

North Carolinians for Home Education Bylaws

Home education is a growing movement in North Carolina and our nation. Homeschooling is not new, but is as old as history. America's own educational heritage is rooted in both home and church-sponsored schooling. Many of our nation's greatest leaders received their education at home.

North Carolinians for Home Education is an organization of families who support home education in North Carolina. It has grown from a small group of concerned parents into a statewide organization serving homeschoolers and advocating for home education. NCHE has a vision of flourishing families and thriving generations in which people remain passionate, curious and actively engaged in their faith and in their learning.

Home education is a great way to educate children, especially young children, and to nurture future generations. Home education situates a child's development in their natural environment and encourages learning that is experiential and knowledge that is integrated. Home education fosters strong social relations, starting in the home. As a result, home education nurtures the whole child.

The following bylaws are adopted to clarify our mission and structure and to unite those who support homeschooling in North Carolina for the common good of home education.

Article I – Name

The name of this organization is North Carolinians for Home Education, Inc. (NCHE), a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of North Carolina. Our name was selected so as to include all who are for home education, not just those who are currently homeschooling.

Article II – NCHE Mission

Our mission is to help parents homeschool with confidence and joy. We do this by working to:

- protect the rights of North Carolina citizens to homeschool,
- equip families with the information and encouragement they need, and
- connect families with other homeschooling families and groups across the state.

Article III – Core Values

- Parental Authority:** The authority and responsibility of educating and raising children belongs to parents.
- Home Education:** Home education is effective for establishing academic success, preparation for life, strong family relationships, and moral character.
- Service to All:** NCHE welcomes and serves all homeschool families, regardless of race or religious affiliation.
- Biblical Christianity:** NCHE operates on the basis of biblical principles, affirms the Nicene Creed, and holds to the authority of Scripture for doctrine and practice. As such, we provide support to Christian parents in helping their children to follow Jesus Christ.

Article IV – Membership

- A. Eligibility for membership: Anyone over eighteen (18) years of age who supports home education may join NCHE, having the privilege of membership. NCHE has two classes of membership:
 - a. In-state membership is for a person or family who resides in North Carolina. If currently homeschooling, they must be in compliance with existing North Carolina homeschool law. In-state members have the right to purchase an NCHE diploma and participation in the NCHE graduation ceremony. Other rights and benefits may be added or modified at the discretion of the board.
 - b. Out-of-state membership is for a person or family who doesn't reside in North Carolina. If currently homeschooling, they must affirm compliance with existing homeschool law in their state of residence. Out-of-state members have the right to purchase participation in the NCHE graduation ceremony. Other rights and benefits may be added or modified at the discretion of the board.
- B. The board of directors has the authority to require a minimum level of contributions or dues for membership.
- C. Membership roll: The names and contact information of members shall not be sold, published, or distributed for use outside of NCHE without their permission.

Article V – Board

- A. Authority of board: The control, administrative, and judicial authority of NCHE shall be vested in the board of directors (board).
- B. Board membership: The board will consist of directors (voting board members) and non-voting board members.
 1. Directors: Twelve directors will be elected annually:
 - a. President (The nominee for president shall have a minimum of one (1) year of service on the NCHE board and shall be serving at the time of the nomination.)
 - b. Activities director
 - c. Community relations director
 - d. Development director
 - e. Events director
 - f. Homeschool helps director
 - g. IT director
 - h. Law and policy director
 - i. Marketing director
 - j. Media director
 - k. Secretary
 - l. Treasurer
 2. Non-voting board members: Non-voting members of the board shall be advisors elected by the board and the spouses of the elected directors and advisors. An advisor is not a required position. Nominees for advisor shall have a minimum of three (3) years of service on the NCHE board.
 3. Officers: NCHE officers will consist of the president, secretary, treasurer, and executive director (if there is one).

- C. Board member qualifications: Board members shall be
1. actively homeschooling at least one child in their home except in cases where there are no school age children in the home,
 2. believers in and followers of Christ,
 3. a current NCHE member or donor (in the last 12 months), and
 4. in agreement with the NCHE mission and core values.
- D. Members ineligible: No individual shall become or continue as a member of the board if he/she is a director, officer, or employee of any other homeschool organization providing services similar to that of NCHE. (This shall not apply to local support group leaders.)
- E. Board meetings: The board shall meet at least quarterly and otherwise as needed to carry out the business of NCHE. Meetings may be called by the president or by four (4) voting board members who send notice of such meetings at least one (1) week prior to all voting board members.
1. Meetings may be held in person or by a conference call or a video meeting (or a combination); the type of meeting must be specified in the meeting notice.
 2. Moderator: The president shall moderate all meetings unless he/she is not present. In the absence of the president, the meeting will be moderated by a voting board member chosen by the president. If the president is not able to choose someone to moderate the meeting, then the secretary will choose a director to moderate the meeting.
 3. Quorum: A quorum shall be declared when at least fifty percent (50%) of voting board members are present, and adjournment of a meeting is required if less than fifty percent (50%) of voting members are present after the meeting has been called to order.
 4. Agenda: The agenda for each meeting shall be determined by the person(s) who called the meeting and delivered to each board member at least one (1) week prior to the meeting. The first action of the board at each meeting shall be to approve the agenda. The agenda may be suspended or modified by a simple majority of those present and voting.
 5. Closed session: A closed session of the board (consisting of voting board members and whomever the board determines needs to be present) may be ordered by a simple majority of those present and voting.
 6. Rules of order: The law and policy director will act as board parliamentarian who is or will become knowledgeable of a standard code of parliamentary procedure (such as Robert's). Such standard code shall stand as the rule of order except when in direct conflict with these bylaws and will control all parliamentary proceedings of the meeting of the board. Rules of order may be suspended by a simple majority of those present and voting.
 7. General Business: A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those directors present shall be required to pass motions of general business and policy unless there is a specific exception provided for in these bylaws.
 8. Board members that receive pay from NCHE for any service rendered or have any relatives receiving compensation from NCHE shall not be present during the discussion and the vote of any motion that relates to that service or compensation. This board member will have an opportunity to speak to the

motion before being dismissed from the discussion.

- F. New board year: When there is an annual conference, the new board year begins on the Saturday of the conference. When there is no annual conference, the new board year will begin on the last Saturday of May.

Article VI – Liaisons and NCHE Athletic Commissioner

- A. NCHE will have volunteer positions called liaisons to provide support and help connect homeschoolers to NCHE and within the homeschool communities across the state. Liaisons are encouraged to attend board meetings and take part in any discussions with the same rights and privileges as non-voting members.
- B. The NCHE Athletic Commissioner serves as chairperson of the NCHE Athletic Commission and oversees the administration of all leagues, pre/post season tournaments for all sports approved by NCHEAC.
- C. Liaison and commissioner qualifications: Liaisons and the commissioner shall be
 1. actively homeschooling at least one child in their home except in cases where there are no school-age children in the home,
 2. believers in and followers of Christ,
 3. a current NCHE member or a donor (in the last 12 months), and
 4. in agreement with the NCHE mission and core values.

Article VII – Election of Board Members, Liaisons, and the NCHE Athletic Commissioner

- A. Nominations of directors and liaisons: Members may submit recommendations for consideration for elected positions (other than advisors) at least ninety (90) days prior to the last day of the NCHE board year. The nominations and elections committee shall review all qualified candidates and nominate one (1) NCHE member or donor (in the last 12 months) for each position and present them to the board at least 45 days before the new board year for approval. No nomination shall be made by the committee without stated agreement by the nominee to serve in the position if elected and agreement of the nominee to uphold the bylaws of NCHE and that they are in agreement with NCHE's Mission Statement and Core Values.
- B. Election of directors, liaisons, and the NCHE Athletic Commissioner will be performed by the NCHE board. A two-thirds vote by the NCHE directors shall elect nominees that have been presented for election. Results of the selections shall be announced to NCHE members at the start of the new board year.
- C. Advisors shall be nominated by board members and elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the outgoing board prior to the new board year.
- D. A vacancy of any position (other than advisors) may be filled for the duration of the unexpired term. The position held by a member of the board of directors or as a liaison shall automatically become vacant in the event such member
 1. is convicted of any felony while holding office,
 2. is declared legally incompetent, ,
 3. submits a written resignation to the board,
 4. is removed by 2/3 of the remaining board.

5. or becomes ineligible per Article V. D. Members ineligible.

Article VIII – Committees and Commissions

- A. Qualifications for committee and commission members: Committee and commission members shall be
 1. a current NCHE member or a donor in the last 12 months,
 2. in agreement with the NCHE mission and core values.
- B. NCHE shall have the following standing committees.
 1. Activities (chaired by the activities director)
 2. Bylaws (chaired by the law and policy director)
 3. Community relations (chaired by the community relations director)
 4. Conference (chaired by the events director)
 5. Development (chaired by the development director)
 6. Events (chaired by the events director)
 7. Finance (chaired by the treasurer)
 8. Helps (chaired by the homeschool helps director)
 9. IT (chaired by the IT director)
 10. Legislative (chaired by the law and policy director)
 11. Marketing (chaired by the marketing director)
 12. Media (chaired by the media director)
 13. Nominations and elections (chaired by the community relations director)
 14. North Carolinians for Home Education Athletic Commission (NCHEAC) (chaired by the NCHEAC commissioner)
- C. If a director or commissioner position is vacant, the board can appoint a chair for any committee under that director or commissioner.
- D. Ad hoc committees may be appointed by the board with the period of existence and goals and objectives of such committees determined by the board.
- E. Committee members are nominated by the committee chairpersons and shall be approved by a 2/3s vote of the board.
- F. Committee meetings can be held in person or by a conference call or a video meeting, or some combination thereof. Committee meetings do not need to follow a specific rule of order but each decision shall be made by a motion with a 2/3s vote of the committee's quorum required for passage.

Article IX – Policies and Procedures Manual

The board shall maintain a policy and procedures manual that will more clearly define the job descriptions of the board members and the procedures to be followed by the board and standing or ad hoc committees.

Article X – Amendments

Any proposed changes to the bylaws should be presented to the bylaws committee. The bylaws committee shall present any proposed changes to the board. An affirmative vote by two-thirds (2/3) of current voting board members shall constitute adoption.