

American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences • 400 N. Columbus Street, Ste. 202 • Alexandria, VA • 22314
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About Us...

AAFCS is the only national organization that unites family and consumer sciences professionals in the cause of serving others. AAFCS' 8,000 members are elementary, secondary, and post-secondary educators, researchers, and administrators; Cooperative Extension educators; and other professionals in business and industry, not-for-profit organizations, and government. These professionals develop, integrate, and provide practical knowledge about **life skills**—financial literacy; child care and parenting; conflict resolution; consumer education; housing and environment; apparel and textiles; and dietetics and nutrition. **By combining research-based knowledge, practical approaches, and reflective analysis, our members work with others to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities.**

For the past 98 years, family and consumer sciences (FCS) courses have integrated reading and writing, math and science, technology and research—essential skills now required by the No Child Left Behind legislation—into course curricula. FCS classes emphasize broader family and society issues and critical, practical **life skills** needed by 21st century youth, including:

- Nutrition, Health, and Wellness
- Financial Literacy and Consumer Education
- Human Growth and Development
- Child and Family Studies
- Citizenship Skills, Leadership, and Service Learning
- Housing and Environment
- Apparel and Textiles
- Career Exploration and Preparation
- And much more...

Our History...

In 1909, the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) was founded by Ellen H. Richards under the name *American Home Economics Association (AHEA)*. Ms. Richards was the first female graduate and professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an activist for nutrition, public health, consumer education, industrial safety and child protection, women's rights, and the application of scientific and management principles to the sustainability of family life. Her professional experience and vision led to the formalization of the family and consumer sciences profession.

Our Focus...

In 1994, AHEA changed its name to AAFCS to better reflect society's changing cultural mores and to emphasize a new focus on issues of financial literacy and other practical **life skills** issues. Today, AAFCS members strive to empower individuals, strengthen families, and enable communities by providing educational programs, developing communications, and influencing public policy. **Our integrative approach to education provides a unique perspective to problem solving by individuals, families, and communities.**

For more information about AAFCS, please visit www.aafcs.org.