

*As amended on
April 11, 2007*



Constitution of the National Catholic Educational Association

Article I. Name

The name of this Association shall be the National Catholic Educational Association.

Article II. Purpose and Mission

The National Catholic Educational Association, the professional association for all Catholic educators,

1. advances the educational and catechetical mission of the Church;
2. provides leadership and service to its members;
3. articulates the contribution of Catholic education to the Church and society;
4. proclaims the uniqueness of Catholic schools;
5. advocates recognition of and support for Catholic education in parish; school and college and university communities;
6. enhances and supports leadership among the members;
7. fosters local, national and international collaboration.

Article III. Membership

1. The Association shall have the following types of membership:
 - A. Individual: Anyone interested in promoting the objectives of the Association is eligible for membership in accordance with the bylaws of the Association.
 - B. Institutional: Any institution which meets the admission standards of one of the departments provided in Article IV is eligible for membership in accordance with the bylaws of that department.

- C. Affiliate: An educational organization which is separately incorporated and independently financed and which is in accord with and supportive of the goals and philosophy of the Association may be granted affiliate status by the Board of Directors.
- D. Honorary: The Board of Directors may name honorary members to the Association.
- E. Associated: An independent organization may become associated with the Association upon approval of the Board of Directors in accordance with the bylaws. An associated organization shall subscribe to the objectives of the Association.

Article IV. Departments and Commissions

1. The Association shall consist of the following departments:
 - A. Department of Seminaries
 - B. Department of Chief Administrators of Catholic Education
 - C. Department of Secondary Schools
 - D. Department of Elementary Schools
 - E. Department of Religious Education
 - F. Department of Boards and Councils
2. The activities and internal affairs of each department shall be governed by its own set of bylaws, consistent with the constitution and bylaws of the Association and approved by the Board of Directors.
3. These departments may be organized into sections as provided by the bylaws of the departments.
4. Departmental bylaws and amendments to departmental bylaws must have the approval of the Board of Directors of the Association before becoming effective.
5. The Association may also consist of commissions established by the Board of Directors on the recommendation of the President. Commissions may have memberships from those who are interested in the purposes of the commission. In addition to serving the needs of its own membership, a commission may also assist the other NCEA departments in serving their constituencies. A commission may have a director, an advisory committee and bylaws and will have representation on the Board. Bylaws of the Commission must be approved by the NCEA Board of Directors.

Article V. Board of Directors

1. The Association shall have a Board of Directors which shall consist of the following:
 - A. the chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary of the Association as provided in Article VI;
 - B. two designated representatives from each department and commission of the Association whose term shall be for three years; representatives may not serve more than two consecutive terms.
 - C. at-large members elected by the Board of Directors shall not exceed the number of representatives from departments and commission. The term shall be for three years. At-large members may not serve more than two consecutive terms.
 - D. the President of the Association who shall be a non-voting member;
 - E. the Secretary for Education of the United States Catholic Conference or an official liaison named by USCC.
 - F. the Board of Directors may grant voice but not vote to a representative delegate of an affiliate organization.
2. Except as may be required by public law or by resolution of the Association, the Board of Directors shall have power, subject to the Constitution and Bylaws, to promote the objectives of the Association and coordinate the activities of the departments.
3. The Board of Directors shall fill vacancies occurring on the Board during the year and until the next regular election.
4. The Board of Directors will hold the departments accountable to their membership as well as to the entire membership for the achievement of the objectives of the Association as described in Article II.

Article VI. Officers and Staff

1. The Board of Directors shall elect to one year terms the following officers:
 - A. Chairperson of the Association
 - B. Vice chairperson of the Association
 - C. Secretary of the Association
2. The vice chairperson and secretary shall be elected from Board members.

3. Officers are eligible for election for a maximum of three consecutive terms. In the case of special circumstances as determined by the Board, the Board may elect its chair to a fourth one-year term.
4. The duties of the chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary shall be those usually associated with their respective offices.
5. The chief executive officer of the Association shall have the title of president and shall be appointed by the Board of Directors, on such terms and conditions as the Board may think appropriate. The duties of the president shall include those of treasurer as determined in the bylaws of the Association.
6. The duties of the president shall include the direction, coordination and supervision of the work of the Association. The President of the Association is ex officio a member of all departmental executive committees and advisory committees.
7. The Board of Directors may appoint one or more vice presidents on the recommendation of the president. The vice president(s) shall act, as occasion may arise, as alternate to the president and shall be entitled to take part in meetings of the Board of Directors without having the right to vote. In the eventuality of presidential incapacity, the Board of Directors shall designate a person to act as president.

Article VII. Amendments

1. Amendments to this constitution must be proposed by the Board of Directors or by a majority of the departments.
2. Amendments to this constitution must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors and by a 2/3 majority vote of the departments of the Association. Departmental approval will be determined by a majority vote of the executive committees of each department.

Article VIII. Bylaws

Bylaws not inconsistent with this constitution may be adopted or amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors provided that proposed bylaws or amendments have been circulated to board members at least one month prior to voting. This voting may take place either at an annual meeting or by mail.