



CONSTITUTION

New Mexico DECA Inc.

ARTICLE 1 NAME

Section 1.1 The official name of this organization shall be New Mexico DECA and may be referred to as the New Mexico Association of DECA.

ARTICLE 2 PURPOSE

Section 2.1 The mission of New Mexico DECA is to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

Section 2.2 New Mexico DECA's guiding principles shall be to help student members leverage their DECA experience to become academically prepared, community-oriented, professionally responsible, and experienced leaders.

Section 2.3 New Mexico DECA's core values and attributes are competence, innovation, integrity, and teamwork.

ARTICLE 3 ORGANIZATION

Section 3.1 New Mexico DECA is an association of local DECA chapters within the State of New Mexico.

Section 3.2 New Mexico DECA shall be composed of four divisions including High School, Collegiate, Alumni, and Professional. Student members of the High School Division shall be governed by an Executive Council of elected officers.

Section 3.3 The administration shall be vested in the Board of Directors. The New Mexico DECA Corporate Bylaws define the membership, duties, authority, and selection process of the Board of Directors.

Section 3.4 The Executive Council shall consist of the officers of the New Mexico DECA High School Division.

- A. The Executive Council may appoint such committees, as they deem necessary for the operation of that division, subject to the approval of the Chartered State Association Advisor or their designee.
- B. The Chartered State Association Advisor, or their designee, shall be an advisor to the Executive Council. In addition, the respective advisors shall serve in an ex-officio capacity to the Executive Council.

Section 3.5 New Mexico DECA is divided into two (2) districts in order to meet the needs of its membership. The Board of Directors must approve any changes to the schools listed in each of these districts. A written request must be received by the state office by the deadline posted.

ARTICLE 4 MEMBERSHIP

Section 4.1 Chartered Association

- A. Charter Holder. New Mexico DECA is chartered through the New Mexico Public Education Department as a chartered association of DECA Inc., with the administration, policy, and governance entrusted to New Mexico DECA, Inc.
- B. Chartered Association. The state association shall consist of all affiliated chapters within the boundaries of the State of New Mexico. A chapter may be affiliated in public and private schools in which Career Technical Education, or the equivalent courses are offered. The chapter shall be composed of students possessing the qualification of membership.

Section 4.2 Local Chapter

- A. Organization. A chapter may be organized whenever, in the judgment of teachers, students, and administrators, it would be advantageous to do so.
- B. Affiliation. Affiliation shall be made according to the process prescribed by DECA Inc.
- C. Chapter Bylaws. Chapter bylaws shall be adopted by the local chapters to govern the transaction of business. Bylaws shall be consistent with those of the national and state associations.
- D. Charter. Upon approval by DECA Inc., a local chapter charter shall be issued. The local chapter shall then be recognized as an affiliate of New Mexico DECA.
- E. Good standing. Local chapters in good standing shall be those that maintain policies consistent with those of DECA Inc., and New Mexico DECA, Inc. and which annually send to the National Office:
 - State and National dues for each participating student by published deadlines each year.

Send to state office:

- A list of names and addresses of the officers of the local chapter immediately upon election
- Any amendments to chapter bylaws.

F. Suspension. Any local chapter failing to meet the requirements for good standing may be suspended from membership for one year, as determined by the Board of Directors.

G. Reinstatement. Upon meeting the requirements for good standing, the local chapter may be reinstated by the Chartered Association Director or their designee.

Section 4.3

Membership Qualifications

A. Active members will be students who are or have been enrolled in marketing or marketing-related classes, who pay the required dues and are currently enrolled in high school or chartered school. Final decisions regarding membership eligibility (within the above guidelines) will be made by the local DECA Advisor. Active members are eligible to participate in competitive events or projects, hold an office, make a motion, and vote.

B. Collegiate Members. Any student attending a post-secondary institution within the state of New Mexico has paid dues and meets the membership criteria as set for by DECA Inc. and New Mexico DECA, Inc. shall be considered an active collegiate member.

C. Alumni Member. An active member upon graduation from high school or post-secondary institution shall be entitled to an alumni membership upon receipt of state or annual dues.

D. Professional members. Members associated with or participating in the development of DECA as approved by the state association. These members may include teacher coordinators, teacher educators and students enrolled in teacher education programs, employers and/or training station sponsors of marketing education students, advisory committee members, and others contributing to DECA's growth and development. Professional members shall be recognized upon receipt of annual dues.

Section 4.4 Honorary Members

- A. Any individual who has rendered outstanding service to New Mexico DECA by advancing its mission and purposes, shall be eligible for honorary membership.
- B. Honorary members shall be elected by a majority vote at any meeting of the Executive Council and approved by the Board of Directors.
- C. Honorary members shall have the privilege of attending all meetings of the organization.

ARTICLE 5 VOTING

Section 5.1 Members shall exercise their voting privileges in New Mexico through duly selected Voting Delegates of each chapter of New Mexico DECA in good standing.

Section 5.2 Each active chapter shall be allowed two voting delegates.

ARTICLE 6 MEETINGS

Section 6.1 Each active division of New Mexico DECA shall conduct a minimum of one meeting annually for the purpose of conducting the association's business.

- A. The majority of the Chapter members registered at the conference shall constitute a quorum.
- B. Majority shall determine voting decisions.
- C. The Executive Council shall meet as scheduled, and with the approval of the Chartered Association Advisor or Board of Directors may call special meetings.
- D. Parliamentary Procedure for all meetings of New Mexico DECA shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.
- E. This meeting may be held in person or electronically.

ARTICLE 7 CHARTERED ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Section 7.1 Chartered Association Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the Voting Delegates at an annual business meeting of that division. The

Chartered Association Candidate Guide shall define all voting and election procedures.

Section 7.2 The Chartered Association Candidate Guide and Officer Handbook shall define the positions, duties, qualifications, and procedures for removing officers and filling vacancies in office.

Section 7.3 Individuals elected as Chartered Association Officers shall assume their office at the close of the annual State Career Development Conference at which they were elected. The new team will work in conjunction with the outgoing team for the NM DECA Chartered Association Meeting at ICDC.

ARTICLE 8 NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE

Section 8.1 New Mexico DECA members seeking to be a candidate for DECA National Officer shall meet the requirements and regulations set forth by National DECA and follow the procedures as outlined in the New Mexico DECA National Officer Candidate Handbook.

Section 8.2 The New Mexico DECA Board of Directors must approve any potential candidates. The potential candidate must submit a letter of intent to the New Mexico DECA Board of Directors by January 15. If two potential candidates wish to run for the same position, the New Mexico DECA Board of Directors will select the best-qualified candidate by a simple majority vote. The New Mexico DECA State Advisor may reject any potential candidate with the consensus of the New Mexico DECA Executive Council.

Section 8.3 New Mexico DECA will provide financial support for approved National officer candidates from NM at a total amount of \$1.00 for each national DECA member in the state of NM, as of November 1. This amount is not to exceed \$1,000 per candidate. If there is more than one approved candidate, they will each receive an equal portion of the total amount of support from New Mexico DECA. Each state is allowed a maximum of two candidates for national office.

ARTICLE 9 FINANCES

Section 9.1 The Board of Directors shall manage all New Mexico DECA finances, determine financial policy, approve all budgets, and make available annual financial statements for inspection upon request.

Section 9.2 The Board of Directors shall have the authority to determine fees to cover the program and operational expenses of New Mexico DECA.

Section 9.3 The Finance Chair of the Board of Directors will oversee the New Mexico DECA scholarship checking account and/or any other accounts obtained in the name of New Mexico DECA. Those accounts that are under the management of a fiscal agent will be reviewed by the finance chair and approved by the board of directors. All monies generated by fundraising, sponsorships, registration, and membership fees belong to New Mexico DECA. Finances will be maintained by generally accepted accounting principles through New Mexico DECA's fiscal agent. In the event that New Mexico DECA no longer has a fiscal agent, the responsibility of the maintenance and auditing of New Mexico DECA's financial records falls to New Mexico DECA, Inc.

ARTICLE 10 EMBLEM AND COLORS

Section 10.1 The emblem of New Mexico DECA shall be determined by DECA Inc.

Section 10.2 The colors of New Mexico DECA shall be determined by DECA Inc.

Section 10.3 Chartered associations and local chapters are permitted to use the trademarked official DECA logos and the DECA name on printed materials and websites. In order to use DECA logos and the DECA name on promotional items, such as accessories and clothing, prior permission must be obtained from DECA Inc.

Section 10.4 All chapters need to follow the DECA branding guidelines as published by National DECA, Inc.

ARTICLE 11 AMENDMENTS

Section 11.1 This Constitution may be amended at the annual business meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Voting Delegates present and voting.

Section 11.2 The amendments may be proposed by:

- Any local chapter in good standing
- The Executive Council
- The Board of Directors
- The Chartered Association Advisor or their designee

Section 11.3 Amendments must be received in the State Office thirty (30) days prior to the annual business meeting.

Section 11.4 Amendments shall be approved by the Chartered Association Advisor or their designee.

Section 11.5 Notices of the proposed amendments shall be distributed to local chapters by the Chartered Association Advisor before the annual business meeting.

ARTICLE 12 RESTRICTIONS

Section 12.1 No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that NM DECA shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any of the Internal Revenue Law). No substantial part of the activities of NM DECA shall be the carrying on of propaganda otherwise attempting to influence legislation and NM DECA shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision, NM DECA shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by any organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE 13 PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 13.1 ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, newly revised, shall govern the business of the State Chartered Association of New Mexico DECA in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE 14 STANDING RULES

Section 14.1 Standing rules shall be adopted if and when the need arises.

ARTICLE 15 DISSOLUTION

Section 15.1 Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code; or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

Amendment History

Article 3.3 amended, November 2015

Article 3.4 amended, July 2016

Article 3.4 amended, December 2019

Article 4.5 amended, December 2019

Constitution revised, August 3, 2020

Article 12 amended, October 16, 2020

Article 14 added, July 2021

Article 6 amended, March 1, 2022

Article 13 added, March 1, 2022

Article 7.3 amended March 4, 2025

Article 10.3 added March 3, 2026

Article 10.4 added March 3, 2026

Standing Rules

New Mexico DECA

Electronic Meetings

- A. Procedures for electronic meetings:
- B. The chair, or at the request of three executive board members, or a committee chair, may call for an electronic meeting.
- C. Electronic meeting minutes shall be approved at the next board meeting or by a minutes' approval committee before the next executive board meeting.
- D. The chair, secretary or committee chair shall schedule a conference service line and provide all participants an electronic meeting notice that includes the time of the meeting, and access information needed to participate.
- E. Members shall announce themselves at the first opportunity after joining the electronic meeting.
- F. Members who leave the electronic meeting prior to adjournment shall announce their departure before disconnecting.
- G. The presence of a quorum shall be established by roll call at the beginning of the electronic meeting and on the demand of any member.
- H. To obtain the floor, a member shall address the chair and state his or her name.
- I. Members are entitled to make motions orally during a meeting and are required to write the motion in the chat. Members may also submit motions in writing to the secretary at least 24 hours prior to the electronic meeting. The secretary shall send any such pre-submitted motions by e-mail to all members in advance of the electronic meeting.
- J. All votes taken during the electronic meeting shall be taken by roll call. The business may also be conducted by unanimous consent.
- K. Each member is responsible for his or her connection to the conference call; no action shall be taken on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented him or her from participating in the electronic meeting.
- L. The chair may disconnect or mute a member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the electronic meeting. The chair's decision to do so, which is subject to an undebatable appeal that can be made by any member, shall be announced during the meeting and recorded in the minutes.