

Board approved, February 18, 2002
Adopted, April 26, 2002, SAES membership

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF EPISCOPAL SCHOOLS

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the Association shall be the SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF EPISCOPAL SCHOOLS. It shall be abbreviated "SAES."

ARTICLE II - DEFINITION AND PURPOSES

SAES is an association of Episcopal schools in the dioceses of Arkansas, Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and other states that wish to dedicate themselves to promoting quality education through the schools of the Episcopal Church.

The mission of SAES is "to lead, to nurture, and to unify Episcopal schools in order to advance educational excellence within the faith community of the Episcopal Church."

The purposes of SAES include:

- Promoting high standards of education among member schools; establishing Criteria for Membership and Standards for Membership; and offering a nationally recognized process for Accreditation.
- Developing programs that improve knowledge and skills in leadership, governance, administration, teaching, and learning for Episcopal schools.
- Building the spiritual formation of adults and children in Episcopal schools through study, fellowship, and celebration.
- Promoting the purposes and practices of Episcopal schools at the local, regional, and national levels and protecting their best interests.
- Increasing the understanding of Episcopal schools within the entire community of the Episcopal Church.
- Fostering a strong and viable bond between SAES and the Bishops of the dioceses within the Association.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Episcopal schools in Arkansas, Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and other states shall be eligible for full membership according to the following criteria:

- The school is affiliated with the Episcopal Church in one of the following ways:
 1. The school is a parish day school;
 2. The school is owned or administered by a diocese, a religious order, or group of parishes;
 3. Or, the school espouses the faith and worship of the Episcopal Church and includes in its curriculum the liturgy of the Episcopal Church in America as set forth in the *Book of Common Prayer*, and it operates with the consent of the bishop of the diocese.
- The school fulfills requirements for membership and/or accreditation as set forth in the *Bylaws of the Association*.

ARTICLE IV - NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, age, gender, or handicap in the administration of educational and membership policies, hiring practices, selection of its Executive Board, or in any programs administered by the Association.

ARTICLE V – GOVERNANCE

THE BOARD OF THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF EPISCOPAL SCHOOLS, hereafter called "The Board," shall govern the Association. The Board shall hold each member school in trust and determine policies subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association that promote individual and corporate excellence, equity, efficiency, and Episcopal-relatedness of each school.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Representatives from member schools shall assemble annually at the request of The Board to conduct business. A quorum for transacting business shall be a simple majority of heads of member schools of those present.

The Board shall meet at least twice annually and at such other times as called by the President. The quorum for transacting the business of the Board shall be a simple majority of members.

If it is necessary for The Board to take action between meetings, the President or the President's designee may call a vote electronically (i.e., telephone, fax, or email). Votes must be received from a quorum of members and results shall be reported and recorded at the next regular meeting of The Board.

ARTICLE VII - DUTY OF LOYALTY TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Nothing in this Constitution, the Bylaws, the Criteria for Membership, the Standards for Accreditation of this Association, or the Articles of Incorporation of the member schools shall be in conflict with the canons, doctrine, discipline, or worship of the Episcopal Church of America.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the heads of the member schools present at any called meeting, provided that any proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing to the member schools thirty days prior.

Adopted 9/12/96

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