your FCCLA officers develop a school-wide program which includes fun social events, community service, career development, competition, and student recognition.
7. If more than one class is participating in FCCLA, elect class representatives to attend the school-wide FCCLA Leadership Meeting. The FCCLA Leadership Meeting is run by the school’s FCCLA officers and could be held before school, during lunch, or after school. Make sure the class representatives are given assignments to take back to their classes.
8. Attend the FCCLA Fall Joint Leadership Development Training.
9. FCCLA classroom representatives could also serve as school-wide officers. However, allowing other students to serve in classroom leadership positions benefits more students and creates a pool of potential students to run for school-wide offices the following year.
10. Run an ex or current chapter officer as for a state officer position at the State Leadership Conference.
11. Continue leadership training within your classroom. Remember, the leadership lessons are designed to develop leadership skills in all FCCLA members. These lessons should be an integral part of your curriculum.
12. Participate in National FCCLA Week.
13. Add 2-3 more FCCLA STAR Event to your curriculum. You will now have 6-8 STAR Events infused into your curriculum. The more FCCLA STAR Events that are incorporated into the curriculum, the more students will have a chance to compete and receive awards.
14. Begin a local FCCLA Chapter News Letter.
15. Take the chapter’s FCCLA Star Event participants and members to the Alabama FCCLA State Conference.
16. Recognize the accomplishments of your FCCLA students. Give as many students an award as possible. Paper Certificates and ribbons are very inexpensive, but are highly valued by students. You could have classroom winners and school-wide winners. Announce your winners publicly through the school announcements, newsletter, school newspaper, awards assembly, yearbook photos, and video yearbook.
17. Establish a FCCLA Wall of Excellence in your classroom or display case. Post pictures of area, state and national winners.
18. Request an Alabama State Officer Visit.
19. Promote school pride by competing in the Alabama FCCLA State Conference. Send as many students as possible to the FCCLA National Leadership Conference. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for student growth and recognition.
20. Begin utilizing local chapter social media Web site, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.

The above steps make it easy to integrate FCCLA into any FCS program with very little time commitment outside of the classroom. In Alabama, all CTSO’s are expected to be an integral part of every CTE classroom. Students develop leadership skills by running the FCCLA Chapter and performing the tasks themselves. A teacher should support, encourage and guide the organization. FCCLA is meant to improve a teacher’s curriculum, promote student leadership development, and add classroom excitement. FCCLA encourages team interaction, develops skills, promotes competition, provides student recognition and creates a needed sense of belonging for students. With such important benefits, FCCLA should be available to all Career and Technology Education students who have taken a FCS course.

**Esther Hicks**

Alabama FCCLA State Adviser

Family & Consumer Sciences Education Specialist, Career and Technical Education

P.O. Box 302101

Montgomery, Alabama 36130

334-694-4750

ehicks2@alsde.edu