

As revised on 10-23-09

**Rockford Education Association
Constitution**

Preamble

We, the professional educators of the Rockford Public Schools, believing that the professional staff must institute its own self-government, secure proper recognition, and be responsible for the well being of its members, adopt this Constitution.

I. Name

The name of this Association shall be the Rockford Education Association, (REA) a local affiliated unit of the Michigan Education Association and the National Education Association. The Association shall be a nonprofit corporation organized in accordance with the laws of Michigan, REA/KCEA/MEA/NEA.

II. Purposes

The objectives of this association shall be the improvement of education, the advancement of the interests of education and educators, the promotion of the professional growth of its members, and to raise standards and improve the welfare of the individual member.

III. Membership

Sec. 1 – All persons, excluding central office personnel, employed and engaged in staff services who meet the active membership requirements of the Michigan Education Association may, upon payment of dues as herein provided, become active members of Rockford Education Association (REA) with full rights and privileges of membership.

Sec. 2 – Active members of this Association shall also be members of the Michigan Education Association and the National Education Association.

Sec. 3 – No member shall be censured, suspended, or expelled without a due process hearing before the Executive Board. An appeal may be made to the MEA Board of Reference.

Sec. 4 – Persons who tender agency shop fees (fee payers) shall have no rights or privileges within this Association.

IV. Officers and Boards

Sec. 1 – Officers The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair. The terms of officers shall be for two years and commence on July 1.

Sec. 2 – Executive Board The Executive Board shall consist of elected officers, RA Delegates, and standing committee chairs.

Sec. 3 – Executive Council There shall be a governing body known as the Executive Council, which shall consist of the Executive Board with the addition of Association representatives from each building.

Sec. 4 – Replacement Any member of the Executive Board who fails to submit a resignation after vacating the position, or is absent from three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of the Board without an acceptable reason, shall no longer be considered a member of the Executive Board. The position shall be declared vacant. Vacancies in the office shall be filled according to procedures provided in the Bylaws.

Sec. 5 Representation of Minority Persons 3-1G The ethnic representation shall be in compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Education Association and the Michigan Education Association. In the event that the ethnic representation is less than required by the Constitution and Bylaws of the MEA and NEA, rules and procedures shall be established for an at-large election to insure proportionate ethnic minority representation.

V. Direct Legislation

Sec. 1 – Initiative and referendum The rights of popular initiative and referendum shall rest with the active membership of the Association. Upon receipt of a petition signed by fifteen percent (15%) of the active membership of the Association, the Secretary shall announce a general meeting or ballot as indicated on the petition within fifteen (15) calendar days for the purposes presented in the petition. A majority of the total active membership shall be required for its adoption, which shall take effect thirty (30) days later.

Sec. 2 – Recall The right of recall shall rest with the electing body. Upon receipt of a petition signed by fifteen percent (15%) of the active membership of the Association, the Secretary shall announce a general meeting or ballot as indicated on the petition within fifteen (15) calendar days for the purposes presented in the petition. A majority of the total active membership shall be required for its adoption, which shall take effect thirty (30) days later. Delegates to the MEA Representative Assembly may only be recalled for just cause.

Sec.3- Petitions shall be filed with the secretary. However, if the secretary is the subject of the petition, the petition shall be filed with the most senior member of the governing body not subject to the petition.

VI. Membership and Fiscal Year

The membership and fiscal years shall be September 1 through August 31.

VII. Authority

Any part of this Constitution and/or Bylaws, which is in conflict with the MEA and/or NEA Constitution and/or Bylaws will be declared null and void.

VIII. Amendment

Sec. 1 – Amendments to this Constitution may be introduced by the membership by petition signed by fifteen percent (15%) of the total active membership and submitted to the Secretary. Amendments to the Constitution may also be introduced by the Executive Council. These proposed amendments shall be acted upon at a subsequent meeting of the membership or by ballot within at least sixty (60) days of submission. A copy of the proposed amendment, together with the recommendation of the Executive Council, shall be sent to each member of the Association at least fifteen (15) days prior to voting. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting is required to adopt the proposed amendment, which shall become effective immediately upon adoption unless otherwise provided.

Sec. 2 – The Constitution must be reviewed every three (3) years.