

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF EDUCATION

REVISED BY FULL COUNCIL VOTE:

October 15, 2021

APRIL 8, 2022

The present Constitution and By-Laws, as reproduced below, was approved by the membership in March 1977, amended in 1979, 1988, 1994, 1996, 2014 and 2022.

CONSTITUTION OF THE
NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF EDUCATION

ARTICLE I
NAME

The name of the organization shall be the **New Jersey Council of Education**.

ARTICLE II
PURPOSE

- Section 1:** The investigation and discussion of topics relating to education and the dissemination of information bearing on these topics.
- Section 2:** The consideration and recommendation of the best means of advancing the educational interest of the State including taking positions on, reacting to, and providing support for critical issues.
- Section 3:** The consideration of means by which the educational policy of the State may be modified in view of the progress of educational thought.

ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1:** The membership of the Council shall consist of the following classes: active, associate, and honorary.
- Section 2:** Active membership is limited to persons serving as professional educators in the State of New Jersey and in positions related to and affecting education. The total number of active members shall be determined by the Executive Committee with approval of membership.
- Section 3:** Associate membership shall consist of active members who have retired and requested such status.

- Section 4:** Honorary membership may be awarded to those persons who have given outstanding service to the profession upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, and by a two-thirds vote of all the members present at any regular meeting of the Council.
- Section 5:** The title of “Distinguished Educator” may be given, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, to members who have:
- 1) Retired after at least 25 years to the profession;
 - 2) Been a member of the Council, as active or associate member, for at least 10 years; and
 - 3) Made large and notable contributions to the field of New Jersey education. An appropriate award indicative of such recognition shall be presented to the recipient.
- Section 6:** Only members in good standing shall have the privilege of being elected to office or serving on the Executive Committee.
- Section 7:** The qualifications of all applicants for membership shall be passed upon by the Executive Committee.
- Section 8:** If an active member does not attend a meeting for two consecutive years, regardless of the reason, that member will be notified by the treasurer of the organization that missing two meetings the third consecutive year will result in termination of membership. This action can only be overturned by a majority vote of the Executive Committee upon receipt of a written appeal from the former member within one year of Notice of Termination of Membership.

ARTICLE IV

DUES

- Section 1:** The annual dues for all active and associate members shall be determined by the membership upon recommendation of the Executive Committee.
- Section 2:** Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues.

ARTICLE V
MEETINGS

- Section 1:** There shall be two regular meetings of the Council each year; one in the fall and one on the spring.
- Section 2:** Special meetings may be called by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- Section 3:** A quorum of the Council for the transaction of business shall consist of ten percent of the Active Membership.

ARTICLE VI
OFFICERS

- Section 1:** The elected officers of the Council shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Section 2:** The term of office of all officers shall be from spring to spring and President and Vice President may not succeed themselves. The Secretary and Treasurer may succeed themselves.
- Section 3:** If the Office of President becomes vacant before the expiration of the term, the Vice President shall become President.

ARTICLE VII
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Section 1:** There shall be an Executive Committee composed, at a minimum, of the following: the officers of the Council, the Immediate Past President, and four other active members elected at-large from the membership of the Council.
- Section 2:** The term of the office for the members-at-large shall be for two years, and they shall not immediately succeed themselves. Two members shall be elected each year so that terms are not overlapping.
- Section 3:** The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to:

- 1) Appoint all standing and special committees and their chairperson;
- 2) Prepare an annual budget;
- 3) Approve all payments from the treasury;
- 4) Fill any unexpired terms of members of the Executive Council;
- 5) Fill the unexpired term of officers of the Council;
- 6) Plan programs for all Council meetings;
- 7) Pass upon the qualifications of all applicants for membership;
- 8) Secure sponsors for meetings that pertain to education and the membership;
- 9) Maintain a social media presence on the Internet;
- 10) Serve as liaisons to other state-wide administrative organizations and the New Jersey Department of Education.

Section 4: The Executive Committee shall meet regularly in November, January, May, and August and/or at the call of the President, or upon the written request of five members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

COMMITTEES

Section 1: The following committees shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee:

- 1) Committee of Resolutions
- 2) Committee of Necrology
- 3) Committee on Audits; appointed at least six weeks prior to the August meeting
- 4) Committee of Membership
- 5) Committee on Program

Section 2: The Executive Committee shall name such other committees and liaison positions as may seem necessary. Chairpersons and liaison members may attend the Executive Committee meetings at the discretion of the President.

ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS

- Section 1:** Amendments may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee or by petition from fifteen percent of the regular membership.
- Section 2:** This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at a regular meeting of the Council. A proposed amendment must be presented to the membership at one meeting and may be voted on the following meeting.

ARTICLE X
RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all meetings of the Council.

ARTICLE XI
SPECIAL PROVISIONS

In the event of dissolution, the assets of this organization will be distributed only to such organizations that enjoy federal tax-exempt status under the provision of Section 501c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code for charitable and educational uses which exempt organizations shall be designated by the Executive Committee.

BY- LAWS of NJCOE

- I. Proposals for membership in the Council may be made at any meeting or may be sent to the Secretary during the interim between meetings. Each proposal shall be in writing, signed by two members of the Council, one of whom must be an active member. Every such proposal shall be referred to the Membership Committee for and reported to the Executive Committee.
- II. The criteria for membership shall be:
 - A. Experience as an administrator as defined in the By-Laws, VI. Job Category for Membership.
 - B. Shall be a school administrator in the State of New Jersey.
- III. The Executive Committee shall have power to put into print, either in outline or in full, such reports as they may arrange to have presented at any meeting.
- IV. All actions requiring a vote of the membership shall be by voice vote, unless otherwise determined by the President.
- V. The Executive Committee is invested with the power to establish such ways and means necessary to permit the Executive Committee to react in the name of the Council to current educational issues in a timely and effective manner.
- VI. Job Category for Membership

Categorical membership in the New Jersey Council of Education shall consist of the following:

- A. Administrators in grades Pre-K through 12 in Public Schools in New Jersey. Administrators are defined as those individuals in positions requiring an administrative certificate to maintain their position.
- B. Associate members who retired as administrators in the Public Schools in New Jersey.
- C. Honorary members as determined by the membership.
- D. Representatives of the New Jersey Department of Education and its related branches.
- E. Individuals serving in an administrative capacity at the college and university levels.