

MISSISSIPPI DECA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
AS AMENDED February 17, 2018

ARTICLE I – NAME

The official name of this organization shall be the “**Mississippi DECA Association High School Division.**” The letters “DECA” may be officially used to designate this association.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

The purposes of this organization are

1. To assist international, state, and local associations in the growth and development of DECA
2. To develop leadership and a respect for education in marketing, business, finance, and hospitality and tourism which will contribute to career and technical competence
3. To promote understanding and appreciation for the responsibilities of citizenship in our free, competitive enterprise system
4. To develop an appreciation for civic and social opportunities

ARTICLE III – ORGANIZATION

Section A: The Mississippi DECA Association, High School Division, is an organization of local associations, each operating in accordance with a charter granted by Mississippi DECA Association, High School Division, formerly known as the Mississippi Association of Distributive Education Clubs of America, and Mississippi DECA – An Association of Marketing Students.

Section B: This Mississippi DECA Association, High School Division, shall be composed of high school students only. This association shall have an Executive Council of officers who shall be elected annually by its voting delegates.

The representation of the Executive Council shall be as follows:

1. All State Officers and their advisors.

2. The State DECA Coordinator, Office of Career and Technical Student Organizations.
3. The High School Division shall be divided into districts. “The High School Division shall be realigned at the discretion of the State Advisor based on geographic and membership shifts.”

Section C. The Mississippi DECA Association of Marketing Students, High School Division, shall have an Advisory Committee as an advisory group to the Executive Council and it shall be composed of the following:

1. The State DECA Coordinator
2. One coordinator from each district of the Mississippi DECA Association of Marketing Students, High School Division, to be selected by the State DECA Coordinator
3. A high school administrator, to be selected by the State DECA Coordinator
4. A business representative, to be selected by the State DECA Coordinator
5. Outstanding officer from previous year--If this person is called upon to attend a conference, it is his/her choice.

ARTICLE IV--MEMBERSHIP

Section A. The classes of membership that shall be recognized are as follows:

1. Active members
 - a. Career Pathway, marketing, management, finance, entrepreneurship or hospitality and tourism
 - b. Students enrolled in a career and technical program

- c. Students enrolled in any Marketing, business, management, finance, entrepreneurship, WBL or hospitality and tourism academic or career and technical course
2. Honorary members – can neither hold office and may not serve as a voting delegate.
3. Alumni members – can neither hold office and may not serve as a voting delegate.
4. Professional members – can neither hold office and may not serve as a voting delegate.

Section B. The qualifications for members shall be as follows:

1. **“Active members”** shall be students enrolled in a high school academic or career and technical program of Marketing, Management, Finance, Entrepreneurship, Hospitality and Tourism and Career Pathway Experience or any business or entrepreneurship course as approved by the State Plan for Career Pathway Experience, the Business Cluster, Hospitality and Tourism Cluster or Business Career Academies. Active members must pay dues as established by DECA and will be eligible to hold state or national offices and to participate in the State or National competitive activities.
2. An active member may serve as a voting delegate or may otherwise represent his/her chapter or state in any DECA affair within his/her own division.
3. High school active members shall be 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade students in the Career Pathway Experience classes, Business Cluster classes, Business Cluster Career Academies, Hospitality and Tourism Cluster, or any academic or career and technical business, hospitality and tourism, WBL, or entrepreneurship course.

4. Active members can also include students who have taken a Career Pathway Experience, Business Cluster, Hospitality and Tourism Cluster, Business or Entrepreneurship class and achieved at least a “C” average with no disciplinary or attendance problems. High school students in this category would be a high school student in his/her sophomore, junior or senior year. He/she would be able to serve as a voting delegate, compete in all levels of competition, and/or hold a state or national office of DECA. This option of active membership would be at the direction of each advisor.
5. Honorary members shall be any individual making a contribution to the field of the business or hospitality and tourism cluster or to the Mississippi DECA Association, High School Division. Honorary members must be approved by the Executive Council of the High School Division.
6. Alumni members shall be any individual who has been a member of a DECA chapter during their time in high school or college.
7. Professional members shall be any adult who is working full time in a field of education, marketing, management, hospitality and tourism, or finance.

ARTICLE V -- MEETINGS

- Section A. A State Leadership Conference shall be held every year at the time and place selected by the State DECA Coordinator. This State Leadership Conference shall be the official annual meeting of the Mississippi DECA Association, High School Division.
- Section B. Special meetings and committee meeting shall be called by the State DECA Coordinator.
- Section C. Parliamentary procedures of all meetings will be governed by the **Robert’s Rule of Order, Revised.**

ARTICLE VI -- OFFICERS

- Section A. The officers of the Mississippi DECA Association of Marketing Students, High School Division, shall consist of the following:
1. President
 2. Vice-President of Leadership

3. Vice-President of Communications
4. Vice-President of Marketing
5. District Coordinator from each of the districts

Section B. All officers, except District Coordinators, shall be elected by a majority of the voting delegates at the State Career Development Conference (CDC) of DECA. The state officer test score will count as 1/3 of the total votes.

District Coordinators shall be elected by a majority of the voting delegates of their respective districts at the State Career Development Conference. The Chair of the Board shall be elected by the outgoing State officers and serve on the Collegiate DECA Board of Directors as the liaison.

Section C. All officers shall be elected by secret ballot.

Section D. Each chapter shall be allowed voting delegates according to the following scale:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Number of Delegates</u>
1 – 15	1 delegate
16- 30	2 delegates
31 – 45	3 delegates
46 – 60	4 delegates
60 – up	5 delegates

Section E. The officers elected at the State Career Development Conference shall continue to hold office until the close of the next annual State CDC.

Section F. A record shall be kept of the results. In case of resignation of a State Officer, the runner-up for the said office shall succeed to fill the said vacancy, except for the office of the president. If there is no runner-up, the State DECA Coordinator may choose to appoint a person to fill the vacancy and may fill any office that is not filled at the time of elections.

ARTICLE VII-PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATING STATE OFFICERS

Section A. Any local chapter proposing a candidate for State Office shall submit the student's name and credentials to the State Coordinator at least 20 days before the first District Conference begins. During the District Conference, all officer candidates will be interviewed and tested; and the approved slate will be announced during the State CDC. If a State Officer who is presently holding office chooses to run for a second-term (granted he/she is eligible), he/she should run for a higher office than the one presently serving, but this is not required
Speeches and/or demonstrations on behalf of approved candidates at the State CDC are limited to a maximum of three minutes.

Section B. Each candidate for State Office shall have the following qualifications:

1. Be an active member of a local DECA Chapter
2. Be an active paid member of the State and National DECA organization
3. Show a working knowledge of how to conduct a meeting by taking a test on the essentials of good parliamentary procedures
4. Have a good speaking voice and make a good personal appearance
5. Have a working knowledge of the State Constitution and By-laws
6. Maintain an "80" average or better for the two semesters prior to running for office
7. Be a sophomore or junior in the year that he/she is a candidate for a State Office.

ARTICLE VIII--FINANCE

Section A. Local chapters shall be responsible for State and National dues according to the number of individual members.

Section B. The dues for the Mississippi DECA Association, High School Division, shall be six dollars (\$6.00) for each succeeding year unless changed by a majority of the voting delegates at the State CDC. (National membership is \$8.00)

- Section C. All membership dues shall be made payable to and received by National DECA.
- Section D. All organization funds shall be deposited in the bank that is chosen by the State Department of Education, Office of Accounting.
- Section E. All funds shall be disbursed by check request(s) signed by the State DECA Coordinator.
- Section F. A financial statement shall be submitted upon request.

ARTICLE IX--AMENDMENTS

- Section A. To amend this constitution, the proposed amendment must be presented in writing by a local chapter through its voting delegates to the Executive Council for action. The Executive Council has the responsibility to correct the proposed amendment but must not alter its purpose. The Executive Council shall present the proposed amendments to the voting delegates prior to the State CDC.
- Section B. Proposed amendments must be voted on at the first scheduled business meeting at the next State CDC. All proposed amendments to be adopted require a three-fourths majority approval of the voting delegates present.

ARTICLE X--QUORUM

- Section A. A quorum shall constitute a majority of delegates present representing the local chapters.
- Section B. Each chapter shall be allowed a minimum of one and a maximum of five voting delegates, the number being based on the voting. See delegates' scale under Article VI, Section D.

ARTICLE XI--RULES, REGULATIONS AD BY-LAWS

- Section A. No rules, regulations, or by-laws shall be adopted which are contrary to this constitution.
- Section B. Such rules, regulations, and by-laws as deemed necessary in the proper conduct of this organization shall be adopted.
- Section C. The Executive Council shall act as the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. Any proposed rules regulations and by-laws shall be

presented to the Executive Council through the voting delegates of the local chapter. The Executive Council has the responsibility to correct these proposals, but it must not alter their purposes. The Executive Council shall then present the rule(s), regulation(s), or by-law(s) change to the voting delegates prior to the State CDC. It shall then be presented for vote during the first scheduled business meeting at the State CDC. To be adopted, it will be required to have a three-fourths majority approval. The proposed change(s) will take effect immediately following the approval.