

**Constitution of the
Kentucky Education Association Aspiring Educators
(Amended April 2019)**

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be the Kentucky Education Association Aspiring Educators (hereinafter referred to as “Aspiring Educators”)

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 Aspiring Educators, the development of professional interest and attitudes among college students actively engaged in preparing for the education profession.

SECTION 2: To acquaint aspiring educators with the history and values of the teaching profession.

SECTION 3: To provide experiences with the democratic process.

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

SECTION 5: To provide experiences with the Aspiring Educators core values: Teacher Quality, Community Outreach, and Political Action.

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 Aspiring Educators Program.

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 upon approval of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee (by

majority vote) the organization will be immediately recognized as a new chapter/its amendment shall be implemented.

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 Aspiring Educators.

SECTION 2: The Aspiring Educators 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 Aspiring Educators, providing there is a local chapter.

SECTION 4: Dues shall be the total of the current dues for the Aspiring Educators, state Aspiring Educators, and the dues (if any) determined by the local Aspiring Educators chapter.

SECTION 5: Obligations of Membership.

- a. Members shall adhere to the NEA "Code of Ethics of the Education Profession."
- b. Members shall support the state purposes and objectives of the Aspiring Educators.
- c. Members shall hold appropriate membership in the Kentucky Education Association and National Education Association.

SECTION 6: Continuation of Membership.

- a.** Active membership shall be continuous until the member fails to meet membership eligibility under Article IV, Section 1, resigns from the Association, fails to pay membership dues, or is expelled from the Aspiring Educators in accordance with Section 5(b), below.
- b.** The Aspiring Educators Executive Committee shall have the authority to censure, suspend, or expel members for violations of Article IV, Section 5. Charged members shall have the right to a due process hearing by the Executive Committee and the right to appeal to the State Student Assembly, which shall also afford a due process hearing.

SECTION 7: The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31.

ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS

SECTION 1: An Elections Committee, made up of the Secretary/Historian and two members appointed by the president with authorization of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee (decided by majority vote), shall verify the status and registration of candidates and conduct elections. The Election Committee shall likewise be charged with the responsibility of securing candidates for pending vacancies in such a manner as will insure at least proportional representation of ethnic minorities.

SECTION 2: Any Aspiring Educators member shall be eligible to run for office as permitted by this Constitution, except that only individuals holding the appropriate credentials for offices/seats specifically created for the purpose of achieving proportionality may run in such instances

SECTION 3: After an open nomination process, the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee and Officers shall be elected by a majority of all valid votes cast by secret ballot by the State Student Assembly in the spring.

- a)** Candidates must be nominated by a Aspiring Educator member, and seconded by another Aspiring Educator member;
- b)** Nominators (if not self-nominated) and seconds shall be granted one minute to speak;
- c)** Candidates for the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee and Officers shall be granted two minutes to speak.

SECTION 4: Candidates for the office of president-elect shall be a college student with 2 years remaining in the candidate's college career.

SECTION 5: The term of each duly elected officer and Executive Committee member shall be 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 Aspiring Educators Executive Committee.

SECTION 7: Any vacancy occurring in an elected office of this organization shall be temporarily filled upon appointment by the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee until the next regularly scheduled State Student Assembly. Upon a vacancy occurring, there shall be a period of at least two weeks for open nominations made available to all Aspiring Educators Members and will require a majority vote decision by the Student Program Executive Committee. The replacement's term will begin immediately upon decision by the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee

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

SECTION 9: Election Appeals.

- a.** Any voting member may appeal an election to the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee. The appeal must be in writing, signed by the individual(s) making the appeal, and presented to the president within (10) working days after announcement of the election results.
- b.** Within ten (10) working days of receiving the appeal, the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee shall meet to hear the appeal, make a decision, and inform all parties.
- c.** Any voting member may appeal the decision of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee to the State Student Assembly within ten (10) working days after the decision of the Student Program Executive Committee.
- d.** The person(s) holding the office before the election shall remain in that position until the appeal has been resolved.

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. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for managing the affairs of the Aspiring Educators, approving budgeted expenditures, carrying out the adopted policies of the Aspiring Educators and acting for the State Student Assembly between meetings. The Executive Committee may establish Standing or Ad Hoc committees as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Student Program and shall have the authority to create additional Executive Committee positions as needed to provide at least proportional representation of ethnic minorities as exist within the membership.

SECTION 2: The President shall:

- a) Be the official representative and spokesperson of the Aspiring Educators;
- 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 Conference and State Student Assembly.
- e) Perform such other duties as are customarily assumed by the chief officer of an organization;
- f) Represent the Aspiring Educators on the KEA Board of Directors.
- g) Work with the State Student Organizer to write and propose the Aspiring Educators 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;
- h) Propose any use of state Aspiring Educators funds that are not addressed in the approved budget to the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee for a simple majority vote for approval; and

- i) Send regular communications to Student Members

SECTION 3: The President-elect shall:

- a) Succeed to the presidency after serving one year in this capacity;
- b) Perform the duties of the president in the absence of the Aspiring Educators president;
- c) Attend meetings of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee;
- d) Plan and execute the Aspiring Educators Winter Conference Plan and execute a Statewide event or meeting
- e) Perform all duties as directed by the president and Aspiring Educators Executive Committee; and
- f) Represent the KEA Aspiring Educators on the KEA Budget Committee.

SECTION 4: The Secretary/ Historian shall:

- a) Attend meetings of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee;
- b) Keep minutes of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee and of the general membership meetings;
- c) Perform all duties as directed by the Aspiring Educators president and Aspiring Educators Executive Committee;
- d) Preserve materials relating to the work of the Aspiring Educators;
- e) Inform the public of KEA Aspiring Educators activities as deemed appropriate by the Student Program Executive Committee; and
- f) Represent the Aspiring Educators on the KEA Compliance/Constitution Committee.

SECTION 5: The Ethnic Minority Representative shall:

- a) Attend meetings of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee;
- b) Qualify as an ethnic minority member as defined by NEA Bylaw 12-1- h;
- c) Collaborate with the KEA Diversity Committee to actively recruit ethnic minority members as directed by the president;
- d) Perform all duties as directed by the Aspiring Educators president and Aspiring Educators Executive Committee;
- e) Represent the Aspiring Educators on the KEA Diversity Committee; and
- f) At the discretion of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee, serve as Chair of the Aspiring Educators Ethnic Minority Committee.

SECTION 6: The Political Action and Information Chair shall:

- a) Represent the Aspiring Educators as a nonvoting member of the Kentucky Educators Political Action Committee;
- b) Attend meetings of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee;
- c) Perform all duties as directed by the Aspiring Educators President and/or the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee;

- d) Publish updates specifically regarding the current political climate regarding public education, to be distributed to the state membership; and
- e) Actively recruit Aspiring Educators members to join the Kentucky Educators Political Action Committee;
- f) Represent the Aspiring Educators on the KEA Government Relations Committee; and
- g) At the discretion of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee, serve as Chair of the KEA- AE Political Action and Information Committee.

SECTION 7: The Outreach Chair shall:

- a) Attend all meetings of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee;
- b) Perform all duties as directed by the Aspiring Educators President and/or by vote of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee;
- c) Plan and implement Aspiring Educators statewide outreach event;
- d) Represent the Aspiring Educators on the KEA Membership, Organizing, Visibility & Engagement (MOVE) Committee; and
- e) At the discretion of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee, serve as Chair of the Aspiring Educators Outreach Committee.

SECTION 8: Executive Committee Members and Officers of the KEA Aspiring Educators 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 serving the officer with detailed, written notice of the allegations. A copy of the written notice shall be provided to each member of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee.
- b) If, after a due process hearing, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee shall sustain the charge, the office shall become vacant.
- c) The officer may appeal the decision of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee to a special meeting of the State Student Assembly, which shall also afford due process.

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

- a.) Any Aspiring Educators Executive Committee member who is charged with nonfeasance for missing two meetings will have the right to challenge their removal pursuant to Article VI, Section 8 of this Constitution.

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 Aspiring Educators. Scheduling of these meetings is at the discretion of the Aspiring Educators 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 Aspiring Educators elected by secret ballot at the Fall Conference of the KEA Aspiring Educators. The Aspiring Educators 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 Aspiring Educators President is automatically a delegate to the KEA Delegate Assembly and should not be included on the ballot.

SECTION 2: The Aspiring Educators 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 Aspiring Educators 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 Aspiring Educators 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. Chapters with fewer than 6 members shall cluster with another chapter for the purpose of electing a delegate representative.

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

SECTION 3: Election to the Executive Committee of the KEA Aspiring Educators shall also constitute election as a delegate to the KEA Aspiring Educators DA as an authorized representative from their designated local chapter.

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 Aspiring Educators 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 Aspiring Educators 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: The Aspiring Educators Executive Committee members shall be given first priority in selection for the Student Leadership Conference. All delegates in excess of the Aspiring Educators Executive Committee, alternates, and non-delegate attendees to the NEA Student Leadership Conference shall be elected at-large at the State Student Assembly. Any active

member shall have the right to make nominations or to be nominated on the floor of the Spring State Student Assembly. Election shall be by secret ballot and shall require a majority of all valid votes cast. The number of non-delegate attendees sent to the NEA Student Leadership Conference shall be based on the 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, alternates, and non-delegate attendees 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, alternates, and non-delegate attendees 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 them by the Executive Committee in addition to duties outlined above.

ARTICLE XIII: STATE ASPIRING EDUCATORS GRANTS

SECTION 1: Each year, when making a budget for the State Aspiring Educators, 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 Aspiring Educators Executive Committee.

SECTION 3: Each Aspiring Educators chapter may apply for and either receive or partially receive one of each type of State Aspiring Educators 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.