

ESSENTIAL EFFECTIVENESS TOOLS IN SUPPORT OF FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES SECONDARY EDUCATION

www.aafcs.org/essentialtools.asp

Family and Consumer Sciences Education programs prepare students for family life, work life, and careers in Family and Consumer Sciences by empowering individuals and families across the life span to manage the challenges of living and working in a diverse global society.

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INTRODUCTION

What are the Essential Effectiveness Tools?

These Tools are easily accessible resources to assist in support of Family and Consumer Sciences secondary education. The Tools are organized into three components:

- **Advocacy**
- **Documenting Effectiveness and Impact**
- **Professional Development Opportunities**

What is the purpose of the Tools?

To place ongoing advocacy tools, effectiveness data, links, and other strategies in one easily accessible location on the AAFCS website that will enable stakeholders to utilize the tools provided.

Who will use the Tools?

Family and Consumer Sciences teachers, supervisors, and teacher educators; Career and Technical Education administrators, Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America Advisers; and other supporters of Family and Consumer Sciences education will use the Tools as resources when communicating the value of Family and Consumer Sciences Education to students, parents, school district administrators and board members, legislators, and other policymakers.

Why are the Tools needed?

Family and Consumer Sciences secondary education programs are at risk. School districts across the nation are facing severe economic constraints. Curricular emphasis is on math, science, and traditional “academics.” School boards and administrators are making difficult

choices—choices that too often result in reducing the number of Family and Consumer Sciences teachers or even eliminating programs.

Strong, multi-faceted advocacy for Family and Consumer Sciences Education is essential in order to sustain programs now and in the future. The Tools are designed to help supporters of Family and Consumer Sciences to:

- locate information through the links provided,
- demonstrate effectiveness with examples provided,
- help the public connect the term “Family and Consumer Sciences” with the body of knowledge formerly known as “Home Economics,”
- engage partners in supporting Family and Consumer Sciences Education
- promote the Tools to Family and Consumer Sciences teachers during conferences and meetings, and
- participate in relevant professional development opportunities.

Key to effective advocacy is statistical data on the effectiveness of Family and Consumer Sciences education that will enable advocates to:

- validate academic performance and relevance,
- illustrate alignment with academics,
- provide comparisons to other programs of study, and
- build respect of parents, administrators, policymakers, business and industry, private funders, and the general public for Family and Consumer Sciences Education.

Who were the partners in the development and implementation of these Tools?

The following organizations are ongoing participants in the development and implementation:

- [American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences \(AAFCS\)](#)
- [Association for Career and Technical Education \(ACTE\), Family and Consumer Sciences Division](#)
 - [National Association of State Administrators of Family & Consumer Sciences \(NASAFACS\)](#)
 - [National Association of Teacher Educators for Family and Consumer Sciences \(NATEFACS\)](#)
 - [National Association of Teachers of Family & Consumer Sciences \(NATFACS\)](#)
- [Family and Consumer Sciences Education Association \(FCSEA\)](#)
- [Family, Career and Community Leaders of America \(FCCLA\)](#)
National student organization for Family and Consumer Sciences
- [National Coalition for Family and Consumer Sciences Education \(NCFACSE\)](#)
Provides a unified voice on issues related to Family and Consumer Sciences Education. Members include AAFCS, ACTE FCS Division, FCSEA, and FCCLA.
- [National Research Center for Career and Technical Education \(NRCCTE\)](#)
Works to improve the engagement, achievement, and transition of high school and postsecondary CTE students through technical assistance to states, professional development for CTE practitioners, and dissemination of knowledge derived from scientifically based research.

ESSENTIAL EFFECTIVENESS TOOLS

Advocacy

- [National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education](#)
Includes rationale and comprehensive content standards for each of 16 areas of study in Family and Consumer Sciences
- [Advocacy Resources for FCS Secondary Educators](#)
Offers helpful tips, a FCS secondary program fact sheet, statistics, and other resources to help promote FCS secondary programs.
- [AAFCS Resolution: Sustaining Family and Consumer Sciences Education](#)
Supports the need for the Essential Effectiveness Tools and calls for strong collaborative advocacy for Family and Consumer Sciences Education (approved by the AAFCS Senate in 2011).
- **Public Awareness Initiatives**
 - [The Family and Consumer Sciences Brand](#)
Resources to clearly communicate the value of the family and consumer sciences field developed by the [FCS Alliance](#)
 - [AAFCS PR/Media Toolkit](#)
Background information and templates for use in PR efforts. Available to members only
 - [AAFCS Public Policy Toolkit](#)
Resource focused on communicating effectively with legislators. Available to members only
- [Developing an advisory board](#)
Tips for creating an advocate and resource board.
- [Forming partnerships at the local, state and national level](#)
Creating coalitions to work toward mutual interests
- **“Empowering the Profession Through Partnerships,”** Commemorative Lecture, Marilyn R. Swierk, MS, CFCS, *Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences*, Vol.95, No 3, 2003.
- [Model letters for use with public officials, sponsors, and partners.](#)
Advocacy tools online
- **“Advocacy”**
An FCCLA competitive STAR Event (Students Taking Action With Recognition) for middle and high school FCCLA members that focuses on advocacy for an issue in an effort to positively affect a policy or law (*2011–2012 COMPETITIVE EVENTS GUIDE*, pp. 132-139).

Documenting Effectiveness and Impact

- [AAFCS Pre-Professional Assessments & Certifications \(Pre-PAC\) data](#)
- [Family and Consumer Sciences Fact Sheet](#)
- **NASAFACS**
 - [Family and Consumer Sciences Education State Websites](#)
A valuable resource to research FCS course offerings and relationships to graduation requirements in other states.
 - [NASAFACS state contact information](#) –ACTE Family and Consumer Sciences Division
 - [FACS Graduation Requirements](#)

- **[National Coalition for Family and Consumer Sciences Education White Papers and Talking Points](#)**
 - [Enhancing National Sustainability Through Sound Families](#)—White paper and talking points
 - [Positive Youth Development: Building Human Capital Through Family and Consumer Sciences Education](#)—Talking points
 - [Solving Societal Issues: An Opportunity for Family and Consumer Sciences](#)—Talking points
- **[Perkins Accountability Requirements](#)**

Central focus of Perkins IV legislation for Career Technical Education “to assess the effectiveness of the state in achieving statewide progress in career and technical education and to optimize the return of investment of Federal funds.
- **[Family, Career and Community Leaders of America 2011 Annual Report: Cooperative Research Program](#)**

Includes results of a survey of almost 88,000 Family and Consumer Sciences students including FCCLA members and non-FCCLA members
- **[Family, Career and Community Leaders of America 2011 Annual Report: Cooperative Research Program, Supplemental Data, Three Year Trend](#)**
- **“Effectiveness of Secondary Family and Consumer Sciences Programs (1985-2004).”** Lorna B. Browne, PhD; Lori Myers, Yvonne S. Gentzler, PhD; Cheryl O. Hausafus, PhD, CFCS. *Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences*, Vol. 98, No. 1, 2006.
- **Research for Family and Consumer Sciences Education and Career Technical Education**
 - **[Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences Education \(JFCSE\)](#)**

Original research and other manuscripts such as literature reviews, conceptual and theoretical essays, position papers, and reports of innovative practice published electronically.
 - **[Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal \(FCSRJ\)](#)**

Published by AAFCS; covers the richness, diversity and interdisciplinary that characterize Family and Consumer Sciences today.
 - **[The National Research Center for Career and Technical Education \(NRCCTE\)](#)**

Primary agent for generating scientifically based knowledge, dissemination, professional development, and technical assistance to improve career and technical education (CTE) in the United States.
 - **[Association for Career and Technical Education Research \(ACTER\)](#)**

A professional organization for scholars and others with research interests in the relationship between education and work.
- **Using Surveys and Affective Assessments in Family and Consumer Sciences Education**
 - [PDF \(includes sample surveys\)](#)
 - [PowerPoint](#)
- **Course Classification Systems**
 - **[Secondary School Course Classification System: School Codes for Exchange of Data \(SCED\)](#)**, May 2007
 - **[2007 Revision of the Career/Technical Portion of the Secondary School Taxonomy](#)**
 - **[Classification of Instructional Programs \(CIP\) Codes](#)**

Used by postsecondary institutions and state agencies. Provides a taxonomic scheme that supports tracking and reporting fields of study and program completion information to the U.S. Department of Education.

Professional Development Opportunities

- **[AAFCS Professional Development Center](#)**
 - **[On-Site Events](#)**

Includes the Annual Conference & Expo and the annual Leadership Conference
 - **[Webinars: New Experiences in Training \(NExT\)](#)**

Includes a wide scope of training activities from research and best practices in FCS content areas to career development and leadership training. Participate in live webinars or view archived webinars.
 - **[AIM \(Association Involvement and More\) Sessions](#)**

Includes association initiatives, governance, and education about various AAFCS programs. Participate in live virtual sessions or view archived sessions.
- **[AAFCS FCS Credentialing Center](#)**
 - **[AAFCS Pre-PAC Management System](#)**

Facilitates each step of the Pre-PAC assessment process from becoming approved as a test site to purchasing and administering assessments to accessing data reports.
 - **[Pre-Professional Assessments and Certifications \(Pre-PAC\)](#)**

Identifies portfolio of FCS related pre-professional assessments and certifications and provides links to individual assessment pages for access to competency lists, bulletins, and other assessment resources.
 - **[Professional Assessments and Certifications](#)**

Provides information for achieving and maintaining professional credentials relevant to FCS professionals (i.e., CFCS and CPFFE).
- **[AAFCS State Affiliates](#)**
- **[Association for Career and Technical Education \(ACTE\), FCS Division](#)**
- **[Professional Development Calendar](#)**
- **[FCCLA](#)**