

# NEW JERSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

## CONSTITUTION

### Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be New Jersey Middle School Association. This organization shall be affiliated with National Middle School Association.

### Article II - Purposes

The purpose of the New Jersey Middle School Association shall be the general improvement of education for middle level students in the State of New Jersey. Specifically, the Association shall:

1. Facilitate continuing curriculum improvement, staff development, school planning, and other phases of middle level education.
2. Serve as a clearinghouse for exchange of ideas, materials, and personnel needed for middle level development.
3. Support agencies and groups in the state interested in educational improvements at the middle level.
4. Encourage the universities to better prepare educators for the middle level through certification requirements.
5. Represent middle level education in professional and public discussions of education programs and concerns based on NCATE standards.

### Article III - Membership

Membership shall be open to educators and all other persons interested in middle level school-aged youth who are committed to the goals and purposes of the Association. Upon initial application for and the granting of membership, a member shall thereafter continue membership as long as the member complies with all rules and regulations of the Association, including the timely payment of all dues.

### Article IV - Administration/Officers

Section 1. The officers of this association shall be President, President Elect, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Professional Development, Director of Membership, Director of Public Relations, and Collegiate Liaison as appointed by the Executive Board and Regional Directors representing the North, South, and Central regions of the state. The Past President, President, and President Elect will serve two year successive terms. The secretary will serve for one year the first year of the association: thereafter the secretary's term will be for two years. The Treasurer shall serve two years beginning with the first year. The Regional Directors will serve for three years except the first directors who will serve two year, three year, and four year terms as determined at the convening meeting. The Director of Professional Development, Director of Membership, Director of Public Relations, and Collegiate Liaison will serve for two years.

Section 2. The Regional Directors shall represent the following counties:

North Region:	Warren, Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris
Central Region:	Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, Mercer, Monmouth, Union, Ocean
South Region:	Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Atlantic, Salem, Cumberland, Cape May

Section 3. The officers shall serve July 1 - June 30.

Section 4. To assist the officers of the Executive Board there shall be affiliate leaders, County Representatives for each county and Building Representatives for each building of middle school age students. The country representatives and building representatives will serve July 1 - June 30 as appointed by the Regional Director or designee.

Section 5. Vacancies on the Executive Board will be filled through a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board. The Executive Board will be responsible for appointments to the following positions: Director of Professional Development, Director of Membership, Director of Public Relations, Collegiate Liaison, and Executive Assistant and Committee Chairs.

#### Article V - Meetings

Section 1. The Executive Board of the Association shall meet monthly, September through June and at other times mutually agreed upon by the members of the board. The President shall in the event of an emergency have the authority to postpone or cancel a scheduled meeting, or convene a conference call meeting. The officers of the association will be required to attend 80% of all Board Meetings to maintain their position.

Section 2. The Association shall hold an annual Middle School Conference at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Board. At each annual conference there shall be an official meeting of the Association. At this meeting there will be reports, opportunity to adopt resolutions, opportunity to nominate and elect members to the Executive Board, opportunity to hear from individuals or groups, and the transaction of any other business which the Executive Board wishes to refer to the Association.

Section 3. The dates, time and place of Executive Board meetings and the annual meeting shall be published in each issue of the Association newsletter and/or posted on the website.

Section 4. The voting members of the Executive Board will include the President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, Regional Directors, Director of Professional Development, Director of Membership, Director of Public Relations, and Collegiate Liaison

#### Article VI - Amendments

This constitution may be amended upon approval by (1) a majority of the Executive Board or (2) by two-thirds of the members of the Association present at the annual Middle School meeting or (3) by a ballot election of the voting members. All amendments will be distributed to the membership 30 days prior to the annual meeting.

#### Article VII - Committees

Standing and special committees shall be appointed by the President. The President and President-elect shall be ex-officio members of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The Executive Board shall provide guidance and assistance in the development of committee activities.

#### Article VIII - Expenditures

The funds of the Association shall be disbursed in accordance with annual budgets as approved by the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall have power to transfer unused balances from one item to another. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse the funds of the Association and together with the Executive Board shall make an annual accounting available to the membership.

#### Article IX - Assets on Liquidation

Section 1. No part of the net income, revenue, or grants of the Association shall inure to the benefits of any member or private individual (except in payment for requested services rendered in connection with Association purposes). In the event of dissolution or liquidation, the assets of the Association, after payment of debts and obligations, shall be transferred to an organization with federal tax exemption for charitable and educational purposes similar to those of the Association, which exempt organization shall be designated by the final Executive Board of the Association.

#### Article X - Parliamentary Procedures

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall be the authority governing all matters of procedure not otherwise specified in the Constitution of these By-Laws.