



## **Delaware Technology Student Association (DE TSA) Student Code of Conduct & Competitive Integrity Policy**

**Applies To:** All Delaware TSA Members (Middle School & High School)

**Updated:** February 23, 2026

**Issued By:** Delaware Technology Student Association (DE TSA)

### **Purpose**

Delaware TSA (DE TSA) is a statewide student organization dedicated to leadership development and STEM career readiness through competitive events and applied learning. Participation in TSA is a privilege and requires responsible, respectful, and ethical conduct in both behavior and competitive work.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all TSA-related activities including, but not limited to: competitive events, testing, project submissions, conferences, meetings, online platforms, and in-state and out-of-state travel. This includes conduct at school, at home, online, during transportation, at lodging sites, during meals, during curfew hours, and during all scheduled TSA activities.

### **Student Conduct Expectations**

- Delaware TSA members are expected to:
- Treat others with respect, professionalism, and integrity.
- Follow safety requirements, event rules, and advisor/chaperone directions
- Represent their school and TSA with appropriate conduct in person and online
- Remain under advisor/chaperone supervision during TSA activities and travel
- Attend required TSA sessions, competitive events, and scheduled activities as directed

The following behaviors are **prohibited**:

- Harassment, bullying, intimidation, or discrimination
- Unsafe, disruptive, or reckless behavior
- Leaving assigned conference areas, hotels, venues, or scheduled activities without advisor permission
- Possession or use of alcohol, vaping or tobacco products, illegal substances, fireworks, or weapons
- Theft, vandalism, or illegal conduct

Students are responsible for respecting facilities and property. Damage may result in removal from activities and referral to the school for restitution or further disciplinary action.

Any conduct that substantially disrupts TSA activities, compromises safety, or reflects negatively on TSA may be subject to review and corrective action, even if not explicitly listed.

### **Competitive Integrity Expectations**

Delaware TSA competitive events follow published National TSA rules and Delaware TSA event guidance. Students must submit authentic, original work and comply with all deadlines, deliverable requirements, and procedures.

The following are prohibited:

- Cheating, plagiarism, falsification, or misrepresentation
- Misrepresentation of team membership or individual contributions
- Knowingly benefiting from, supporting, or intentionally concealing misconduct

Students who have knowledge of cheating or organized misconduct and fail to report it to an advisor or TSA official may be found in violation of this policy.

### **Delaware TSA Event Delivery Modifications**

To ensure contests remain workable statewide, Delaware TSA may publish Delaware-specific event delivery instructions (including modified submission procedures, deadlines, file formats, platforms, check-in processes, and virtual contest formats such as PDF portfolios, slide decks, or video submissions). State modifications will be communicated in writing through official Delaware TSA event guides or advisor communications. These adjustments do not reduce expectations for honesty, originality, or ethical participation.

### **Testing Requirements (Individual and Proctored)**

All TSA tests must be completed individually by the registered student and must be proctored by a TSA advisor or designated school proctor. Unproctored testing, collaborative testing, or unauthorized assistance is prohibited. Delaware TSA reserves the right to review testing irregularities and invalidate scores when misconduct is suspected.

### **Secure Materials and Device Use**

Students may not photograph, screenshot, screen-record, audio-record, copy, reproduce, or distribute secure competition materials that are not publicly released (including test questions, contest prompts, design problems, engineering challenges, or performance tasks), unless expressly permitted by Delaware TSA or event rules. Use of any device to capture or share secure materials is prohibited.

## **Technology and AI Use**

Students may use technology tools, including artificial intelligence (AI), only as permitted by published national TSA rules and Delaware TSA event guidance. AI and other tools may not be used to replace required student work, misrepresent authorship, violate event rules, undermine fair competition, or generate deliverables that the student cannot explain or defend. Students must be able to explain and support the work they submit.

## **Intellectual Property and Promotional Use**

Students and teams retain intellectual ownership of their original work. However, by participating in Delaware TSA activities, students and families acknowledge that DETSA, the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE), Delaware CTE, Delaware Pathways, and associated statewide education partners may reproduce, publish, display, or share submitted work (including photos, videos, excerpts, and images of student projects) for educational and promotional purposes through official publications, reports, websites, presentations, and associated social media platforms. These entities will not sell student work for profit and may credit the school and/or team when feasible.

## **Reporting, Review, and Consequences**

Delaware TSA reserves the right to review submissions, testing logs, timestamps, metadata, and related materials when misconduct is suspected. Violations may result in corrective action, score invalidation, disqualification, loss of awards/advancement eligibility, removal from TSA activities, removal from leadership roles, and/or referral to school administration. Delaware TSA reserves the right to remove a student from conference participation for serious misconduct. When removal occurs during travel, students may be required to return home at the expense of the student, family, and/or school district, consistent with school travel policies.

## **Agreement to Participate**

Participation in Delaware TSA constitutes agreement to follow this policy, national TSA competitive event rules, and Delaware TSA event guidance. Advisors and chaperones are responsible for supervising student conduct during TSA activities and travel and may be required to assist in enforcement of this policy.