



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



Thomas R. Bice  
 State Superintendent of Education

January 22, 2014

**MEMORANDUM**

Alabama  
 State Board  
 of Education

Governor  
 Robert Bentley  
 President

**TO:** County and City Superintendents of Education

Tracy T. Roberts  
 District I

**FROM:** Thomas R. Bice **TRB**  
 State Superintendent of Education

Betty Peters  
 District II

**RE:** National Tournament of Academic Excellence, June 14-16, 2014

Stephanie Bell  
 District III

The state of Florida is hosting an academic tournament for students across the United States—the National Tournament of Academic Excellence (NTAE). The tournament will be held at the Convention Center of Walt Disney World’s Contemporary Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, on June 14 – 16, 2014.

Yvette M.  
 Richardson, Ed.D.  
 District IV

The NTAE showcases the excellence of the U.S. educational system and rewards individual scholastic achievement of student participants. The tournament hosts teams from many states, as well as teams from the District of Columbia, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This is a highly academic national high school competition. Each team consists of six students (four players and two alternates) and one coach. Students enrolled in Grades 9-12 during the school year are eligible. As many as six teams may compete against each other in one competition. This is not a quick response, trivial pursuit contest. Instead, it is a slower-paced tournament in which players are asked questions from the areas of mathematics, science, language arts, social studies, the fine arts, world languages (French and Spanish), and technology. The questions are written by educators from high schools and colleges throughout the nation.

Ella B. Bell  
 District V  
 President Pro Tem

Charles E. Elliott, M.D.  
 District VI  
 Vice President

This is a great opportunity for Alabama students to compete in this academic competition. To participate in this event, please complete the attached contact form and return it to Lisa W. Rawls, Academic Competitions Coordinator. If you require additional information, please see the attached memo from Pam Stewart or please feel free to contact Lisa Rawls by telephone at 863-968-5168 or via e-mail at [lisa.rawls@polk-fl.net](mailto:lisa.rawls@polk-fl.net). Information can also be found online at <http://www.academic-challenge.org/ntae/index.html>.

Jeff Newman  
 District VII

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.  
 District VIII

Thomas R. Bice, Ed.D.  
 Secretary and  
 Executive Officer

TRB:BAD  
 Attachments  
 FY14-1014

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Pam Stewart  
Commissioner of Education

December 17, 2013

Chris Minnich  
Executive Director  
Council of Chief State School Officers  
One Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Minnich:

I am pleased to inform you of an exciting academic tournament for students across the United States, the National Tournament of Academic Excellence (NTAE). This academic tournament, formerly the Panasonic Academic Challenge, will be held at the Convention Center of Walt Disney World's Contemporary Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida on June 14 – 16, 2014.

The NTAE showcases the excellence of the U.S. educational system and rewards individual scholastic achievement of student participants. The tournament hosts teams from many states, as well as teams from the District of Columbia, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. State teams that have been named national champions include those from Florida, Illinois, Maryland and Virginia. These teams represented America's best and brightest scholars.

Funding is being gradually assembled from the Florida Department of Education and other sources. The contributions will be used in the form of team grants to reduce the cost to each participating team. The exact amount of each grant will depend upon the number of teams and total amount of secured funding; however, the per-team allocation is projected to be \$1,720. It is my hope that these grants will facilitate participation, allowing an increased number of states to compete for the title of national champion.

At this time, I am asking for your assistance relaying this information to the members of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Please include the attached contact form in any communications you

National Tournament of Academic Excellence  
December 17, 2013  
Page 2

send, with instructions to return the completed form to Lisa W. Rawls, Academic Competitions Coordinator. I encourage you to support these outstanding young scholars and experience the excitement generated at the NTAE by students, coaches and judges alike.

If you require additional information, please feel free to contact Lisa W. Rawls by phone at 863-968-5168 or email at [lisa.rawls@polk-fl.net](mailto:lisa.rawls@polk-fl.net). Information can also be found online at <http://www.academic-challenge.org/ntae/index.html>.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Stewart". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Pam Stewart

Attachment

2014 National Tournament of Academic Excellence (NTAE)  
Contact Form

Please complete and return this form via e-mail to [lisa.rawls@polk-fl.net](mailto:lisa.rawls@polk-fl.net) or US Mail to Lisa Rawls, Academic Competitions, PO Box 391, Bartow, FL 33831 by January 31, 2014.

State/Territory \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one of the following:

My office will select the team to represent our state/territory.

This selection will be completed and the name submitted to the NTAE Tournament Director by February 28, 2014.

My office gives the responsibility for team selection and NTAE coordination to the individual listed below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one of the following:

I am willing to assist in the distribution of NTAE information to schools within my state by providing e-mail addresses of high schools.

I am willing to assist in the distribution of NTAE information to schools within my state by providing mailing labels for high schools.

I am not able to assist in the distribution of NTAE information.