
BYLAWS OF NSEA'S

STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF NEBRASKA

■ Article I: Offices

Section 1. Name. The name of this association shall be the Student Education Association of Nebraska, hereinafter referred to as SEAN. SEAN shall be affiliated with the National Education Association (NEA) through the NEA Student Program (NEA-SP) and with the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA).

Section 2. Purposes.

(a) The purposes of NEA-SP shall be:

1. To develop an understanding of the education profession within prospective educators.
2. To provide a united student voice in matters affecting their profession.
3. To influence the conditions under which prospective educators are prepared.
4. To advance the interests and welfare of students preparing for a career in education.
5. To forward the aim of quality education.
6. To promote and protect human and civil rights.
7. To stimulate the highest ideals of professional ethics, standard and attitudes.

(b) The purposes of SEAN shall be:

1. To develop a state organization of SEAN chapters fostered by the NEA and the NSEA for the promotion and development of professional attitudes among students preparing to enter the teaching profession.
2. To interest capable men and women in teaching as a career by:
 - a) Encouraging a careful selective standard for persons admitted to approved programs of teacher education.
 - b) Positively influencing the way in which prospective educators are prepared.
3. To strive for the advancement of better conditions under which teachers work and students learn.
4. To develop among future educators, an understanding of the teaching profession through participation in professional activities.
5. To create a background for future educators of the history, ethics, organization, policies and programs

of local, state, and national education associations.

6. To give students preparing to teach practical experience in working together and working with local, state, and national education associations on problems concerning education throughout the nation.

Section 3. Governance

- (a) SEAN shall be governed by its Bylaws and Standing Rules, and any other actions as mandated by the Delegate Assembly that are consistent with these Bylaws.
- (b) SEAN may pursue objectives, which are consistent with the stated purposes of NEA, NEA-SP and NSEA.

■ Article II: Memberships

Section 1. Eligibility

- (a) Membership in SEAN shall be composed of students who are receiving preparation at the undergraduate or graduate level for a career in education, and who are duly chartered members in good standing of a recognized chapter of SEAN, where available. SEAN membership is not available to anyone who is currently eligible eligible for active membership in NEA.
- (b) Members of SEAN shall also be members of duly chartered local student education associations where available, and the NEA-SP.
- (c) SEAN shall not deny membership on the basis of race, creed, national origin, age, or gender identity and expression.

Section 2. Membership within the NEA

- (a) Members of SEAN shall be recognized as student members of the NEA and shall have all rights and privileges of student members, provided that they are recognized as members of SEAN by their respective college chapters, where available, and the NEA-SP.

Section 3. Membership within the NSEA

- (a) SEAN members shall also be recognized as student members of NSEA and have all privileges of student membership, provided they are recognized as members of SEAN and their respective college chapters, where available.

Section 4. Membership and Fiscal Year

- (a) The membership and fiscal year of SEAN shall concur with the NSEA membership and fiscal year. The fiscal year of SEAN shall begin on the first day of September and end on the last day of August in each year.

Section 5. Membership Dues

- (a) The SEAN Executive Committee shall recommend the dues of SEAN to the Delegate Assembly.
- (b) The dues of SEAN shall be recommended by the SEAN Executive Committee to the NSEA Board of Directors, which sets dues for all categories of NSEA membership. Local chapter and national dues will be in addition to this.

Section 6. Membership Code of Ethics

- (a) Members of the SEAN shall adhere to the code of ethics of the education profession.

Article III: Policies for Affiliation

Section 1. Affiliation shall mean a relationship based on a reciprocal contractual agreement between NEA, NSEA and a local chapter and shall continue until a local or state association withdraws or is disaffiliated.

Section 2. Minimum Standards for Affiliation

- (a) The affiliate shall conduct all elections with open nominations and a secret ballot, unless the candidate is unopposed, in which case the candidate may be declared elected by acclamation.
- (b) The affiliate shall require unified membership in NEA, NSEA and SEAN.
- (c) The affiliate shall have the same membership and fiscal year as that of SEAN and NSEA.
- (d) The Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules or other governing documents of the affiliate shall be compatible with the Bylaws of the state association.
- (e) The affiliate shall apply the one person-one vote principle for representation to those governing bodies, which elect NEA-SP representatives, except that the affiliate shall strive for involvement of ethnic minorities in SEAN.

Section 3. Procedure for Affiliation. A chapter seeking affiliation shall file a written application including copies of its governance documents with the SEAN President. The SEAN Executive Committee shall act on the application at its first official meeting after the date of filing.

Section 4. Local Chapter Affiliation

- (a) Local chapters may be chartered at institutions offering four years or more of college work provided that the institutions meet either of the following criteria:
 - 1. They are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and approved for teacher education by the appropriate state department of education; or
 - 2. They are accredited by the appropriate regional association and approved for teacher education by the

State Department of Education.

- (b) Local chapters may be chartered at institutions offering at least two, but less than four, years of college work, provided that the institutions meet either of the following criteria:
 - 1. They are accredited by the appropriate regional association; or
 - 2. They are recommended by the state legal agency responsible for approving such institutions, provided the graduates of such institutions can be admitted to an NCATE-accredited institution with advanced standing.
- (c) Potential chapters shall be granted a one year probationary period in which to reach minimum standards for affiliation.
- (d) Each local chapter will submit to their region representative a monthly report consisting of its meeting format, activities and planned programs, to be used for the SEAN newsletter.

Article IV: State Officers

Section 1. Composition

- (a) The state officers shall be a President, a Vice President, Secretary, Underclass Representative, and a Regional Representative from each SEAN region.
- (b) A Technology Specialist and an Outreach to Teach Coordinator shall apply to, and be appointed as needed by the Executive Committee for a term of one year, as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee, without voting privileges and with duties assigned and determined by the Executive Committee.
- (c) Students appointed or elected to an NEA national committee or office shall be included as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee without voting privileges, and duties assigned and determined by the Executive Committee.
- (d) Liaisons from NSEA active, NSEA-Retired and the NSEA Higher Education Academy, shall be included as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee without voting privileges.

Section 2. Election. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Underclass Representative shall be elected by a majority vote of the voting delegates present at Delegate Assembly, to be held in the spring of the year (See Article III, Sec. 2.a.). Voting delegates at Delegate Assembly shall elect the Region Representatives from each region (See Article V, Sec. 2.a).

Section 3. Term of Office. Officers shall assume their official duties on the 1st of August following the Delegate Assembly at which they are elected and shall serve for a term of one year. The existing Executive Committee shall assist the newly elected Executive Committee through a transitional Executive Committee meeting which shall be held

prior to the 1st of August.

Section 4. Eligibility. To be eligible for office, a person must be:

- (a) An undergraduate or a graduate student enrolled in an accredited institution. The Underclass Representative shall be a freshman or sophomore at the time of election to the office.
- (b) Preparing for a career in education.
- (c) A unified member of SEAN.
- (d) In good standing at their institution.

Section 5. Duties

(a) The duties of the state President shall be:

1. To preside at all state Executive Committee meetings of SEAN, including the Delegate Assembly.
2. To appoint committees, make specific assignments of Executive Committee members, and appoint appropriate observers to NSEA committees, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.
3. To accept responsibilities and commitments requested by NEA, NEA-SP, NSEA and SEAN.
4. To be responsible for contacting each chapter in the state periodically during the year.
5. To be spokesperson-at-large for SEAN.
6. To serve as a member of the NSEA Board of Directors.
7. To be representative to NEA-SP national meetings.

(b) The duties of the state Vice-President shall be:

1. To assume presidential responsibilities in the absence of the President.
2. To share the responsibilities of contacting the local chapters.
3. To act as State Membership Chair.
4. To serve as an observer to one of the NSEA ad hoc committees if so appointed by the SEAN President.
5. To carry out any duties as assigned by the state President.

(c) The duties of the state Secretary shall be:

1. To keep the minutes of all Executive Committee meetings and distribute copies to all local associations.
2. To keep a list of all local association officers and sponsors.
3. To distribute information to the local associations at the President's request.

4. To keep in touch with the NEA-SP and secure information for the local chapters that the President deems advisable.

5. To record the proceedings of the SEAN Delegate Assembly and submit such proceedings to the SEAN organizer not later than 30 days after the close of the Delegate Assembly.

6. To serve as an observer to one of the NSEA ad hoc committees if so appointed by the SEAN President

7. To perform other duties as directed by the President.

(d) The Underclass Representative can be elected as a freshman or sophomore and serve the following year, as a sophomore or junior. Duties of the Underclass Representative are:

1. To represent the views and interests of underclass SEAN members during meetings of the Executive Committee.
2. To keep a scrapbook of SEAN activities including pictures, flyers, and memorabilia.
3. To perform other duties as directed by the state President and Executive Committee.
4. An individual who is a freshman or sophomore at the time of Delegate Assembly but will serve during their sophomore or junior year.

(e) The duties of the Regional Representative shall be:

1. To represent the local chapters on the state level.
2. To provide direct assistance in local chapter membership drives.
3. To foster good communication with the SEA chapters in their region by contacting either the student president or advisor by email or telephone once each month.
4. To serve as an observer to one of the NSEA ad hoc committees if so appointed by the SEAN President.

(f) At the SEAN Delegate Assembly each state officer will submit a verbal report of all activities conducted in the performance of their office to be used by incoming officers.

Section 6. Vacancy

(a) In case any state officer cannot perform their duties, or is seen to be unfit to perform their duties:

1. A written list of grievances must be presented to the Executive Committee and the officer in question by any member or members of SEAN.
2. The officer so charged shall have the right to appear, with council, before the Executive Committee to respond to the charges and present their case within 30 days of notification of grievances.

3. A majority vote of the Executive Committee is then required to remove and replace said officer through due process.
- (b) When an office is vacated between terms:
1. The SEAN President shall be responsible for notifying the local chapters of the vacancy.
 2. The vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Committee at their next meeting.

Article V: Regions

Section 1. Determination. SEAN membership shall be divided into the following regions: the Southeast, the Northeast, the Western and the Metro.

Section 2. Regional Representatives

- (a) Each region shall elect, during the regional meeting at Delegate Assembly, a Regional Representative to serve as a member of the SEAN Executive Committee.
- (b) Each chapter will be limited to one vote during elections of Regional Representative, no matter how many delegates are present from an individual chapter.

Article VI: Executive Committee

Section 1. Composition

- (a) The Executive Committee shall be composed of the five elected state officers and four Regional Representatives.
- (b) Each SEAN region will be entitled to one representative.

Section 2. Duties. The Executive Committee shall:

- (a) Administer the policies and priorities of SEAN.
- (b) Serve in the capacity of planning, coordinating and conducting the work of all state meetings and leadership conferences.
- (c) Shall advise the coordination of regional meetings.
- (d) Publish a newsletter four times a year, in an endeavor to advertise local, chapter, state and national activities to potentially increase membership. The newsletter shall be published on August 1, October 1, January 2, and April 1. Chapter presidents shall submit a quarterly report of their activities to the SEAN Executive Committee 10 business days prior to the dates above.

Section 3. Absence. An unexcused absence by a state Executive Committee member from two state Executive Committee meetings will constitute a vacancy in that position.

Section 4. State Organizer and Advisor

- (a) The state organizer and state advisor shall be ex-officio Executive Committee members without power to vote.
- (b) The state organizer shall be appointed to SEAN by NSEA.
- (c) The state advisor shall be selected by the SEAN Executive Committee, providing the individual gives consent to be the state advisor.
- (d) SEAN shall pay the state advisor's dues for NEA and NSEA membership for the year served as advisor.

Article VII: Rules of Procedure

Section 1. Parliamentary Procedure. All parliamentary procedure will be in accordance with the current revised edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2. Voting

- (a) At all State Executive Committee meetings, each member of the committee shall have one vote.
- (b) Required votes for all measures shall be a simple majority unless otherwise specified in the bylaws.
- (c) Voting at the Delegate Assembly:
 1. Voting will be by delegates in attendance.
 2. Each chapter with at least three (3) active members on the NSEA membership roles as of March 1 of the association year will be entitled to at least three (3) voting delegates.
 3. Each chapter will have one (1) delegate for each twenty (20) members (or major faction thereof).
 4. Any SEAN member is eligible to serve as a delegate to Delegate Assembly.
 5. Delegates to the Delegate Assembly shall be determined annually by election from each local chapter.
- (d) The Executive Committee of SEAN shall be ex-officio voting delegates to the Delegate Assembly.

Section 3. Quorum. A quorum for any SEAN meeting shall be a simple majority of the members present and voting.

Section 4. Election of State Officers

- (a) Each prospective candidate for state office shall:
 1. Fill out an application, which will be furnished to them.
 2. Submit an application form for review to the SEAN organizer at the end of the business session during which open nominations take place.
- (b) The election of all officers, state and regional, shall occur at Delegate Assembly.

- (c) All elections shall be held in descending order by rank.
- (d) Prospective candidates may file for no more than two state office positions at any one Delegate Assembly.
- (e) All run-off elections shall be between the two candidates with the most votes.

Section 5. Duties of delegates to Delegate Assembly:

- (a) To set SEAN goals and objectives for the following year.
- (b) To establish the SEAN policies and bylaws.
- (c) To approve the annual SEAN budget.
- (d) To elect the state Executive Committee.
- (e) To elect delegates to the NSEA Delegate Assembly (number of delegates decided by NSEA Bylaws).

Section 6. Minutes. Copies of the minutes of the Delegate Assembly shall be sent to each local association within sixty (60) days after the Delegate Assembly.

■ Article VIII: Meetings

Section 1. NEA Representative Assembly

- (a) SEAN delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly shall be selected in accordance with NEA policy.
- (b) Any SEAN member is eligible to serve as a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly.

- (c) The delegate(s) shall be elected by an every member ballot after March 15th of the association year.

Section 2. NEA-SP National Meeting

- (a) The SEAN President shall be a representative to the annual meeting of the NEA-SP Summer Leadership Conference.
- (b) SEAN delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly shall serve as delegates to the NEA-SP National Meeting.
- (c) The SEAN Executive Committee shall be representatives to the annual NEA-SP Student Leadership Conference.

Section 3. State and Regional Meetings. These meetings will be held annually in accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

■ Article IX: Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to these bylaws shall be proposed by any local association or the state Executive Committee and shall be made available to local association officers prior to the Delegate Assembly at which the vote will be taken. This restriction may be waived by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of delegates in attendance at the Delegate Assembly.

Section 2. Adoption of Amendments. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be adopted by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting delegates present.

Section 3. Consideration of Amendments. Amendments to these Bylaws may be considered at Delegate Assembly.

SEAN CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

Student Education Association of Nebraska

■ A. Promote the Education Profession

1. Teacher Salaries: The Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN) support adequate increases in compensation annually for Nebraska teachers and encourages its members to sign contracts only with school districts that practice this same philosophy. (80,88)
2. Public Relations: SEAN supports its local chapters in promoting the public relations of their organization. (81,88,04)
3. Meeting with state Affiliates: SEAN encourages the practice of holding joint meetings with other National Education Association Student Program state affiliates. (81,88)
4. Student Organizations: SEAN encourages the joint cooperation of local affiliates and other student organizations. (82,88)
5. Education of Students: SEAN supports only those groups whose philosophies and activities positively affect the education of all students. (82,88)
6. Salary Increase: SEAN supports increasing salaries for the teachers of Nebraska and supports the Nebraska State Education Association's (NSEA) views on the issue. (84,88)
7. Planning Time: SEAN supports any measure to provide elementary teachers with a 45 minute planning period within the standard school day. (87,88)
8. Educator Recognition: SEAN supports American Education Week and National Teacher Day. SEAN further supports Nebraska Teacher Day and Education Support Professionals Day. (87,88,04)

■ B. Promote Student Input in Matters Affecting the Profession

1. Voting Rights: SEAN supports a concerted effort to obtain a voting membership on the NSEA Board of Directors and every NSEA standing committee. (75,88,04)
2. United Education Profession: SEAN reaffirms its belief in the United Education Profession by supporting the NEA-SP and its officers. (76,88)

3. Pre-professional Involvement: SEAN encourages pre-professional involvement at the NSEA Leadership Conference, SEAN regional meetings, Fall Conference and SEAN Delegate Assembly. (76,88)
4. NSEA Participation: SEAN strongly encourages student member participation in NSEA activities. (76,88)
5. District Level Participation: A SEAN representative shall participate in the district meetings of each NSEA governance district. (04)
6. SEAN Duties: SEAN encourages working together to plan meetings for the benefit of SEAN members in each respective organization. (77,88)
7. Communication: SEAN encourages efforts to develop better communication between the local and state levels of SEAN. (77,88,04)
8. Membership: SEAN supports the philosophy that every pre-professional educator be a member of SEAN and the National Education Association Student Program. (80,88,04)
9. Local Association Elections: SEAN supports the practice of local chapters electing officers prior to the Delegate Assembly. (04)
10. Governance Structure: SEAN encourages local chapters to implement a president-elect governance structure. (81,88,04)
11. Involvement with Teacher Locals: SEAN encourages local associations to NSEA and SEAN chapters to plan meetings for the benefit of both groups and to promote greater community awareness of public education. (84,88,04)

■ C. Promote Preparation of Educators

1. Education Advisory Boards: SEAN encourages all local chapters to participate in and with their respective campus teacher education advisory boards. (76,88,04)
2. Grading and Policy: SEAN local chapters encourage student participation in grading and policy changes on their respective campuses. (76,88,99)
3. Teacher Preparation: SEAN believes in assisting colleges and universities in development and support of exemplary pre-professional teaching programs. (79,88,99)

4. National Teacher Exam: SEAN opposes the National Teacher Examination as the sole criterion for certification, selection or assignment to position, retention, salary adjustment, transfer, evaluation, dismissal, promotion or tenure. (81,88)
5. Higher Education Accreditation: SEAN supports the involvement of its members in the accreditation of education departments in higher education institutions. (81,88)
6. NCATE Accreditation: SEAN encourages all teacher preparation institutions to be NCATE accredited. (81,88)
7. Teacher Certification: SEAN supports teacher certification requirements for all private and public school teacher, K-12. (82,88)
8. Multicultural Education: SEAN encourages students to seek multicultural education courses and cross cultural experiences as part of their teacher education preparation program. (83,88)
9. Preparatory Experiences: SEAN encourages students to experience all populations on the special needs continuum because of the probability of meeting these children in the mainstreamed classroom. (83,88)
10. Admittance to Teacher Education Programs: SEAN encourages colleges which prepare future teachers to employ more effective screening and selecting policies for admittance into pre-professional teaching education. (83,88)
11. Education Background: SEAN believes each teacher should have a broad general education, depth of preparation in special areas and mastery of the knowledge and skills necessary to perform their professional responsibilities, both in and outside the classroom. SEAN further endorses the concept that more emphasis be placed on academic content and increased intern experiences in the candidate's endorsed field. (83,88)

■ D. Promote Preprofessional Interests and Welfare

1. Insurance: SEAN believes that every student teacher and classroom observer in Nebraska should be covered by adequate liability insurance to provide the utmost protection for the student teacher, classroom observer, cooperating teacher, school system, and college or university the student attends. SEAN believes that each college or university should require proof of such liability coverage from the student teacher or classroom observer. (04)

■ E. Forwarding Quality Education

2. Instructional Materials: SEAN encourages student teachers to implement instructional materials which will provide a fair and balanced treatment of all people and give consideration to women and minorities which have contributed to the historical and economic development of Nebraska and the nation. (83,88)
3. Public School System: SEAN believes free public schools to be the cornerstone of our social, economic and political structure. The continuation of our democracy through a free public school system, and only those efforts which strengthen our free public education system, should be supported. (83,88,04)
4. Television Viewing: SEAN recognizes the impact of television programming and advertising on children. SEAN encourages the television media to strive the quality programming and promote mental and physical excellence in American youth. Further, SEAN encourages parents to assume responsibility for monitoring commercial television and limiting school night viewing for children. (83,88)
5. Computer Literacy: SEAN recognizes the increasing effect of computers in our lives and supports computer literacy in school curriculum. (83,88)
6. Special Education Programs: SEAN supports the benefits of Special Education programs for all exceptional children and opposes cuts in funding of mandated special education programs at the state and federal level. (83,88)
7. Sound and Effective Education: SEAN supports the NSEA and the state of Nebraska in the obligation to provide all individuals access to a quality public education that is equitably funded. (87,88,04)

■ F. Promote Human and Civil Rights

1. Minority Involvement: SEAN encourages the recruitment and involvement of minorities in SEAN activities, especially in membership and leadership. (77,88,99)
2. Rights of Organization: SEAN believes in the fundamental rights of students to organize in their own self-interest and speak out in defense of students without fear of reprisal. (78,88)

3. Equal Rights Legislation: SEAN supports the passage of legislation for equal rights, the efforts of the NEA Women's Caucus, the NEA Equal Rights Amendment Fund and the Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act. (86,88)
4. Child Abuse Protection: SEAN supports the NEA in the belief that all children must be protected against child abuse and neglect. (87,88)
5. Missing Children: SEAN supports the NEA and the NSEA in efforts to find local missing children by participating in national clearinghouse information programs; volunteer finger-printing programs; and by working cooperatively with local programs and authorities to raise awareness of the missing children. (87,88,04)
6. Sex Education: SEAN supports NSEA in its belief that family life and sex education, which provides children and youth with information appropriate to their age, is basic to healthy, well adjusted mental attitudes. (87,88)
7. SEAN supports a safe place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and ally students and teacher to learn and teach.

■ G. Professional Ethics and Standards

1. Student Teacher Bill of Rights: SEAN supports the Student Teacher Bill of Rights. (81,88)
2. SEAN supports teacher evaluation as a vehicle for the improvement of instruction. (84,8)

■ H. Promote Involvement in Government Awareness

1. Legislative Information: SEAN encourages informing its members of current education bills in the legislature and policies supported by the NSEA.
2. Student Political Activity: SEAN believes that every student has the right and obligation to be an informed and politically active student. (78,88)
3. Lid Bills: SEAN opposes the passage of any lid bills in the state of Nebraska. (80,88)
4. United States Department of Education: SEAN supports the continuation of the United States Department of Education. (81,88)
5. Financial Aid: SEAN opposes any cuts in student financial aid. (82,88)

6. Political Activities: SEAN supports the efforts of the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education and the NSEA government activities. (82,88,04)
7. Public Support of Education: SEAN supports our American Education System and its public support and does not encourage tuition tax credits, vouchers, or other alternatives. (82,88)
8. Lobbying: SEAN recognizes the need for political awareness and involvement, and supports lobbying efforts. (83,88)
9. Educating Children with Special Needs: SEAN supports a free, appropriate public education for all special needs children in Nebraska. (83,88)
10. Legislative Funding for Education: SEAN supports legislation which increases the funding for education at the national, state and local levels. Further, that state and local chapters should notify NEA, NEA-SP, and NSEA representatives concerning legislation which will affect the funding of education. (85,88)