



Delaware State Education Association
Standing Strong for Student Success

BYLAWS

Revised
March 2018

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. COMPOSITION

1. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer of the Association shall be members and officers of the Executive Board.
2. The NEA Director shall serve as an ex-officio voting member of the Executive Board.
3. DSEA-R and DSEA Aspiring Educator Program President shall serve as ex-officio voting members of the Executive Board. *(rev. 3/2018)*
4. Any DSEA member elected to an at-large position on the NEA Board of Directors shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Executive Board.
5. The DSEA RA shall elect additional Executive Board members, as appropriate, to ensure ethnic minority representation equal to the identified statewide ethnic minority membership of DSEA. At such time as it is certain that there is not proportional minority representation on the Board, notice will be circulated to the membership that a minority vacancy(s) exists, and the process defined in VI E will be followed. The term of office for an individual so chosen will expire the following September 1.
6. Elected and ex-officio Executive Board members shall be voting members of the DSEA Representative Assembly. *(rev. 3/2018)*

- B. **TERMS.** All members of the Executive Board shall serve for terms of two years, beginning September 1 following their election.

C. QUALIFICATIONS AND METHOD OF ELECTION.

1. All candidates to be voting members of the Executive Board and shall have been Active Members of the Association for at least one year at the time of taking office. All Executive Board voting members shall maintain Active Membership in the Association.
2. Candidates shall be elected at-large by the active members within each county on a proportional basis of 1 to 450 members or major fraction thereof, based on November 30 enrollments.
3. Candidates shall be nominated for voting positions on the Executive Board by filing a petition with the Executive Director containing the signatures of 20 Active Members from that county on or before the date specified in the annual Election Timelines of the membership year in which the election is held. The candidate(s) from a given county will be elected by secret ballot made available to every Active Member in that county. The candidate(s) receiving the highest number(s) of votes will be elected.
4. Candidates shall be elected by an electronic ballot, sent to all active members in each county each Spring. Ballots will be emailed along with the electronic ballot for statewide officers and NEA RA delegates. Upon request, members may receive a paper ballot for voting purposes. Under any circumstances, a member can only vote once either electronically or paper

ballot, but not both. In years where there is no opposition for countywide seats for the Executive Board, those candidates will be considered the elected candidate for said position subject to ratification of the DSEA Executive Board. Notification to members via all means of communications (i.e., ACTION, DSEA Connect, dsea.org, etc.) will occur in lieu of a secret ballot conducted in the spring of each year.

5. In the event that requisite number of candidates do not file nominating petitions for the vacant seat(s) from a given county, nominations will be made from the floor of the spring Representative Assembly for candidates from that county. The delegates from that county will then vote at the spring Representative Assembly for the candidate(s) to fill the vacancy(s).
 6. The term of the DSEA-Retired at-large Executive Board ex-officio voting member shall be two years commencing September 1. *(Rev. 3/2018)*
- D. **POLICY-MAKING.** The Executive Board shall be the interim policy-making body and shall interpret the policy of the DSEA Representative Assembly.
- E. **VACANCIES.**
1. The Executive Board shall fill all vacancies that occur in elected offices except that the Vice President shall succeed the President for an unexpired term of office.
 2. In the event that the office of Vice President or Treasurer becomes vacant, the Board will appoint another person to fill that position for the duration of that term. The appointment will occur within thirty calendar days. The nominating process will follow the procedures established for filling vacancies in Article VI E.
 3. Vacancies of Executive Board Members
 - a. In the event that a term would expire with the next election, individuals so appointed shall serve until August 31.
 - b. In the event that a vacancy occurs in a term which would not expire with the next election, individuals so appointed shall serve until elections are held the following Spring. At this time, the seat will be filled in the all-member election to complete the unexpired term. The individual elected in the Spring election would take office immediately upon the announcement of the results of the election and serve for the balance of the unexpired term.
 4. Nomination to fill vacancies shall be made, in writing, to the DSEA President ten (10) days prior to a scheduled Board Meeting at which the election will be held. Biographical data of the candidate should accompany each letter of nomination.
 5. The DSEA President shall advise all Executive Board members of names in nomination at least five (5) days prior to the meeting at which the election will be held.
 6. Elections shall be scheduled on the Executive Board agenda by the DSEA President and shall be conducted at the appointed time by secret ballot.

7. A majority of votes cast shall be required.
8. An individual elected to fill a vacancy under these procedures shall assume office immediately after the election.
9. Vacancies in the DSEA-Retired at-large Executive Board ex-officio voting member position shall be filled by the same procedure and timelines as Board positions except that the Executive Committee of DSEA-Retired will have the authority to appoint in lieu of the DSEA Executive Board.

F. NEW POSITIONS

1. Additions or reductions of seats on the Board because of membership shall occur based on November 30 membership figures.
2. If a seat is to be added or removed, it will then be announced so that the proper number of seats can be filled by the usual general election process. A new seat will be a one or two-year term, based on the need to equalize the number of terms expiring per county in a given year.
3. A new seat will be treated as a vacancy and will be filled by that process described in VI E 2, 3,4,5,6 no later than the February Board meeting. The interim term will expire August 31 of that year, at which time the person elected in the general election will take office.

G. DUTIES. The Executive Board shall have the authority and responsibility to:

1. Set its meetings except as otherwise herein provided.
2. Determine the eligibility of all groups wishing to affiliate with DSEA and shall have the power to suspend or revoke affiliation for violations of these Bylaws.
3. Provide for due process for members of DSEA.
4. Incorporate the Association as the Delaware State Education Association, Inc., a non-profit corporation for the purpose of conducting activities herein described and of owning real property, and the officers and Executive Board members of the DSEA shall be the officers and directors of DSEA, Inc.
5. Determine the guidelines for the election of DSEA Officers, Executive Board and NEA delegates consistent with DSEA Bylaws.
6. Serve as the Appropriations Task Force with authority to recommend a budget to the Representative Assembly for adoption.
7. Make contingency expenditures when they have not been budgeted.
8. Serve as the Advocacy Fund Executive Board.

9. Serve as direct link between state and local associations.
10. Approve Executive Director/Professional Staff appointments and contracts with DSEASO. Approval requires a 3/5 vote of the Board.

ARTICLE VII – STATE DELEGATES TO THE NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

- A. Election to the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and NEA Director shall constitute election as a State delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly. The current DSEA President shall be the chairperson of the State delegation at the NEA Representative Assembly.
- B. State delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly other than the members of the Leadership Team of DSEA shall be nominated by filing a petition with signatures of 20 Active Members with the Executive Director during a period of no less than 30 days, to be determined by the Executive Board. Delegates shall be elected by receiving the most votes cast from an electronic secret ballot made available to all Active Members of DSEA.
- C. DSEA-R will be entitled to representation based on Section 3-1 e of the NEA Bylaws: 1:50 for the first 50 Retired members and an additional delegate for each 1,000 Retired members thereafter.
- D. Nominations shall be open to any Active Member of the Association.
- E. Alternate delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly shall be those candidates not receiving a sufficient number of votes to be regular delegates. Alternate delegates shall be designated in descending order according to the number of votes received. A number of alternates equal to the number of State delegates allotted shall be so designated.
- F. Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly shall serve for terms of two years, and alternates shall serve for a term of one year.
- G. NEA delegates shall be elected by statewide secret ballot at the same time officers are elected in the Spring.