

BRANCH CONSTITUTION (proposed revisions)

Please note: **Text highlighted in yellow indicates current language.**
Text highlighted in blue indicates proposed changes.

ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Tennessee Association for Childhood Education International.

ARTICLE II-MISSION AND PURPOSES

Tennessee ACEI's Mission is:

To promote and support in the global community the optimal education and development of children, from infancy through early adolescence, and to influence the professional growth of educators and the efforts of others who are committed to the needs of children in a changing society

The purposes of this organization internationally shall be:

To promote the inherent rights, education and well-being of all children in home, school and community

To work for desirable conditions, programs and practices for children from infancy through early adolescence

To bring into active cooperation all individuals and groups concerned with children

To raise the standard of preparation for all of those actively involved with the care and development of children

To encourage continuous professional growth of educators

To focus the attention of the public on the rights and needs of children and the ways in which various programs must be adjusted to fit those rights and needs.

To achieve these purposes, ACEI is guided by a dynamic philosophy of education which is flexible and responsive to human needs in a changing society

ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP

(a) Any group or organization whose activities are in harmony with the purposes of ACEI, and that has a written constitution and elected officers, shall be eligible for affiliation as a local ACEI Branch, State/Province or National Affiliate.

(b) Any group of local ACEI Branches, or individuals, having a constitution and elected officers, shall be eligible for affiliation as a State/Province or National Association.

(c) Any person whose interests are in harmony with the purposes of ACEI shall be eligible for individual membership. Individual members shall pay annual dues to ACEI Headquarters, including International dues, National dues (organized or provisional), State/Province dues (organized or provisional), and Local Branch dues (where one exists and the individual chooses to join). Individual members not belonging to a Local Branch are considered At-Large.

(d) Individuals belonging to a Local Branch shall be members of and pay annual dues to the State/Province Association (organized or provisional) or to the National Association (organized or provisional), and to ACEI.

(e) Individual membership shall consist of the following categories: "Professional," including persons actively engaged in educational and allied professions involving children and those who work with children, and other persons who have an interest in the mission and purposes for which ACEI is organized; "Retired," former Professional members who have ceased active career pursuits but who wish to remain affiliated with ACEI; "Student," including full-time students who provide certification of academic status; "Basic," includes those persons who otherwise qualify as professional members, but are not entitled to receive *Childhood Education* as part of their membership benefits. The aforementioned classes of membership shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Association for Childhood Education International, including benefits and services except as specifically stated under the "Basic" membership category.

(f) If a local Branch, State/Province or National Association, through its own action or failure to act, discontinues affiliation and later requests reinstatement, a fee set by the ACEI Executive Board shall be charged to cover the expenses entailed.

ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1—Officers. Officers of this Branch shall consist of: **President, President-elect, Immediate past President, Membership Vice-President, Program Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, West TN Liaison, Middle TN Liaison, East TN Liaison, Student Branch Liaison, and WebDesigner.** **President, President-elect, Immediate past President, Vice President West, Vice President Middle, Vice President East, Secretary, Treasurer, Student Branch Liaison, Web Designer, and Members-at-large, as needed.** Officers will be current International members of ACEI, and only active members in good standing will be eligible to hold office. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same position.

Section 2— Committees. The President shall have the power to establish any committee needed to make the work of the organization effective. Each committee appointment shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee at the direction of the Executive Committee.

(a) Standing Committees. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of members appointed by the Executive Board. The Nominating Committee shall present

nominations to the board at least 4 weeks before they are to be elected. Nominations can also be taken from the membership present at the time of election. The Conference Committee shall be composed of members appointed by the Board who will assist the **Conference Vice-President** **regional Vice Presidents** in planning the state conference each year.

(b) Other Committees. Other committees of a continuing or special nature may be established by the Executive Board when, in its judgment, they are needed to further the purposes of Tennessee ACEI. The members of such committees shall be appointed by the Executive Board for a term of one year, or such lesser time as the Board may decide.

Section 3—Executive Board. The elected officers, the immediate past president, and any appointed committee chairpersons shall constitute the Executive Board with the president as chair. They shall meet at least twice each year, **either in person or by conference call**, or more often on call of the chair. They shall consider suggestions from the membership and transact the necessary business of Tennessee ACEI. A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum, and a decision shall be by majority vote of those present and voting. Action requiring a decision of the Board may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Board **sign a written consent to said action and the written consent is agree via email which is** filed with the minutes of the Board. The Executive Board shall determine the date and place of conferences and other meetings. The president or some other designated representative shall serve as a **liaison to the ACEI Executive Board without vote but with privilege of speaking representative of TACEI to the President's Council of ACEI at the annual ACEI annual conference.**

Section 4—Elections and Appointments. Officers shall be elected by majority vote of the membership at the annual state conference to serve two-year terms, beginning on alternate years, except the President and President-elect, which shall be one-year terms. In order that terms shall be staggered, **the President-Elect, Program Vice-President, Treasurer, West TN Liaison, and Student Branch Liaison shall be elected one year. The Membership Vice-President, Secretary, East TN Liaison, Middle TN Liaison, and WebDesigner shall be elected on the alternate year. The President-elect, Vice-President West, Treasurer, and Student Branch Liaison shall be elected one year. The Vice-President Middle, Vice-President East, Secretary, and Web Designer shall be elected on the alternate year. At-large members may be elected as needed from anywhere in the state to serve a two-year term.** Terms of office shall begin with the conclusion of the state conference.

(a) Election. Officers shall be elected by majority vote of the membership present

(b) Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy in any office through death, resignation, or other cause, the position shall be filled by the member of the Executive Board most nearly fitting into that position until a meeting of the Executive Board, at which time the Executive Board shall designate a member in good standing to hold the office until the end of the term.

(c) Removal from office. An officer who fails to perform his or her duties may be removed from office by a majority vote of the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall notify the officer in writing of his or her removal from office.

ARTICLE V—MEETINGS

General meetings of Tennessee ACEI, including business sessions, shall be held annually at a time and place decided by the Executive Board. The Board may call special meetings when necessary. General meetings, including business sessions, shall be rotated among the three divisions of the state. At the discretion of the Executive Board, however, the rotation plan may be set aside.

ARTICLE VI—DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of this Branch, if such should occur, the Executive Board of the Branch shall return all of the assets of the Branch remaining after payments of debts and liabilities, to ACEI Headquarters. All funds will be transferred to ACEI for Branch Development.

ARTICLE VII—AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any meeting by a two-thirds majority of the members present, providing there has been a previous notice concerning the amendment.

ARTICLE VIII—PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the proceedings of the Association in all cases not provided for in this Constitution or Standing Rules.

STANDING RULES (By-Laws)

1. Dues. Annual dues shall be established by the Tennessee ACEI Executive board, to be paid annually in the Fall.
2. Duties of Officers and Committees. (See attached addendum.)
3. The fiscal year will run from January 1 to December 31.
4. Fees and a travel stipend will be paid for the President and President-elect to attend the annual conference of ACEI. Executive Board members will be reimbursed for travel expenses to and from board meetings. **omit**
5. These standing Rules may be amended, suspended, or rescinded at any regular special meeting of Tennessee ACEI by a majority of votes cast, provided notice of the proposed change has been sent with the call for such meeting.