

LONGVIEW EDUCATION ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

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ARTICLE I – NAME and INCORPORATION

- Section 1. The name of the association shall be the Longview Education Association hereafter referred to as the LEA.
- Section 2. The association shall be incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Washington.

ARTICLE II – MISSION

The Longview Education Association is a community of professionals creating the best environment for learning and teaching. The purpose of the LEA shall be to represent all members in bargaining, grievances, and in all matters relating to the wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment with the Longview School District. In addition, we ascribe to the mission of the Washington Education Association, to advance the professional interests of its members in order to make public education the best it can be for students, staff and communities. Our goal is to build confidence in public education and increase support for Washington public schools.

ARTICLE III – AFFILIATION

The LEA shall affiliate with the Washington Education Association and the National Education Association. Hereafter referred to as the WEA and NEA respectively.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. All certificated employees who meet the active membership requirements of the WEA and the NEA shall, upon payment of dues as herein provided, become active members of these associations with full rights and privileges of membership.
- Section 2. Except for non payment of dues and assessments, no member shall be fined, censured, suspended, expelled, or otherwise disciplined, except as provided in the WEA Constitution and Bylaws (i.e., undermining the collective bargaining process; strikebreaking).
- Section 3. All members of the Association shall have equal rights and privileges within the Association which include:
- A. to nominate candidates,
 - B. to vote in elections or on referenda of this Association,
 - C. to hold office,
 - D. to participate in the deliberations of the organization and to vote on contract ratification, and
 - E. to attend membership meetings of the Longview Education Association.

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- Section 4. Unless otherwise expressly provided by law, persons who tender agency shop fees shall have no rights or privileges within this Association.
- Section 5. The membership year and the fiscal year shall be coincident, September first to August thirty-first, inclusive.
- Section 6. Membership shall be permanent or continuing from year to year, except on resignation, retirement, death, expulsion, suspension, or discontinuance as provided by the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

- Section 1. Association members and agency shop fee payers shall pay dues/fees as established in the Bylaws. The dues shall be payable through monthly payroll deductions.
- Section 2. The Association may levy special assessments on its members as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI – Board of Directors

- Section 1. Determination of the policies and programs of the LEA shall be vested in the Board of Directors
- Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be made up of at least one delegate from each school, work location, or group, and one delegate representing substitute teacher members.
- Section 3. Members at each school or work location or group shall elect, for a term of one year, one representative for every 25 members or major fraction thereof. Consideration shall be given to providing ethnic-minority representation.
- Section 4. The composition of the Board of Directors should reflect ethnic-minority representation at least proportionate to the total ethnic-minority membership of the LEA.
- Section 5. Each member of the Board of Directors shall attend regular meetings of the Board of Directors or provide a substitute. After two unexcused absences of a representative, the president may declare the seat unfilled and call for an election to fill out the term.
- Section 6. Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected as set forth in the Bylaws and serve for one year.
- Section 7. Any member of the Association who is not a member of the Board of Directors may attend its meetings, may receive permission to speak, but will not have voting privileges.

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ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

- Section 1. The officers of the LEA shall be the President, Vice-President elected from preK-5 members, Vice-President elected from 6-12 members, Secretary, Treasurer and Lead Negotiator. These officers shall receive an annual rate of pay and/or released time as established by the Board of Directors of LEA.
- Section 2. The President and Vice-President(s) shall be elected by secret ballot following open nominations by the general membership and shall assume the offices of President and Vice-President on July thirty-first. Both shall serve for a one year term.
- Section 3. The positions of Treasurer, Secretary and Lead Negotiator shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the LEA Board of Directors. These are non-voting positions at LEA Board of Directors meetings.
- Section 4. An elected officer may be removed from office for cause by a recall election which may be initiated by a petition of at least 20% of the general membership. A general membership meeting will be scheduled prior to the recall election within thirty (30) days after receipt of the recall petition. Following the general membership meeting, the recall election shall be by secret ballot of the entire membership. Majority rule shall prevail, observing the one (1) person, (1) vote principle.
- The Board of Directors shall notify in writing any officer who has been recommended for recall.
- Section 5. In the event that the President is unable to serve for his/her full term of office, the Vice-President shall assume the office of the President, for the unexpired term thereof.
- Section 6. The duties of the officers shall be as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII – ELECTIONS

- Section 1. Members of the Board of Directors and Elected Officers shall be elected as set forth in the Bylaws.
- Section 2. A candidate for elective office shall be elected when the candidate shall have received a majority of the votes cast for the office at a regular election.

ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS

- Section 1. The President, with the consent of the LEA Board of Directors, shall have the power to set the time, date, and place of LEA general membership meetings, and LEA Representative Council meetings.

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Section 2. The President shall call a special meeting for a specific purpose upon the written request of 10% of the active members of the LEA.

ARTICLE X – QUORUM

Section 1. A quorum for regularly scheduled LEA general meetings shall consist of the active members present.

Section 2. A quorum for all special meetings shall consist of one-third (1/3) of the active membership of the LEA.

Section 3. A quorum for committee meetings shall consist of a majority of the members of the committee.

Section 4. A quorum for the LEA Board of Directors meetings shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of the elected Representatives.

Section 5. A quorum at a meeting to vote on constitutional amendments shall consist of one-third (1/3) of the active LEA membership, except for the annual LEA Assembly.

ARTICLE XI – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. The current edition of Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure governs the LEA in all parliamentary situations that are not provided for in the Law, or in the LEA charter, Constitution, Bylaws or adopted rules.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposals to amend this Constitution may be made by the Board of Directors or by petition of 1/3 of the general membership, provided that copies of the proposed changes will be given to all members at least twenty (20) days before the next general membership meeting.

Section 2. This Constitution shall be amended by a 2/3 vote at a general membership assembly.

ARTICLE XIII – COMMITTEES AND WORKTEAMS

Section 1. Committees and workteams may be authorized and formed as set forth in the Bylaws.