

**MAINE  
EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION  
  
CONSTITUTION**

MAINE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I. NAME

This Association shall be known as the Maine Education Association whose headquarters shall be located in Augusta, Maine. It shall have a common seal with the words "Maine Education Association" in a circle and the words and figures "Incorporated 1881" in the center.

## ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association is to protect the rights of professional and support educators and advance their interests and welfare; advance the cause of public education for all individuals in the State of Maine; promote and protect human and civil rights, especially those of professional and support educators; advocate professional excellence among professional and support educators and secure the autonomy of the profession; and guarantee the independence of the professional and support educators and assure its benefits to every affiliated association.

## ARTICLE III. AUTHORITIES

The Association shall be affiliated with the National Education Association (NEA) and meet its standards of affiliation.

## ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

### **Section 1. Categories of Membership**

Membership in the Association shall consist of the following classes: Active, Active Education Support, Past President, Retired, Student, Reserve, Staff, Non-Teaching Professionals and such other classes as may be provided by the Bylaws.

### **Section 2. Membership Eligibility**

- A. Application for membership shall be open to all persons actively engaged in the education profession or to persons interested in advancing the cause of public education who shall agree to subscribe to the goals and objectives of the Association and to abide by its Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules.
- B. Members shall adhere to the National Education Association Code of Ethics of the Education Profession.

- C. The Association shall not deny membership to individuals on the basis of race, creed, national origin, age, color, gender, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, or economic status, nor shall any organization, which so denies membership, be affiliated with the Association.

### **Section 3. Property Interest of Members**

All rights, title and interest, both legal and equitable, of a member in and to the property of the Association shall end upon termination of such membership.

## **ARTICLE V. REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY**

### **Section 1. Function**

- A. The Representative Assembly shall be the legislative body of the Association. It shall have the power to transact all business of the Association, to enact legislation relative to the Association, and to make general regulations governing the work of the Board of Directors.
- B. The Representative Assembly derives its power from and shall be responsible to the membership.

### **Section 2. Composition**

- A. The Representative Assembly shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, NEA Director(s), Board of Directors members and elected delegates representing active, active education support, student, and retired members.  
Allocation of delegate credentials to governance affiliates shall be on the basis of active, active education support, student, and retired membership in the Association as of August 31 of the year preceding the convening of the Representative Assembly.
- B. Active education support members shall be represented at the Representative Assembly at least in proportion to their membership in the Association. If the percentage of members elected to the Representative Assembly fails to achieve such proportional representation, support educator members in the state shall elect at-large the number of delegates required to assure such representation.

### **Section 3. Eligibility of Delegates and Alternates**

- A. Any active and active education support member of the Maine Education Association is eligible to be elected a voting member of the Representative Assembly by active and active education support members. Any retired member of the Maine Education Association is eligible to be elected a voting member of the Representative Assembly by retired members. Any student member of the Maine Education Association is eligible to be elected a voting member of the Representative Assembly by student members.

- B. Delegates shall be elected in accordance with the one-person one-vote principle. Elections shall be conducted by open nomination and secret ballot. Only active, active education support, student, and retired members of the Maine Education Association shall be eligible to nominate and vote.

#### **Section 4. Meetings**

- A. It shall hold an annual meeting during the months of April, May, or June, on a Saturday and Sunday, the exact dates to be determined by the President of the Association. The place of the meeting shall be fixed by the Board of Directors. Notice of the time and place shall be given at least seven days prior to said meeting.
- B. With the consent of two-thirds of the membership of the Board of Directors, the President may at any time call the Representative Assembly into extraordinary session.

## **ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Section 1. Officers**

The officers of the Association shall be: President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

### **Section 2. Board of Directors**

- A. The Board of Directors shall consist of members as follows: three Officers - President, Vice President, Treasurer, - the National Education Association Director(s) from the state, one director from each of the Maine Education Association election districts, one director who represents education support professionals, and one director who represents retired members.
- B. Ethnic minority members shall be guaranteed representation on the Board of Directors in the same manner as an election district is guaranteed representation, except that the count for ethnic minority members shall be based upon statewide membership totals. If there are no ethnic minority members elected to the Board of Directors in election districts, an at-large ethnic minority seat on the Board of Directors shall be created for a three-year term. Candidates for this seat shall come from and be elected by ethnic minority members in a statewide election.
- C. Active K-12 education support professional members employed in education support positions shall be guaranteed representation on the Board of Directors. The Candidates for that seat shall come from and be elected by K-12 education support members by a statewide election.
- D. Retired members of the Association who are also members of the Maine Education Association-Retired shall be entitled to one (1) seat on the Board of Directors. Candidates for this seat shall come from and be elected by a statewide election.

- E. Higher education members shall be guaranteed representation on the Board of Directors: one (1) member representing the AFUM and community college units and one (1) member representing the ACSUM, UMPSA, and MPBCEA units. Candidates for these seats shall come from and be elected by a statewide election.

### **Section 3. Terms of Office**

- A. The Officers shall serve no more than two (2) three-year (3) terms to begin July 15. No officer shall be eligible to consecutively succeed himself/herself more than once for the same position.

Officers who will have completed fewer than two (2) years of a vacated seat will be eligible to serve two (2) consecutive three-year (3) terms.

Officers who will have completed two (2) years or more of a vacated seat are eligible to serve one (1) additional three-year (3) term.

- B. The National Education Association Directors shall be nominated and elected in accordance with the procedures defined in the NEA Bylaws. The National Education Association Directors terms shall begin on the date stipulated in accordance with NEA governance document requirements.

If an NEA Director position is eliminated, and there is a director's term expiring, that director position will be eliminated. If an NEA Director position is eliminated and no director terms are expiring, then the least senior Director's position shall be eliminated.

- C. MEA Board of Directors members shall serve no more than two (2) three-year (3) terms to begin July 15. No Board of Director member shall be eligible to consecutively succeed himself/herself more than once in any combination of MEA Director positions.

MEA Board of Directors members who will have completed fewer than two (2) years of a vacated seat will be eligible to serve two (2) consecutive three-year (3) terms.

MEA Board of Directors members who will have completed two (2) years or more of a vacated seat are eligible to serve one (1) additional three-year (3) term.

In no case will an MEA Director serve for more than eight (8) consecutive years.

### **Section 4. Impeachment**

Members of the Board of Directors may be impeached for violation of the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession for misfeasance, for malfeasance, or for nonfeasance in office in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Bylaws.

## **Section 5. Powers and Duties**

The Board of Directors or its designee shall have the authority to exercise general supervision and management over the affairs of the Association and fulfill those duties as established in the Constitution and Bylaws.

# **ARTICLE VII. AFFILIATES**

## **Section 1. Affiliation**

Affiliation shall mean a relationship based on a reciprocal contractual agreement between the Association and an organization involved with or interested in education and shall continue until the affiliate withdraws or becomes disaffiliated.

## **Section 2. Ethnic Minority Representation**

Affiliates of the Association shall take all reasonable steps to assure that their elective and appointive bodies shall have ethnic minority representation at least proportionate to the ethnic minority membership of the affiliate. "Ethnic minority" shall mean those persons designated as ethnic minority by statistics published by the United States Bureau of the Census. This designation shall specifically include American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and multiple races.

## **Section 3. Classes**

The two (2) classes of affiliates shall be governance and academic non-governance.

## **Section 4. Rights of Active Members in Governance Affiliates**

Each governance affiliate shall guarantee its members an open nomination and a secret ballot election procedure except as otherwise provided in the Constitution, Bylaws, or Standing Rules. No governance affiliate shall discriminate against its active members in their right to vote, seek office, or otherwise participate in the affairs of the affiliate, other governance affiliates, or of the Association. Only unified members are entitled to hold office in a local affiliate.

## **Section 5. Standards and Procedures for Affiliation**

Affiliates that fail to comply with standards and procedures set forth in this Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules shall be subject to censure, suspension, or disaffiliation.

## **Section 6. Special Interest Groups**

Any organized group of Association members having a common interest or purpose may be recognized as a Special Interest Group provided such group is not eligible for any class of affiliation.

## **ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates who actually vote, and the Bylaws and the Standing Rules, by a majority vote of the delegates who actually vote, may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the Representative Assembly; but any proposed changes must be submitted in writing to the Structure and Bylaws Committee in care of the Executive Director of the Association at least seventy (70) days prior to the annual meeting and must be published in official publications of the Maine Education Association prior to the meeting of the Representative Assembly.