

**HOUSTON AREA ASSOCIATION FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION
CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS**

SECTION 1: ELIGIBILITY

Membership shall be open to all persons interested in advancing the cause of Bilingual/Bicultural Education. The following are eligible for membership:

- A. Any employee of a Houston area school district or university who serves bilingual or English as a Second Language (ESL) educational setting who is interested in promoting the content, procedures, and philosophy of bilingual-multicultural education in the Houston area schools through the interchange of ideas and practices.
- B. Any full-time student in a higher education institution.
- C. Any persons interested in the advancement of the education of linguistically and culturally diverse students.
- D. Any person interested in promoting and supporting the purposes and objectives of the HAABE Association.

SECTION 2: CATEGORIES

There shall be six (6) categories of membership: regular, student, parent, paraprofessional, lifetime and membership.

- 1. **Regular members** shall be current or former employees of public or private educational institutions. Regular members shall be accorded full association rights, privileges, and responsibilities, including the right to vote on all association matters, run for elective positions, and hold office and/or positions of trust in the association.
- 2. **Student members** shall be full-time undergraduate college or university students enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours or graduate students enrolled in a minimum of nine (9) semester hours and may be an active member of a Bilingual Education Student Organization (BESO) affiliate. Student members shall be accorded full association rights, privileges, and responsibilities, including the right to vote on all association matters, run for elective positions, and hold office and/or positions of trust in the association.
- 3. **Parent members** shall be parents, immediate family members. Parent members shall be accorded full association rights, privileges, and responsibilities, including the right to vote on all association matters, run for elective positions, and hold office and/or positions of trust in the association.

4. **Paraprofessional members** shall be employees of private or public schools who work as support personnel such as, but not limited to, instructional aides, testing aides, & parent liaisons, Paraprofessional members shall be accorded full association rights, privileges and responsibilities, including the right to vote on all association matters, run for elective positions, and hold office and/or positions of trust in the association.
5. **Lifetime members** shall be members who pay a lifetime membership which entitles all such members to all privileges and services of the Association for life. Lifetime members shall be accorded full association rights, privileges, and responsibilities, including the right to vote on all association matters, run for elective positions, and hold office and/or positions of trust in the association.
6. **Associate members shall** be those former regular, student, patron, paraprofessional, and parent members who are not current with their membership fees. They will have the right to participate in all HAABE events and receive relevant information from HAABE. They shall not have voting privileges.

SECTION 3: MEMBERSHIP YEAR

- A. The membership year will start on November 1st and end on October 31st.
- B. State and local dues shall be collected as one sum or by partial sums if on automatic payroll deduction.
- C. State dues shall be mailed to the TAABE treasurer as prescribed by HAABE constitution.

SECTION 5: DUES

The membership dues for HAABE will be set annually by the Executive Board upon.

SECTION 6: CENSURE, SUSPENSION, AND EXPULSION

A member who fails to adhere to any of the conditions of membership shall be subject to censure, suspension, or expulsion according to due process procedures established in Article IX.

SECTION 7: MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- A. Hold a minimum of two (2) general membership meetings a year.
- B. Special membership meetings may be called upon the written request of fifteen (15) members of the association to the Executive Board.