

The Illinois Subdivision for Early Childhood (IDEC) Constitution

Preamble: The IDEC is a non-profit member organization designed for individuals who work with or on behalf of children, birth through eight years of age, who have or are at-risk for developmental delays and disabilities and their families. As an organization we support the mission and vision of the International Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).

Article I - Name

Section 1. The name of this corporation shall be “The Illinois Subdivision of the International Division for Early Childhood” of the Council for Exceptional Children, (CEC) hereafter referred to as the Subdivision or IDEC.

Article II - Purpose/Philosophy

The DEC and IDEC promote policies and evidence-based practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays and disabilities.

- Section 1. To support state and federal legislation that may positively impact early intervention/early childhood special education (EI/ECSE).
- Section 2. To advocate for state and federal legislation, policy, and recommended practices in early intervention/early childhood special education.
- Section 3. To support individuals in Illinois who work with or on behalf of infants and young children who have or are at-risk for developmental delays and disabilities and their families by promoting:
- A. collaboration and communication among organizations, practitioners, and family members;
 - B. innovations in research and the development of new knowledge;
 - C. dissemination and use of information about research, resources, recommended practices and current issues; and
 - D. professional development through an array of activities and strategies.
- Section 4. To function in leadership roles in the planning and implementation of a statewide early childhood conference fostering collaborative relationships among co-sponsoring entities in order to provide training and networking to individuals concerned with the development and education of young children who have or are at-risk for developmental delays and disabilities and their families.

Article III - Membership

Section 1. All members of the IDEC shall maintain unified membership in the CEC and the DEC as required by International CEC and DEC.

Section 2. The Subdivision shall maintain a minimum of 15 members, who shall meet the membership qualifications established by CEC and DEC.

Section 3. Membership in International CEC and DEC runs 12 continuous months from the date of payment of CEC/DEC dues. The period of membership for each IDEC member shall be for this same period and renewable yearly.

Section 4. All members of IDEC will be voting members of IDEC.

Article IV - Organization

Section 1. The IDEC shall be recognized as an official subdivision of the DEC/CEC and shall be affiliated with the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children (ICEC). The IDEC will participate in ICEC through official voting representation.

Section 2. The fiscal year and the administrative term of office shall be July 1 through June 30.

Article V – Executive Board

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be President, a President-Elect who shall succeed the President, a Vice President who shall succeed the President-Elect, the immediate Past-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 2. All officers must be in good standing with CEC and DEC at the time of their nomination and election and remain so throughout their term of office.

Section 3. The Executive Board is responsible for the fiscal management of IDEC.

Section 4. The terms of officers are as follows: President, President-Elect, immediate Past President and Vice-President - one year; Secretary, and Treasurer - two consecutive years.

Section 5. The Administrative term shall be July 1 through June 30.

Section 6. Officer Vacancies

A. If a vacancy occurs in the office of the President, the President-Elect shall serve as acting President for the remainder of the term and shall commence the term as President at the expiration of said term.

B. If a vacancy occurs in the office of President-Elect, the Vice-President shall serve as acting President-Elect for the remainder of the term and shall commence the term as President-Elect at the expiration of said term.

- C. A vacancy in any of the offices, except President and President-Elect, shall be declared and filled by action of the Executive Board upon recommendation by the President, and such persons shall serve only until the end of the current administrative year or until replaced by a duly elected successor.

Section 7. Removal from office.

- A. A petition for removal of an officer shall be signed by at least five (5) members of the IDEC and submitted in writing to the President. If the President is the subject of the petition, it shall be presented to the President-Elect.
- B. The President (President-Elect) shall solicit relevant evidence from all parties concerned, and call a meeting of the Executive Board to consider the matter within thirty (30) days following receipt of the petition.
- C.
 - (1) Removal of an officer must be by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board.
 - (2) If the Executive Board cannot resolve the issue by a two-thirds (2/3) vote then it shall forward the petition and relevant documentation, with or without recommendations, to the general membership. A ballot shall be distributed (either in writing or electronically) and members shall be asked to vote on the removal of the officer.
- D. The ballot must be returned to the President (President-Elect) within thirty (30) days. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of members voting shall be necessary for the removal of the officer.

Article VI - Governance

Section 1. The elected officers (President, President-Elect, Vice President, immediate Past President, Secretary, and Treasurer), standing committee chairpersons and other appointed members shall constitute the Governing Board.

Section 2. Members of the Governing Board shall vote on all non-financial matters.

Section 3. The following shall constitute the Standing Committees:

- A. Membership
- B. Family Participation
- C. Publications
- D. Student
- E. State Conference (Sharing A Vision)

Section 4. Ad hoc committees may be established and their functions assigned at the discretion of the President. Such establishment must clearly indicate the purpose and length of service of the committee.

Section 5. Liaisons, representing collaborative partnerships with other organizations or entities, may be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board.

Article VII - Voting

Section 1. The Executive Board votes on financial issues in addition to all other issues. A quorum of half ($\frac{1}{2}$) or more Executive Board members is necessary to pass a vote.

Section 2. The Governing Board votes on IDEC By-Laws and non-financial issues. A quorum of half ($\frac{1}{2}$) or more Governing Board members is necessary to pass a vote.

Section 3. The IDEC membership votes on the IDEC Constitution and elected officers.

Article VIII - Meetings

- Section 1.
- A. A minimum of one (1) annual business meeting and three (3) additional meetings shall be scheduled, publicized and conducted from July 1 and June 30.
 - B. The Executive Board shall have the authority to conduct additional meetings.

Article IX - Amendments and Reviews

- Section 1.
- A. This constitution may be amended by vote and must pass by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of the members voting.
 - B. Proposed amendments to the constitution must be submitted to the President who, in turn, shall submit them to the Governing Board for review. The amendments shall then be submitted to the membership in writing 30 days in advance of the next business meeting, with or without recommendations as to adoption or rejection. Proposed amendments shall be voted on by mail ballot, or by a majority vote of members present at an IDEC business meeting.

Section 2. The By-Laws may be amended by a vote passed by a simple majority of those members voting, provided the membership has been notified at least 1 month prior to the meeting at which the vote will be taken.

Section 3. The constitution shall be reviewed by the Governing Board every five (5) years, and the By-Laws shall be reviewed by the Governing Board on an annual basis.

Article X - Dissolution

- Section 1. In the event of dissolution of this Subdivision, the Executive Board shall, after payment of all liabilities of the Subdivision, dispose of all the assets of the Subdivision by:
- A. Following specific procedures as determined by DEC, or
 - B. If no such procedures are mandated, forwarding them to CEC with a request that they be retained in a non-interest bearing account and made available should the IDEC ever be reorganized, or
 - C. Contributing them to a national or state, nonprofit organization or activity, the purpose of which is to serve the needs of children and youth with or at-risk for delays or disabilities.
- Section 2. Under no circumstances shall any of the property or assets of the Subdivision during its existence or upon the dissolution thereof be distributed to any officer, member, employer, or subsidiary of this organization.