

New York Association of Blind Students Constitution

ARTICLE I-- NAME:

The name of this organization shall be the New York Association of Blind Students.

ARTICLE II-- ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTER:

This organization shall be chartered as a State Chapter of the National Association of Blind Students and as a Division of the National Federation of the Blind of New York.

ARTICLE III-- PURPOSE:

The **purpose** of this Organization shall be to promote educational opportunities and the general well-being of the blind of this nation and the state to function as an integral part of the National Federation of the Blind.

ARTICLE IV-- MEMBERSHIP:

Section One Active Members:

At least a majority of the active members of this Organization must be students who are blind. All active members shall have the right to vote, serve on committees, speak on the floor, and hold office. Any person may become an active member of this organization upon application and payment of dues to the Treasurer of this Organization.

Section Two Associate Members:

Any person may apply for and receive Associate membership status at an annual business meeting or through an officer of this Organization. Associate Members shall have all the rights and privileges of Active Members, except that they may not vote or hold office. Associate Members do not pay dues.

Section Three Expulsion or removal of officers and/or board members:

Any member may be expelled for violation of this Constitution or for behavior unbecoming to a member of the National Federation of the Blind, by a majority vote of the members present voting at an annual business meeting or by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. The annual business meeting of this Organization may reinstate any person who has been expelled, unless such expulsion has been confirmed by the National Convention or by the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind; In this event the person may not be reinstated except by the National Convention or by the National Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind. Any person who feels that she/he has been unjustly expelled from this Organization may appeal to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind which may, at its discretion, consider the matter and make a binding decision. **Any officer including the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer or board members can be removed from office by a two-thirds majority with or without expulsion depending on the majorities decision. A special meeting must be called for that offices removal and replacement.**

ARTICLE V-- OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES:

SectionOne Officers:

There shall be an election held at the regular annual business meeting consisting of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The office of the secretary and the treasurer can be a combined elected office. The terms of their offices shall begin at the close of the annual business meeting at which they are elected and qualified. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of all members present and voting. There shall be no proxy voting. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the name of the person receiving the least votes will be removed from the list of nominees and a second ballot recorded. This procedure shall continue until one candidate receives a simple majority of the votes. The officers must be students who are blind and planning to attend an educational program in the academic year following the election.

Section Two Duties:

The duties of each officer shall be those ordinarily associated with that office.

ARTICLE VI-- OFFICES AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The Board of Directors of this Organization shall consist of three or Four Constitutional Officers including a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The office of the secretary and treasurer may be combined. The offices should also consist of a minimum of two other Board positions which are one year positions. The Board shall meet at the call of the President or on written call, signed by a majority of the Board Members. The Board shall advise the President and shall have charge of the affairs of this Organization between meetings. At least a majority of the Board must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business. The Board may be polled by telephone or mail/e-mail ballot on any question. The Board of Directors must be students who are blind.

ARTICLE VII-- MEETINGS:

Section One Annual Business Meetings:

The annual business meeting shall be held yearly and the time and place of which shall coincide with the time and place of the state convention of the National Federation of the Blind of New York. At least twenty-five percent of the active members must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business.

Section Two Special Meetings:

The President of this Organization may call a special meeting any time she/he or a majority of the Board of Directors deems such action to be necessary. At such special meetings at least twenty-five percent of the active members must be present to transact business. To call such a meeting, notice must be given to the Board of Directors at least ten days prior to the date of such special meeting.

ARTICLE VIII -- COMMITTEES:

The President may create such committees as she/he or the Organization deems necessary.

ARTICLE IX-- AFFILIATION:

The New York Association of Blind Students shall be an affiliate of the National Association of Blind Students and a division of the National Federation of the Blind of New York which is, in turn, an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind. The New York Association of Blind Students shall furnish to the President of the National Association of Blind Students and the President of the National Federation of the Blind of New York annually, on or before January first, a list of the names and addresses of the members who are elected officers of this Organization. A copy of the Constitution of the New York Association of Blind Students and all Amendments thereto shall be sent to the President of the National Association of Blind Students and to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of New York without delay. The New York Association of Blind Students shall not merely be a social organization, but shall formulate programs and actively work to promote the academic and social betterment of the blind. This Organization shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind and with the provisions of the contract appearing on the back of this charter of Affiliation issued by the state Affiliates by the National Federation of the Blind. Policy decisions of the National Federation of the Blind, whether made by the National Convention or the Board of Directors, are binding on this Organization and this Organization shall participate and act affirmatively in carrying out such policy decisions. As a condition of affiliation it is agreed by this Organization that the National Federation of the Blind, whether the decision is made by the Convention or the Board of Directors, has the power to expel or discipline an individual member and to expel or reorganize a state affiliate or local chapter. In the event of reorganization, the assets of the affiliate and the chapters belong to the reorganized affiliate, and the former affiliate shall dissolve and cease to exist. The New York Association of Blind Students, National Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof is the property of the National Federation of the Blind, and this Organization, upon the event of disaffiliation with the National Federation of the Blind, for whatever reason, shall forfeit the right to use the name New York Association of Blind Students, National Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof.

ARTICLE X-- DUES:

The dues of this Organization shall be set at two dollars and shall be payable at annual business meetings or by mail and also through pay pal online. No person may vote who is delinquent in the payment of dues.

ARTICLE XI-- DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS:

The funds of this Organization shall be deposited in a bank to be selected by the Treasurer with the approval of the other offices. All financial transactions shall be discharged by check or other draft issued on the order of the President and signed by a party of two consisting of President, Vice President, or Treasurer and, for emergency use only, the President of the National Federation of the Blind of New York.

ARTICLE XII-- DISSOLUTION:

In the event of the dissolution of this Organization or if, for any reason, it ceases to be a division of the National Federation of the Blind of New York, its assets shall be given to the National Federation of the Blind of New York to be held in trust for a reorganized student organization. In the event that no student group is reorganized within a period of five years from the date of dissolution, the assets may be deposited along with the general funds of the National Federation of the Blind of New York to be used for the purposes of that Organization.

ARTICLE XIII-- AMENDMENTS:

This constitution may be amended at the annual business meeting of this Organization by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the active members present and voting, providing that it is in compliance with the provisions of the Charter of Affiliation issued by the National Federation of the Blind and the policies of the National Federation of the Blind. Amendments may also be enacted at special meetings.

Article XIV-- RESIGNATION:

Upon resignation from an elected position the Officer must submit a signed letter stating reason and the effective date of resignation to the President of the New York Association of Blind Students

Article XV-- CHAPTERS:

A group of individuals of this organization may create their own chapter of the New York State Association of Blind Students which must be chartered by this organization with approval by a two thirds majority of the active members of this organization and approval by the president of the National Federation of the Blind of New York.