

**Constitution of the
Kentucky Education Association Student Program**
(Amended April 2015)

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be the Kentucky Education Association Student Program (hereinafter referred to as “the Student Program.”)

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES

The purposes of this organization are:

SECTION 1: To initiate, in cooperation with the Kentucky Education Association, the National Education Association and the NEA Student Program, the development of professional interest and attitudes among college students actively engaged in preparing for the education profession.

SECTION 2: To acquaint prospective educators with the history, ethics, and national, state and local politics of the organized teaching profession.

SECTION 3: To provide practical experience by working together in a democratic way on the problems of the profession and the community.

SECTION 4: To secure increased public interest in and support for public education.

ARTICLE III. CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: To qualify for membership, a chapter shall be affiliated with the Kentucky Education Association, the National Education Association and their Student Programs.

SECTION 2: Any chapter which submits annually to the Association its state and national dues and a list of its officers and chapter advisors shall be recognized as a chapter in good standing for the current year.

SECTION 3: A chapter shall submit its new or amended organizational constitution to the Association to be evaluated to affiliate standards no later than September 1st of the year for which it will be applied and will be approved by the SP Executive Committee before review from the Constitution and Compliance Committee.

SECTION 4: It is this Association's belief that a chapter should actively recruit ethnic minority members at a ratio equal to that of the percentage of ethnic minority students enrolled in the college or university's School of Education.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Any person who is a student in an institution of higher learning enrolled in or preparing for a program of study that qualifies the student for a career in education or an authorized leave of absence from such institution to serve the Association shall be eligible for membership in the association. Any person who is eligible for active membership in the Kentucky Education Association or the National Education Association cannot be a member of the KEA Student Program.

SECTION 2: The KEA Student Program shall not deny membership on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age, handicap, marital status, economic status, religion, or political affiliation.

SECTION 3: Membership shall include membership in the local, state, and national level student programs, providing there is a local chapter.

SECTION 4: Dues shall be the total of the current dues for the NEA-SP and KEA-SP and the dues (if any) determined by the local student program chapter.

SECTION 5: The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31.

ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS

SECTION 1: An Elections Committee, made up of the Constitution/Compliance Committee representative and two members appointed by the president with the authorization of the Executive Committee, shall verify the status and registration of delegates and conduct elections.

SECTION 2: To be an eligible candidate, one must be a student member at a Kentucky college or university.

SECTION 3: After an open nomination process, the Executive Committee and Officers shall be elected simultaneously by secret ballot by the State Student Assembly.

SECTION 4: When elected, the president-elect shall be a college student with 2 years remaining in his/her college career.

SECTION 5: The term of each duly elected officer shall be for one year beginning June 1 and ending May 31 of the following year.

SECTION 6: No one may serve more than two terms in the same elected position on the KEA Executive Committee.

SECTION 7: Any vacancy occurring in an elected office of this organization shall

be temporarily filled upon election by the Executive Committee until the State Student Assembly.

SECTION 8: In all matters not covered in this constitution, Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail.

ARTICLE VI: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1: The Executive Committee shall consist of the president; president-elect; secretary/historian; ethnic-minority representative; political action and information chair and outreach chair.

SECTION 2: The President shall:

- a) Be the official representative and spokesperson of the KEA Student Program;
- b) Serve as chair of the Executive Committee;
- c) Be an ex-officio member of all committees;
- d) Be in charge of program planning, including the Fall and Winter Conferences and State Student Delegate Assembly.
- e) Perform such other duties as are customarily assumed by the chief officer of an organization;
- f) Represent the Student Program on the KEA Board of Directors.
- g) Work with the SP organizer to write and propose the Student Program Budget to the KEA Executive Committee for approval through a simple majority vote. This must be completed by the beginning of the new fiscal year; and
- h) Propose any use of state Student Program funds that are not addressed in the approved budget to the Executive Committee for a simple majority vote for approval.

SECTION 3: The President-elect shall:

- a) Have 2 years of NEA student membership remaining during his/ her college career;
- b) Succeed to his/her presidency after the first year;
- c) Perform the duties of the president in the absence of the president;
- d) Attend meetings of the Executive Committee;
- e) Perform all duties as directed by the president and Executive Committee; and
- f) Represent the KEA Student Program on the KEA Budget Committee.

SECTION 4: The Secretary/ Historian shall:

- a) Attend meetings of the Executive Committee;
- b) Keep minutes of the Executive Committee and of the general membership meetings;
- c) Perform all duties as directed by the president and executive committee;

- d) Preserve materials relating to the work of the KEA Student Program;
- e) Inform the public of KEA Student Program activities as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee; and
- f) Represent the Student Program on the KEA Compliance/Constitution Committee.

SECTION 5: The Ethnic Minority Representative shall:

- a) Be elected at the State Student Assembly of the KEA Student Program;
- b) Attend meetings of the Executive Committee;
- c) Qualify as an ethnic minority member as defined by NEA Bylaw 12-1- h;
- d) Actively recruit ethnic minority members as directed by the president;
- e) Perform all duties as directed by the president and Executive Committee; and
- f) Represent the Student Program on the KEA Diversity Committee.

SECTION 6: The Political Action and Information Chair shall:

- a) Be elected at the State Student Assembly of the KEA Student Program;
- b) Represent the Student Program as a nonvoting member of the Kentucky Educators Political Action Committee;
- c) Attend meetings of the Executive Committee;
- d) Perform all duties as directed by the President and/or the Executive Committee;
- e) Publish updates specifically regarding the current political climate regarding public education, to be distributed to the state membership; and
- f) Actively recruit Student Program members to join the Kentucky Educators Political Action Committee.
- g) Represent the Student Program on the KEA Government Relations Committee.

SECTION 7: The Outreach Chair shall:

- a) Be elected at the State Student Assembly of the KEA Student Program;
- b) Attend all meetings of the Executive Committee;
- c) Perform all duties as directed by the President and/or by vote of the Executive Committee.
- d) Represent the Student Program on the KEA Visibility Committee.

SECTION 8: Officers of the KEA Student Program may be impeached for violation of the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession, for misfeasance, for malfeasance, or for nonfeasance in office.

- a) Impeachment proceedings against an officer may be initiated by a written petition submitted to the Executive Committee by at least twenty-five (25) percent of the members of the Executive

Committee.

- b) If, after a due process hearing, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee shall sustain the charge, then the office shall become vacant.
- c) The officer may appeal the decision to the KEA Board of Directors.

SECTION 9: Any member of the Executive Committee who misses two Executive Committee meetings without being excused by the president may be deemed guilty of nonfeasance; the resulting vacancy on the Executive Committee shall be temporarily filled pursuant to ARTICLE V, Section 10.

SECTION 10: The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint members to represent the association whenever necessary, excluding any governing body.

SECTION 11: The Executive Committee must meet at least quarterly either in person or through a conference call to discuss and make decisions regarding the business of the Student Program. Scheduling of these meetings is at the discretion of the State Student President.

SECTION 12: The Executive Committee will work with the leaders of KEA Retired to recruit volunteer retired members to serve as liaisons and advisors for each local chapter. In doing this, the Executive Committee should work to assign at least one volunteer to each local chapter.

ARTICLE VII. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO KEA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

SECTION 1: Delegates to the KEA Delegate Assembly shall consist of student members elected by secret ballot at the Fall Conference of the KEA Student Program. The Student Program shall have one (1) voting delegate per 100 active members (as directed by KEA). Delegates will be ranked according to the number of votes received. The number of delegates allotted will be determined by membership on November 15 of that year. Those candidates who are not chosen as delegates will serve as alternates. The State Student President is automatically a delegate to the KEA Delegate Assembly and should not be included on the ballot.

SECTION 2: The State Student President shall host at least two (2) pre-assembly caucuses; The first caucus must take place at least two weeks before the KEA Delegate Assembly and the second caucus must take place before call-to-order on the first day of the KEA Delegate Assembly. In these caucuses, students will become familiarized with Robert's Rules of Order while also taking stances on behalf of the student members on business to be voted upon by the assembly.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

SECTION 1: The KEA Student Program shall convene at least three times

annually at such time and place as is designated by the Executive Committee. These meetings will be the Fall Conference, Winter Conference and the State Student Assembly.

SECTION 2: Any called meeting of the officers of the association and/or delegates shall be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3: The focus and objectives of the Fall and Winter Conferences will be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee and is to reflect the best interests of the Student Program members, directly targeted to meet their needs as future educators and current leaders.

ARTICLE IX. STATE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

SECTION 1: The State Student Assembly shall be composed of the delegates representing the member chapters in good standing. Each chapter shall have one voting delegate for every ten active members or major fraction thereof. Number of delegates will be based on the membership one month prior to the date of the State Student Assembly.

SECTION 2: Any member may attend the State Student Assembly; however, only certified delegates present shall have the right to vote.

SECTION 3: The Executive Committee of the KEA Student Program shall serve as delegates to the State Student Assembly in addition to authorized representatives to which their chapters are entitled.

SECTION 4: Business items to be voted upon by the State Student Assembly shall be submitted to the Executive Committee at least four weeks before action is to be taken. In turn, these items will be submitted to the local chapters.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any individual member, local chapter or the Executive Committee. These proposals must be received at the state office at least seven weeks prior to the State Student Assembly

SECTION 2. Proposed amendments shall be distributed to each student program chapter at Least four weeks (one month) before action is to be taken.

SECTION 3. Amendments to this constitution shall be made by the KEA student program by a two-thirds vote of the State Student Assembly.

ARTICLE XI. ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO NEA STUDENT

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

SECTION 1: Official student attendees to the NEA Connection Conference and NEA Student Leadership Conference and their alternates shall be selected by the members at the Fall Conference and the State Student Assembly, respectively. The selection process shall commence as follows:

- a) The Executive Committee members shall be given first priority in selection.
- b) The names of every chapter in attendance at the respective conferences shall be selected at random.
- c) After the chapters have been ordered by selection (noted in Article XI Section 1 part b) the name of one eligible student from each chapter shall be selected at random.
- d) The names of the remaining eligible students from each chapter shall be combined and the remaining positions and alternates shall be selected at random.
- e) The number of guaranteed spots to attend these conferences shall be based on KEA Student Program budget.

SECTION 2: Official student delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly will be elected through a rigorous election process, by which they submit their self-nomination forms (to be sent out to all student members in March) to KEA headquarters by the April deadline to be determined and announced each year depending on publication deadlines. The results of the online election process will be determined and announced to the membership within three weeks of the April deadline.

SECTION 3: With the exception of current or future Executive Committee members and elected NEA Representative Assembly Delegates, student members will be ineligible for selection to attend the NEA Student Leadership Conference if they have represented KEA Student Program at a previous NEA Student Leadership Conference.

ARTICLE XII. DUTIES OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO NEA STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

SECTION 1. Delegates and alternates shall notify the State Student Organizer immediately if unforeseen circumstances will prevent their attendance of NEA Student Leadership Conference and/or Representative Assembly sessions.

SECTION 2. Delegates and alternates shall attend all Leadership Conference and Representative Assembly sessions unless permission to do otherwise is granted by the Executive Committee prior to Assembly.

SECTION 3. Each delegate or alternate shall perform such duties as designated

to him/her by the Executive Committee in addition to duties outlined above.

ARTICLE XIII: STATE STUDENT PROGRAM GRANTS

SECTION 1: Each year, when making a budget for the State Student Program, the executive committee is mandated to allot a portion of their given funds towards grants.

SECTION 2: Completed grant applications will be voted upon and either denied, approved, or partially funded by the State Student Program Executive Committee.

SECTION 3: Each KEA-SP chapter may apply for and either receive or partially receive one of each type of State Student Program grants per academic year. Chapters whose grant applications are denied are still eligible to apply for that same type of grant until their application has either been funded or partially funded.

SECTION 4: After receiving a grant and the completion of a grant-funded event, an evaluation of the grant-funded event must be completed or a chapter is ineligible to apply for another grant during that academic year.