

Greetings SkillsUSA Advisors, (SkillsUSA 2026-2027 #1) **One Attachment with This Message**

SAVE THE DATES!

September 16, 2026 – Maryland CTSO Joint Advisor Training / SkillsUSA Advisor Meeting (**invitation letter attached**)

November 5-6, 2026 – Fall Leadership Conference (registration deadline 10/9/26)

April 9-10, 2027 – State Championship (registration deadline 3/3/27)

June 21-26, 2027 – National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC)

Item #1: Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! The State Officers, Board of Directors and State Director wish you well as you prepare your students for a productive and enjoyable membership year. They look forward to helping you make connections, build relationships, and grow and strengthen your SkillsUSA chapter.

Student engagement and chapter success are best achieved by following SkillsUSA's Chapter Excellence Program (CEP) model. Last year, 13 Maryland chapters participated in CEP with 10 earning "Quality Chapter" status, eight earning CEP "Chapters of Distinction," and two earning national recognition as Models of Excellence chapters. This all begins by modeling chapter activities according to CEP structure and guidelines. More CEP information is available on the SkillsUSA website and additional instruction will be shared at the back-to-school chapter advisor meeting on September

16: <https://www.skillsusa.org/programs/chapter-excellence-program/>

More resources: <https://www.skillsusa.org/advisors/back-to-school/>

Item #2: Annual Membership Theme

The SkillsUSA membership theme for the 2026-2027 school year is: **SkillsUSA: Level UP** This is the topic to be addressed by competitors in the 2027 SkillsUSA Chapter Display, Prepared Speech and Promotional Bulletin Board competitions.

<https://www.skillsusa.org/resources/member-resources/theme/>

Item #3: ACTION ITEM! CTSO Joint Advisor Training / SkillsUSA Advisor Meeting

Plan to join Maryland CTSO advisors representing Educators Rising, FBLA, FFA and SkillsUSA for an MSDE-sponsored professional learning opportunity, **Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM**, Maritime Conference Center (MCC), 692 Maritime Blvd, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090. Your participation must be approved by your CTE central office.

There is no registration fee to attend and breakfast, lunch and the opportunity to earn six (6) professional development points is included! Also, advisors travelling the farthest may be eligible for a complementary sleeping room at MCC (9/15).

We want your chapter represented! Every SkillsUSA attendee will receive a gift, and chance to win some great raffle prizes. Also, **your chapter must be represented if you plan to participate in the Fall Leadership Conference!**

Here's the link: [Maryland CTSO JAT Registration](#)

Please review the **attached letter** sent to CTE Local Directors for additional information.

Item #4: 2026-2027 Lead Advisor Contact List

Please review "SkillsUSA Maryland Advisor Contact List 2026-2027" to confirm that your chapter representative(s) information is accurate and current. An up-to-date advisor list will ensure that all participating chapters receive important updates throughout the year. Send any changes/edits to the State Director. Thanks for your prompt attention to this request!

Here's the link: <https://www.new.mdskillsusa.org/advisors/>

Item #5: SkillsUSA Maryland Delegation Excels at 2026 National Conference - See SkillsUSA Maryland Release!

A team of 276 students, teachers and administrators proudly represented Maryland at the annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) this summer in Atlanta, Georgia. Half of our student competitors earned national top ten honors in CTE program-aligned competitions. See MSDE press release and SkillsUSA Maryland NLSC Recap Video for more conference-related information. Congratulations to all students! <https://www.new.mdskillsusa.org/>

Item #6: SkillsUSA Membership Registration Open for 2026-2027 School Year

The SkillsUSA registration site is officially open for the 2026-2027 school year! Advisors are encouraged to join early to receive all mailings and emails. Professional members receive [many benefits](#) when they submit membership with a valid email address, including the SkillsUSA Framework Integration Toolkit, Program of Work Toolkit, SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards, E-Courses and opportunities for professional development.

Time to begin registering students, teachers and administrators (i.e. professional membership) for the new membership year! National/state dues for professional members are \$28 and \$16 for students. Becoming a professional member of SkillsUSA is one of the best ways to demonstrate to students the importance of joining a professional organization and the opportunities that membership will provide. Check-out 2026-2027 membership resources to learn more about the benefits of becoming a student or professional member:

<https://www.skillsusa.org/join/>

<https://www.skillsusa.org/resources/member-resources/>

[State dues and deadlines](#)

[Total Participation Plan Flyer](#)

[Total Participation Plan Guide](#)

If you or any chapter advisors need assistance with SkillsUSA membership or registration, Customer Care Team representatives are ready to answer questions about starting a new chapter, ways to engage chapter members or strategies to strengthen an existing chapter. Operators are on call 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and 8 a.m.-7 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday (ET). To reach the hotline, call 844-875-4557. You can also chat online on the membership registration site. <https://www.skillsusa.org/customer-care/>

Item #7: SkillsUSA Maryland Website

Please visit the SkillsUSA Maryland official website to stay informed regarding state association information and activities. Check the website often as important and helpful information will continue to be posted throughout the school year. Melvin Baker, Frederick County Career and Technology Center, is the official website manager. Here's a link to the website: <http://mdskillsusa.org/>

If you have trouble opening emails, attachments, etc., advisor updates are archived online via the website: www.mdskillsusa.org At the homepage select “Resources” (in red box), then “Advisors.” Updates are listed by release date.

Item #8: SkillsUSA Mission and Framework

As you introduce SkillsUSA to new students, teachers, administrators and business and industry partners please be sure to begin by sharing the SkillsUSA Mission and Framework. The Mission and Framework clearly outlines the benefits of SkillsUSA chapter participation in support of personal, workplace and

technical skill development. The 2026–2027 chapter membership kit frequently references the Framework and Chapter Excellence Program (CEP). Visit the following link to learn more about the SkillsUSA Framework and to share informative videos with your students: <https://www.skillsusa.org/about/skillsusa-framework/>

Item #9: 2026-2027 State Officer Team Welcomes You Back!

The SkillsUSA Maryland state officers are looking forward to connecting and interacting this year with your students. The state officers request that your chapter officers complete this brief form: [Chapter Officer Contact Information](#)

Contact Charlene Zinnel for more information for scheduling an in-person (or virtual) state officer visit: zinnelc@dcpsmd.org

- **Ethan Hitchens, President**
 - Parkside High School CTE – Wicomico County
- **Michael Pastine, Western Region V.P.**
 - Severna Park High School – Anne Arundel County
- **Laila Shufelt, Eastern Region V.P.**
 - Dorchester Career and Technology Center – Dorchester County
- **Anila Martin Niz, Secretary**
 - Frederick Career and Technology Center – Frederick County
- **Jaclyn Ryan, Treasurer**
 - Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center – St. Mary’s County
- **Cooper Canterbury, Reporter**
 - Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center – St. Mary’s County
- **Alyssa Jeffers, Historian**
 - Worcester Technical High School – Worcester County
- **Ty Cherry, Parliamentarian**
 - Calvert Career and Technology Academy – Calvert County

State Officer Advisors:

Charlene Zinnel

SkillsUSA Maryland Board of Directors

Dorchester Career and Technology Center - Dorchester County

Mary Thompson

Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center

St. Mary's County

State Officer Team Webpage: <https://www.new.mdskillsusa.org/state-officers/>

Thank you for all you continue to do in support of Maryland Career and Technical Education and SkillsUSA Maryland. See you September 16 at CTSO Joint Advisor Training!

?

?



Charles S. Wallace

Coordinator, CTE Student Organizations

Division of College and Career Pathways

O: [\(410\) 767-8872](tel:(410)767-8872)

C: [\(443\) 850-8686](tel:(443)850-8686)

charles.wallace@maryland.gov

200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

marylandpublicschools.org



> [≥](#) >[LinkedIn](#) [≥](#)