



Article 1

Name and Location

The name of the organization shall be the Science Teachers Association of Texas (STAT), a nonprofit corporation incorporated in the state of Texas. The STAT principal office shall be located in the state of Texas. The executive Committee may determine and/or change the location of the principal office of STAT. Additional offices, either within the State of Texas or elsewhere may be established by the Executive Committee.

Article 2

Mission and Purposes

It is the mission of the Science Teachers Association of Texas (STAT) to build a community dedicated to advancing science teaching and learning.

The purposes for which STAT is organized are to:

- 1** Build and strengthen networks for Texas educators
- 2** Disseminate current scientific research
- 3** Provide quality professional growth opportunities in content and pedagogy
- 4** Inform policy makers and the public regarding science education issues
- 5** Establish STAT as a resource for science education; so that all students are scientifically and technologically literate, responsible, and productive citizens

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Article 3

Membership Categories, Procedures, and Rights

3.1 Membership Categories: STAT may have the following membership categories:

A Regular: Shall be individuals in pre-K–12 education and administration, informal and higher education, and others who share the mission and goals of STAT.

B Business: Shall be business entities who share the mission and goals of STAT.

C Retired/Student Teacher: Shall be pre/post service teachers who share the mission and goals of STAT.

3.2 Membership Procedures

A Application: All applications for membership shall be submitted to the STAT office using designated applications forms and must include payment.

B Transfer: Memberships may not be transferred.

C Resignation: Any STAT member may resign by filing a written resignation with the Executive Director. There will be no refunds or proration of dues.

3.3 Membership Rights

A Voting Rights: STAT members have the right to vote on proposals approved and presented by the Executive Committee by way of designated voting procedures.

B Hold office: Current STAT members who have maintained membership for a minimum of one year may be eligible to hold office.

Article 4

Dues

4.1 Dues: Dues for all categories of membership shall be established by the Board of Directors.

4.2 Refunds: No dues shall be refunded to any member whose membership terminates.

Article 5

Executive Committee

5.1 Members: The Executive Committee shall be current members of STAT and consist of positions recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by vote of the membership. No Executive Committee member may serve concurrently as an Affiliate Representative. No two (2) offices on the Executive Committee may be held by the same person, except in the event of appointment due to office vacancy. Officers shall not receive compensation for performing his or her duties associated with STAT.

5.2 Responsibilities: The Executive Committee shall vote on corporate and financial decisions for STAT.

5.3 Nominations: The Executive Committee shall approve a slate of eligible candidates to be voted on by the membership. Additional nominations for officers may be made by petition bearing the signatures of no less than one percent (1%) of the Members of STAT as long as this petition is submitted to the President in a manner appropriate for inclusion as an agenda item before the last Board of Directors meeting before elections.

5.4 Voting and Election Results: Voting may take place electronically. Candidates receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected. A tie will be resolved by vote of the executive committee. The results will be published.

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5.5 Term of Office: Each office will be on staggered two (2) year terms, with the exclusion of the President, President-Elect and Immediate Past President. Together, these positions constitute a three (3) year term.

A President: Shall be the chief executive officer of STAT and shall assume the office of Past-President after having served as President.

B President-Elect: Shall work cooperatively with the President in administering the affairs of STAT and assume the office of President after fulfilling the term of President-Elect.

C Immediate Past-President: Shall advise the president and president-elect and assume office after having served as President.

D Vice-President: Shall assume the office of President-Elect in case of vacancy and may be re-elected to serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms in that office.

E Secretary: Shall be responsible for documentation of all regular and special meetings and shall serve a two (2) year term in that office.

F Treasurer: Shall oversee all STAT financial activities and shall serve a three (3) year term in that office.

G Members At-Large: Shall represent the needs of the members and shall serve a two (2) year term in that office.

H Executive Committee reserves the right to stagger board elections to ensure no more than five (5) positions are being elected in any one given year.

5.6 Quorum: At all meetings of the board, a majority of members shall constitute a quorum.

5.7 Removal from Office and Vacancies: Any Executive Committee member failing to fulfill their duties of office may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee. Any vacancy, with the exception of President and President-Elect, shall be filled for the remainder of the term by appointment of the President with the approval by a majority of the executive committee.

Article 6 Board of Directors

6.1 Members:

A Executive Committee: Shall consist of President, President-Elect, Past President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, three Members At-Large.

B Affiliate Representatives: Shall solicit ideas for policies from the affiliate members, disseminate policies of STAT, participate in working committees to fulfill the purpose of STAT, suggest position statements, and make recommendations to the Executive Committee.

C Executive Director: Shall be contractual with duties defined in a contract approved and reviewed annually by the Executive Committee.

D TEA Representative: Shall inform the STAT Board of Directors of legislation and issues relative to science education that come before the Texas State Board of Education.

6.2 Responsibilities: Shall be to solicit ideas for policies from the membership, formulate and disseminate policies of STAT, review the annual budget, participate in working committees to fulfill the purpose of STAT, establish position statements, and make recommendations to the Executive Committee.

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Article 7

Affiliates

Any active statewide science association of Texas with twenty-five (25) or more science educators who share the goals and purpose of STAT may petition to become an Affiliate by fulfilling the following requirements:

7.1 Application: The organization shall make formal application in writing to the Executive Director for Affiliate status. The Board of Directors shall review and approve all affiliate applications with majority vote.

7.2 Documentation: The organization shall submit the following documents and information for review with the letter of application:

- A. Copy of the organization's Constitution and/or Bylaws
- B. Membership list including the permanent addresses of its members
- C. Percentage of members who are members of STAT
- D. Accounting of income and expenditures for three (3) years prior to application
- E. Copies of any publications
- F. Membership form(s)
- G. Report of organization activities for three (3) years preceding application.

7.4 Continued Affiliation: Affiliate Organizations must fulfill obligations established by STAT and submit a membership list and financial statement annually.

Article 8

Meetings

8.1 Annual Membership/Business Meeting: An annual business meeting shall be held at the Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST). Fifty (50) Members of STAT shall constitute a quorum for the annual meeting.

8.3 Regular Meetings of the Board of Directors: Shall be held a minimum of twice a year. Notice of the meetings shall be posted.

8.4 Special Meetings of the Board of Directors: May be called by the President or any five (5) members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Director shall give notice at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

8.5 Executive Committee Meetings: Meetings may be called as necessary to conduct the business of the organizations and may take place via conference call, face-to-face meeting, or by various electronic means, provided that notification to all members has been dated at least five (5) calendar days before the meeting, there is a participating quorum, and that the identity of all members can be verified.

Article 9

Committees

9.1 General Responsibilities: Members of standing committees shall assume their duties and serve a term that coincides with that of the President. All committees shall communicate with the board of directors at least once annually and at other times as necessary.

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9.2 Standing Committees: STAT may maintain standing committees in order to carry out the business of the organization and serve the members of the organization. Standing committees may consist of the Budget Committee, Policy and Procedures Committee, CAST Planning Committee, Nominations Committee, Technology Committee, and Awards Committee.

9.3 Ad Hoc Committees: The President may appoint such committees as necessary to facilitate the management of STAT. Such committee appointments may be made for a term to coincide with that of the President, unless otherwise provided.

Article 10

Records and Property

10.1 Records: STAT shall keep correct and complete records of accounts, property and equipment, memberships, minutes of all meetings, and committee reports. All records of STAT may be inspected by any member for any purpose relating to STAT business at any time during business hours.

10.2 Property: All property purchased by STAT shall be used for the sole purpose of STAT business and shall be returned to STAT upon request.

Article 11

Indemnification

STAT shall indemnify its officers and directors, in performance of official duties of the association by and through a policy of liability insurance in an amount and to the extent determined by the Executive Committee. Such indemnification shall be limited and restricted to coverage afforded by such insurance, unless otherwise approved by the Executive Committee.

Article 12

Finance

12.1 Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of STAT shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

12.2 Budget: The STAT budget shall be adopted annually by the Executive Committee.

12.3 Policy: STAT shall adopt an investment policy to be reviewed annually and approved by the Board of Directors.

12.4: Audit: STAT shall establish a schedule for financial audits.

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Article 13

Amendments

13.1 Substantive Changes: The STAT Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed by the majority of members choosing to vote. Notice of proposed changes shall be presented to members thirty (30) days prior to the close of voting. Voting may take place either at the STAT annual meeting or by electronic means.

13.2 Non-substantive Editorial Changes: Editorial changes to the Bylaws may be made by a unanimous vote of the Executive Committee. The membership shall be notified at least thirty (30) days before changes become effective.

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