



AAUW FY26 Five Star Criteria

Advancement (Only 3 required for a star in this area)

- Raise \$30 per member in FY26 towards the Greatest Needs Fund
- Increase contributions to the Greatest Needs Fund by 15% from the last fiscal year.
- Retain at least 80% of branch membership.
- Increase the number of individual donors compared to the previous fiscal year.
- Make a branch contribution to the Defend Higher Education **or** Public Policy Funds.
- Recruit at least one Legacy Circle member from your branch in FY26.

Public Policy & Advocacy (Only 3 required for a star in this area)

- Appoint a branch public policy chair for FY26.
- Conduct a meeting with an elected official regarding an AAUW public policy position. This could include local, state, or federal officials.
- Participate in a state lobby day.
- Hold a program on a policy topic related to public policy principles and priorities (this also counts towards a Programs Star).
- Conduct a voter registration or voter education event.
- Organize a group action—such as letter-writing, attending a school board meeting, hosting a town hall—aligned with AAUW Action Network calls to action.

Governance & Sustainability (Only 3 required for a star in this area)

- Branch board creates or annually reviews a succession plan to ensure future leadership is identified.
- Branch board develops and implements a plan to participate in the Five Star Program.
- Branch board develops or updates their strategic plan to align with the AAUW national strategic plan.

- Appoint a Diversity Officer to lead branch diversity and inclusion planning or formalize diversity and inclusion programming in another branch position, such as Programs VP.
- Hold at least one branch program focused on justice, equity, diversity, or inclusion topics (this also counts towards a Programming star).
- Complete an [environmental scan](#) of your branch, using the DEI toolkit resource.
- Participate in the Annual Branch Survey.

Programming

- Hold at least 4 programs that align with AAUW's strategic plan.

Communications & External Relations (Only 3 required for a star in this area)

- Branch has a designated communications point person and follows AAUW National on platforms where it operates social media accounts.
- Share 3-5 posts aligned with AAUW's mission per quarter on branch social media accounts (can be shared/reposted from AAUW National accounts).
- Include information from AAUW National in branch newsletters at least quarterly (pulling from Mission & Action emails, etc.).
- Ensure all branch leaders subscribe to AAUW emails and share the email re-subscribe link with members quarterly in member communications.
- Twice a year, assess national website and include updated information on branch website (linking to new strategic plan page, sharing latest content updates, sharing latest membership information).