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5 **THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**
6 **OF THE**
7 **NATIONAL CAUCUS OF AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE**
8 **SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

9
10 **PREAMBLE**

11
12 The National Caucus of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) School Board Members serves
13 in an advisory capacity to the National School Boards Association (NSBA) in matters affecting
14 NSBA policy and program issues and serves to foster an organizational culture based on sound
15 education, research-based, and curriculum, assessment and evaluation principles.

16
17 **Article I**

18
19 ***Section 1. Name***

20
21 The official name shall be the National Caucus of American Indian/Alaska Native School Board
22 Members of the National School Boards Association.

23
24 **Article II**

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26 ***Section 1. Definitions***

27
28 "Caucus" is the National Caucus of American Indian/Alaska Native School Board Members
29 "AI/AN" is American Indian/Alaska Native
30 "NSBA" is National School Boards Association
31 "Membership" is participation in the caucus by the members
32 "LEA" is the local education association

33
34 **Article III**

35
36 ***Section 1. Purpose***

37
38 The purpose of the Caucus shall be to:

- 39
40 a) Promote quality education for all students with emphasis on and successes of the AI/AN
41 student.
42
43 b) Improve collaboration among all AI/AN school board members, their communities,
44 political leaders, state school board associations, tribal education committees, and the
45 NSBA
46

- 1 c) Assist AI/AN school board members to increase their leadership effectiveness in local,
2 regional and national efforts.
- 3
- 4 d) Promote school district, LEA, county, tribal, state, and national legislation to improve the
5 educational opportunities and reduce racial disparities of AI/AN students in public, tribal
6 and contract, or federally-operated government schools (i.e., Bureau of Indian Affairs).
- 7
- 8 e) Promote visibility, representation, and participation of American Indian/Alaska Native
9 school board members within the NSBA and its governance.

10
11 **Article IV**

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13 ***Section I. Membership***

- 14
- 15 a) All members shall support the purpose of the Caucus as set forth in Article IV
- 16
- 17 b) Regular membership is available to an elected or appointed board member of any public,
18 tribal, or contract school, as well as those schools operated specifically for American
19 Indian/Alaska Native students by the federal government (i.e., Bureau of Indian Affairs
20 schools) within the United States, or US territory. Regular membership shall also include
21 one AI/AN student and one AI/AN elder appointed by the Board of Directors. Dues for
22 both of these positions shall be waived. Additionally, representatives of American
23 Indian/Alaska Native school board associations designated tribal school officials or
24 designated tribal members shall qualify as regular members. A regular member has a
25 voice in all discussions, is entitled to vote on all issues, elects Officers, and is eligible for
26 election to any vacant office in the Caucus. A member who loses his or her local school
27 board seat may not continue to serve as a regular member, but will be encouraged to
28 participate in another membership status.
- 29
- 30 c) Associate membership is available to tribal administrators, educators, former board
31 members, past presidents who no longer remain on his or her school board, and members
32 of the Board of Directors of the National Indian Education Association, and other Indian
33 education organizations. The Associate member shall be entitled to all benefits provided
34 to regular members except voting or holding office.
- 35
- 36 d) The Caucus may from time to time invite persons to associate membership, as it
37 determines, for knowledge or specific experience on strategic issues.
- 38
- 39 e) Friend(s) of the Caucus is open to any individual who supports the purposes and goals of
40 the Caucus as set forth in Article III. A Friend member is not entitled to vote or hold any
41 vacant office in the Caucus.
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2 **Section 2. Dues**
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- 4 a) Dues for regular members shall be fifty dollars (\$50) per year payable on or before July 1
5 for the NSBA fiscal year, July 1-June 30.
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7 b) Dues for Associate members shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25) per year, payable on or
8 before July 1 for the NSBA fiscal year, July 1-June 30.
9
10 c) Dues for Friend(s) member shall be ten dollars (\$10) per year, payable on or before July
11 1 for the NSBA fiscal year, July 1-June 30.
12

13 **Section 3. Voting Rights**
14

15 Each regular member in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote at all meetings of the
16 Caucus in all matters properly presented and discussed before the membership. Voting by proxy
17 is not permitted. Decisions by the Caucus shall be by majority of those present except for by-law
18 changes according to Article IX. The order of business in each meeting of the Caucus shall be in
19 accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition.
20

21 **Section 4. Quorum**
22

23 At each meeting of the Board, a simple majority of members in good standing that are present at
24 the time of the meeting, official notice having been given, shall constitute a quorum.
25

26 **Article V**
27

28 **Section 1. Board of Directors**
29

30 The Board of Directors shall be elected by the membership at the annual business meeting and
31 shall consist of the Caucus Officers, Ex Officio member, and five Regional Directors. The
32 Board of Directors shall meet at least annually at the time of the Annual Conference to transact
33 business and to elect and appoint Executive Committee Members. A quorum of the Board of
34 Directors shall be a minimum of six persons at a Board of Directors meeting.
35

36 **Section 2. The Executive Committee**
37

38 The Executive Committee shall consist of the Caucus Officers, and at least two of the five
39 Regional Directors. These Regional Directors are to be elected to the Executive Committee by
40 the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall have power to act on behalf of the Board
41 of Directors in between duly called board meetings via teleconference meetings, and shall have
42 the responsibility of planning the annual meeting of the Caucus, with Board approval. A quorum
43 of the Executive Committee shall be a minimum of 4 persons. All actions of the Executive
44 Committee are subject to ratification by the Board of Directors at the next Caucus meeting.
45
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1 **Section 3. Ex Officio**

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3 In addition to the Regular Caucus Officers and the Regional Directors, the President of the
4 National Indian Education Association or his/her designated official shall be an ex-officio voting
5 member of the Board of Directors of the Caucus.
6

7 **Article VI**

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9 **Section 1. Officers and Terms of Office**

10
11 The Officers of the Caucus shall consist of a President, President-Elect, and Secretary-Treasurer,
12 Immediate Past President, and the Elder. Each Officer shall serve a term of two (2) years and/or
13 until the selection and installation of his or her successor. No person may hold more than one
14 office at the same time. No Officer may serve more one term in the same position. The student
15 may only serve one year, the elder may be re-appointed.
16

17 **Section 2. Regional Directors and the Terms of Office**

18
19 There shall be five (5) Regional Directors, representative of the five regions as established by the
20 AI/AN Caucus (Central, Northeast, Pacific, Southern and Western). Regional Directors shall
21 serve a term of two (2) years, such terms to be staggered so that three are elected in odd
22 numbered years, Southern, Pacific, and Western, and two are elected in even numbered years,
23 Central and Northeast. Regional Directors may not serve more than two (2) consecutive two-
24 year terms.
25

26 Those areas are defined below:
27

28 Central (9)

29 Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin.
30

31 Northeast (13)

32 Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,
33 New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, U.S. Virgin Islands
34

35 Pacific (9)

36 Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawai, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington
37

38 Southern (12)

39 Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina,
40 Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia
41

42 Western (9)

43 Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota,
44 Wyoming.
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1 **Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities of Officers and Regional Director**

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- 3 a) President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Caucus. He or she, in
4 consultation with the Board of Directors, shall appoint advisory committees or task
5 groups to provide input to the Board of Directors but without authority to implement
6 actions and for a specific period of time, as may be advisable.
7
- 8 b) President-Elect. The President-Elect shall preside at meetings in the absence of the
9 president, at the request of the president, or upon a vacancy when the president is unable
10 to serve. He or she shall also be responsible for publishing the Caucus newsletter. The
11 President-Elect automatically succeeds to the office of President at the end of the annual
12 business meeting.
13
- 14 c) Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer , assisted by staff, shall have care and
15 custody of all funds, shall keep accurate account of financial records of the Caucus; shall
16 keep the official minutes of all meetings of the Caucus and the Executive Committee;
17 shall keep an official membership roster up-to-date at all times; and shall give advanced
18 notices of all scheduled meetings, as appropriate.
19
- 20 d) Regional Directors. The Regional Directors shall be responsible for contacting and
21 attending, as possible, the organized state Caucuses together throughout the year and
22 shall attend regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.
23
- 24 e) President, National Indian Education Association (NIEA). The NIEA President or
25 designated official shall be an ex-officio voting member of the Caucus and shall also be
26 an ex-officio non-voting member of the Executive Committee.
27

28 **Article VII**

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30 **Section 1. Meetings**

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32 The annual business meeting of the Caucus shall be convened at the annual conference of the
33 NSBA. The date and time shall be determined by the Board of Directors of the Caucus. The
34 Board of Directors and the Executive Committee may meet by teleconference between meetings
35 of the Caucus. Minutes of the annual meeting will be approved by the membership at the next
36 business meeting.
37

38 **Section 2. Nominating Committee**

39

40 Nominating Committee of the Caucus shall be composed of regular members appointed by the
41 President of the Caucus. The Caucus membership shall be notified thirty (30) calendar days
42 prior to the annual meeting about identified vacancies. The Immediate Past President shall serve
43 as the Chair of the Committee. The committee shall submit a slate of Officers and Regional
44 Directors, consisting of one or more nominees for each position, to the general membership at its
45 annual meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, provided the consent of
46 the nominee has been obtained. When the position of immediate past president is vacant, the

1 Nominating Committee will be chaired by a member of the Executive Committee designated by
2 the President. The President shall not be a member of the Nominating Committee.

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4 **Section 2. Elections**

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6 The election of Officers and Regional Directors shall take place at the annual meeting of the
7 Caucus; such annual meetings shall be conducted in the same location and during the same time
8 as the Annual Conference and Exposition of the NSBA. The election shall be by secret ballot.
9 Voting by proxy shall not be allowed. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall
10 be declared the winner and succeed to the position for which he/she was nominated and shall
11 take office at the close of the annual meeting.

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13 **Section 3. Vacancies**

14
15 The President, with the consent and confirmation of the Executive Committee shall fill vacancies
16 occurring in any office, except for the office of President or President-Elect. Such appointee
17 shall serve the unexpired term of that office. If there is a vacancy for any reason in the office of
18 the President, the President-Elect shall succeed to the office to complete the unexpired term and
19 shall serve a full-term as President upon completing the remainder the of term caused by the
20 vacancy. The Executive Committee will notify the Chair of the Nominating Committee if any
21 vacancy cannot be filled by provisions for the President to appoint a member to fill the position.
22 The Nominating Committee will recommend that the Board of Directors appoint a member pro
23 tempore to perform the duties of the vacated office until the position is filled by election by the
24 general membership at the annual business meeting of the Caucus.

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26 **Section 4. Absences**

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28 If a member of the Board of Directors is absent for three (3) meetings within one year from
29 regularly scheduled meetings, the position shall be considered vacant. The Executive Committee
30 may, at its next meeting, waive that result for good cause.

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32 **Article VIII**

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34 **Section 1. Dissolution**

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36 Should this organization be dissolved or terminated in any manner, all real and personal property
37 shall be held for use of its successor organization. In no case shall any real or personal property,
38 or proceeds from the sale thereof, be retained to the pecuniary benefit of any member of the
39 Caucus. In case of any eventuality not covered in this document, the Executive Committee of
40 the Caucus is empowered to dispose of such assets in the best interests of the Caucus.

1 **Article IX**

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3 **Section 1. Amendments**

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5 This Constitution and Bylaws may be repealed, amended or changed by a two-thirds (2/3)
6 majority vote of those members present and eligible at the annual business session of the Caucus.
7 Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern omissions from these bylaws, when they do
8 not conflict with this document.
9

10 These bylaws are intended to permit the Caucus to carry out duties in its advisory capacity to
11 NSBA consistent with the emphasis on AIAN students. These bylaws may be amended at any
12 time by the super majority vote of the members who are present at a duly held meeting, provided
13 that written notice of the meeting and of the proposed amendment shall be given to each member
14 not less than (10) days nor more than (30) days before any meeting of the Caucus at which an
15 amendment of the bylaws is to be adopted.
16

17 **Section 2. Adoption**

18
19 These bylaws of the National Caucus of AI/AN School Board Members of the NSBA shall
20 become effective upon the signature of the President of both the Caucus and NSBA.
21

22 **Section 3. Review**

23
24 These bylaws shall be reviewed and revised accordingly at least every three years.
25

26 Approved:

27
28 _____
29 National Caucus of American Indian/Alaska
30 Native School Board Members
31

32 _____
33 Date
34

35 **Originated:**

- 36 Revised: April 1999
- 37 Adopted: April 1999
- 38 Revised: March 2000
- 39 Adopted: March 2000
- 40 Revised: September 22-23, 2000
- 41 Adopted: September 22-23, 2000
- 42 Revised: April 6, 2002
- 43 Adopted: April 8, 2002
- 44 Revised: April 7, 2003
- 45 Revised: October 2004
- 46 Adopted: April 18, 2005