

# 5 Tips for New Advisors



Welcome to the Kentucky Technology Student Association (KYTSA)! You have made an amazing decision to enhance your career and technical education (CTE) program and inspire student to become STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) leaders. CTSOs are all designed to strengthen your curriculum and take your students to a whole different level, and KYTSA is no different. Starting and supporting a chapter in your first year can be difficult, but there are tips and tricks that may make it just a bit easier.

1. **Don't Take it All On** – it is almost impossible to successfully start and sustain a KYTSA chapter by trying to integrate all the different competitive events. Study the event problems and themes, as well as the competitive event descriptions and guides to determine which you can fit in and feel most comfortable with. It is highly suggested that you choose no more than six in your first year.
2. **Connect with Other Chapter Advisors** – even with a year under their belt, advisors who have supported a KYTSA chapter are one of your greatest allies. Sure, once the state conference comes around, competition will grow, but getting there can be a team effort.
3. **Recruit Additional Teachers in Your School** – many of the KYTSA themes and problems can be addressed and practiced in different classes outside your CTE Department. If a member is interested in a specific competition you aren't confident in supporting, other teachers and mentors are your greatest assets. And don't forget your Business & Industry partners as well. They can be a great asset as mentors to chapter members.
4. **Foster Your Students' Passion** – you don't have to be an expert in every subject covered by KYTSA competitive events. A priority of this program is building students 21-century skills, so encouraging a student to critically think, problem solve, and persevere through an event they are passionate about is just as effective as helping in subject matter.
5. **Graze** –being intracurricular does not have to mean integrating the full project into your curriculum as a unit project, although you absolutely can. While studying the problems and themes you may have thought of small projects that graze over the deeper competitive event objectives. These small projects can be implemented throughout the year to introduce concepts or strengthen understanding before your students attack the larger problem. Your whole curriculum does not need to revolve around KYTSA, and you may even find that your curriculum already grazes over the key pieces.