

CONSTITUTION

NEW JERSEY FUTURE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

MISSION

“Recruiting Today’s Students as Tomorrow’s Teachers...Tomorrow’s Leaders.”

The mission of the New Jersey Future Educators Association is to foster the recruitment and development of prospective teachers through the dissemination of innovative programming and relevant research. By elevating the image of teaching, the NJFEA will attract dynamic and diverse students who aspire to become future teachers.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the "New Jersey Future Educators Association." Local chapters in New Jersey are, collectively and hereafter, referred to as “NJFEA.” The letters "NJFEA" may be officially used to designate local chapter membership in the state association.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION

Section 1: The purpose of the NJFEA is to promote the welfare of its members through fulfillment of the following goals and purposes:

1. To cultivate the development and facilitate the approval of local chapters composed of prospective future educators.
2. To provide leadership for the local chapters in assisting those chapters in fulfilling their missions and goals in support of prospective future educators.
3. To support the recruitment and development of prospective future educators by coordinating and providing services to the network of local NJFEA chapters that offer students opportunities to explore and prepare to pursue teaching as a career.
4. To encourage students to explore teaching careers in New Jersey’s high poverty and hard-to-staff schools and/or high shortage subject areas.
5. To coordinate and disseminate through various means information about teaching as a profession, employment opportunities, financial assistance options, and educational, licensure, and certification issues.
6. To provide opportunities for pre-professional networking to support and encourage retention of students in formal educator preparatory programs in public secondary schools.
7. To increase the visibility, and enhance the professionalism and prestige of, and respect for the teaching profession.
8. To promote high standards in professional ethics and scholarship within the teaching profession, as well as in teacher preparatory programs.
9. To instill in prospective future teachers a sense of leadership that is competent, assertive, and collaborative.
10. To be an integral part of the organized instructional standards in teacher preparation programs and related career opportunities.
11. To encourage achievement in supervised educational programs, scholarship, leadership, and other individual and group activities by recognizing deserving members and chapters.

12. To provide opportunities to explore, pursue, and experience higher education networking and strategies to transition from secondary to post-secondary teacher preparatory programs.
13. To collaborate with other educational institutions and agencies to address critical issues affecting teacher recruitment and retention.

ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATION

Section 1: The NJFEA is organized and administered at the state level, operating under the auspices of the Center for Future Educators, located at The College of New Jersey, School of Education, Room 202D, 2000 Pennington Road, P.O. Box 7718, Ewing, New Jersey, 08628-0718. The Center for Future Educators is an affiliate organization of the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA). The Executive Director of the Center for Future Educators shall serve also as the State Director of the NJFEA, hereinafter referred to as “State Director.”

Section 2: A State Advisory Board will be appointed by the State Director of the NJFEA to provide counsel, advice, and assistance to the State association in carrying out its functions.

Composition of the Advisory Board shall include:

1. State Director as chairperson
2. Representative(s) from public school districts
3. Representative(s) from the New Jersey Education Association
4. NJFEA student officers
5. Representative(s) from a four-year New Jersey college/university

The composition of the Advisory Board may also include:

1. A representative from the New Jersey business community
2. A representative from the New Jersey Department of Education

For the remainder of the 2021–22 school year, an additional student officer will service as a CFE Ambassador at Large.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership in the chapter shall be open to New Jersey public high school and middle school students who aspire to become future teachers.

Section 2: Each member shall meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Meet the academic standards required by the school for students to participate in extracurricular activities
2. Actively participate in NJFEA sponsored activities

Section 3: A member of another NJFEA chapter who enrolls in the school will be accepted for membership in the chapter.

Section 4: Membership in the chapter shall not be restricted on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or physical handicap.

Section 5: Active membership shall be considered in good standing when:

1. The member regularly attends local chapter meetings
2. The member actively participates in the activities of the chapter

Section 6: A membership year shall be from September 1st – June 30th.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular meetings of the local chapter shall be conducted on dates designated by the local chapter's executive committee, approved by the chapter advisor(s), and announced in advance to members.

Section 2: Special meetings may be called by the advisor or the president with prior approval of the advisor.

Section 3: All meetings shall be open meetings.

Section 4: Local chapter meetings shall be called to order by the elected president of the chapter. The normal order of business is as follows:

1. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
2. Treasurer's report
3. Reports of standing committees
4. Reports of special committees
5. Unfinished business
6. New business
7. Remarks, announcements, questions
8. Closing

Section 5: The normal order of business may be altered to accommodate special programs, activities, guest speakers, etc.

Section 6: A quorum shall consist of the members present at a chapter meeting.

Section 7: Special activities requiring travel shall follow school guidelines related to release forms and permissions.

ARTICLE VI. LOCAL NJFEA CHAPTER AND NJFEA STUDENT STATE OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of each local chapter will be appropriate to the needs and size of the chapter.

Section 2: All local chapter officers shall be elected by a majority vote of members present during the designated chapter meeting to elect officers.

Section 3: The terms of all local chapter officers shall be for one year.

Section 4: All active local chapter members shall be eligible for office.

Section 5: All local chapter officers may serve consecutive terms.

Section 6: If an office is vacated, the officers may appoint a person to fill the vacated position until such time as the chapter can hold an election to fill the vacated office or the officers may appoint a person to fill the unexpired term of the person who has vacated the office.

Section 7: Duties of all officers shall be described by the bylaws of the local NJFEA chapter.

Section 8: The state officers of the NJFEA shall be the following:

- President,
- Vice-President,
- Secretary, and
- Communications Officer.

Duties shall be assigned to each state officer by the NJFEA State Director. An application process and screening will be used to select state officers each year. This will include a recommendation from the local NJFEA advisor and resume of NJFEA related activities.

ARTICLE VII. NJFEA STUDENT STATE OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS

Section 1: Qualifications for NJFEA student state officers:

1. Only active NJFEA members are eligible to hold state office.
2. All applicants will be certified eligible for nomination to hold office by a screening committee appointed by the State Director.
3. To be considered for an office in the NJFEA, a candidate shall:
 - A. Have at least one year remaining in his/her educational program.
 - B. Be recommended by the chapter and endorsed by his/her local chapter advisor and/or school administrator.
 - C. File an official application with the State Director's office before the determined deadline is established.
 - D. Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.
 - E. Demonstrate leadership on campus.
 - F. Be available to attend NJFEA Executive Council meetings.
 - G. Attend student state officer training scheduled in early fall.

Section 2: All state officer positions shall be filled according to qualifications, experience, and recommendations from the advisor. A screening committee shall determine the candidates who are most qualified for each position. The state officers selected shall be notified of their selection by June 1st.

Section 3: Term of office shall be for one school calendar year beginning on July 1st.

ARTICLE VIII. LOGO

Section 1: Official logos and colors have approved by NJFEA shall be displayed representing all affiliated functions and activities.

ARTICLE IX. AUDIT

Section 1: The accounts of this organization shall be audited by a public auditor or a committee appointed by the State Director with approval from the NJFEA Advisory Board.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

Section 1: To amend this Constitution, the proposed amendment must be presented in writing to the State Director at least 60 days prior to the NJFEA's annual Advisory Board meeting. This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of approval by the NJFEA Advisory Board.



ARTICLE XI. RULES, REGULATIONS, AND BYLAWS

Section 1: Such rules, regulations, and bylaws as are deemed necessary in the proper conduct of each division of this organization shall be adopted by each chapter.

Section 2: No rules, regulations, or bylaws shall be adopted which are contrary to this constitution.

Section 3: In all meetings, Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) shall serve as standard procedure.

BYLAWS

NEW JERSEY FUTURE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I. RELATIONSHIP TO THE CONSTITUTION

Section 1: The bylaws shall be part of the Constitution of the New Jersey Future Educators Association (NJFEA).

ARTICLE II. LOCATION OF OFFICES

Section 1: The headquarters and principle office of the New Jersey Future Educators Association (NJFEA) shall be located at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), School of Education, Room 202D, 2000 Pennington Road, P.O. Box 7718, Ewing, New Jersey 08628-0718.

ARTICLE III. NJFEA ADVISORY BOARD

Section 1: All terms shall be for a two-year period, except for NJFEA student state officer members whose terms shall coincide with their term of service as state officers. All other board members may be selected to serve consecutive terms.

Section 2: The Advisory Board shall include the State Director as chairman, representative(s) from public school districts, representative(s) from the New Jersey Education Association, NJFEA student state officers(s), representative(s) from a four-year New Jersey college/university; and, may include a representative from the New Jersey business community, and a representative from the New Jersey Department of Education. For the remainder of the 2020-21 school year, student ambassadors will serve in place of student officers.

Section 3: The Advisory Board shall cooperate with and serve in an advisory capacity to the State Director; assist with the administrative direction of the organization, and assist in interpreting the State Constitution of the NJFEA.

ARTICLE IV. DUTIES OF THE NJFEA STUDENT OFFICERS

Section 1: President - shall preside over and conduct meetings with accepted parliamentary procedure; appoint committees as needed; represent the NJFEA at special events; to assign to his/her officers responsibility for all projects, including publishing of the state e-newsletter. He/she shall also develop with his/her officers a Program of Activities for his/her term of office and will make himself/herself available if necessary in promoting the general welfare of the NJFEA.

Section 2: Vice-President - shall serve in any capacity as directed by the President; serve as the official parliamentarian; to accept the responsibilities of the Presidency as occasions may demand; to make himself/herself available in promoting the general welfare of the NJFEA; be responsible for planning special programs as determined by the NJFEA Advisory Board. In the case of the office of President becoming vacant by resignation or otherwise, the Vice President will become the acting interim President until the term has been completed.

Section 3: Secretary - shall perform the duties common to such an office, such as keeping an accurate record of the sessions of the NJFEA Executive Council meetings; answer all correspondence; keep up to date roll of all members; keep a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws with the amendments properly entered; provide a list of old and unfinished business and potential new business before the start of each meeting; notify the members of the NJFEA Advisory Board of special meetings; and after each meeting send a copy of the minutes to each state member club.

Section 4: Communications Officer - shall coordinate state officer submissions to the official NJFEA newsletter; assist with overall NJFEA publicity; communicate to regional chapters about activities, events, and other NJFEA related information using appropriate, approved, and official NJFEA social media forums; make himself/herself available as necessary in promoting the general welfare of the NJFEA; and assist the President, Vice President, and Secretary in carrying out their duties, as needed.

ARTICLE V. FISCAL YEAR

Section 1: The fiscal year of the NJFEA shall be July 1st through June 30th of the succeeding calendar year.

ARTICLE VI. BOOKS AND RECORDS

Section 1: Books and records of the organization may be inspected by any member or member's agent at any reasonable time. Arrangements for such inspection shall be made with the State Director.

ARTICLE VII. PROCEDURE FOR ISSUING CHARTERS TO CHAPTERS

Section 1: New Jersey public schools will apply directly to the NJFEA State Director for approval of new local chapters.

These bylaws were approved on May 11, 2017.