

Educators Rising

Bylaws



Proposed 2022

In 2015, PDK International – in its 115-year commitment to the profession of education – launched Educators Rising, formerly the Future Educators Association (FEA). Today, Educators Rising is cultivating a new generation of highly skilled educators by guiding young people on a path from high school through college and into their teaching careers. By working with aspiring educators who reflect the demographics of their communities and who are passionate about serving those communities through public education, Educators Rising is changing the face of teaching.

ARTICLE I **Name and National Headquarters**

Section 1. Name

The name of the program shall be Educators Rising and may be referred to as EdRising or the Future Educators Association (FEA).

Section 2. National Headquarters

The location of the national headquarters of the national program shall be recommended by the Chief Executive Officer and approved by the PDK International Board of Directors.

Section 3. Branding

The national program's emblem, colors, tagline, and any other elements of the brand shall be recommended by the national staff and approved by the National Senate and voting delegates.

ARTICLE II **Mission and Purposes**

Section 1. Mission

Educators Rising is cultivating a new generation of highly skilled educators by guiding young people on a path from high school through college and into their teaching careers. By working with aspiring educators who reflect the demographics of their communities and who are passionate about serving those communities through public education, Educators Rising is changing the face of teaching.

Section 2. Purposes

The general purposes of the program are to:

1. inspire middle school, high school, and college students to serve their communities by entering the field of education.
2. diversify the educator workforce.

The specific purposes of the program are to:

1. establish pathways starting in middle and high school and leading into college to assist districts in cultivating their own next generation of highly skilled educators through a Grow Your Own initiative.
2. provide opportunities to explore teaching as a career option.
3. help students gain a realistic understanding of the nature of education and the role of the teacher.
4. provide opportunities for future educators to explore the necessary skills to teach equitably and add student voice to national discussions around education.
5. coordinate information about teaching as a profession, employment opportunities, financial assistance options, and educational issues.
6. provide a space for a community of future educators to interact with and build connections with one another.

7. ensure that all students have highly skilled educators.

ARTICLE III **Program Structure**

Section 1. National Program

Educators Rising shall be a national program of PDK International and consists of State and/or Regional Affiliates and independent chapters as approved by the national staff.

Section 2. Chartered State and Regional Affiliates

State and/or Regional Affiliates are established through a Memorandum of Agreement and issuing of a state charter by the national program. Individual State and/or Regional Affiliates shall be considered in good standing if they meet the following requirement each membership period:

- A. have active local chapters of Educators Rising.
- B. require national affiliation as well as State and/or Regional affiliation for all members.
- C. file such reports and records as required by the national program.

Section 3. State and Regional Coordinators

Educators Rising State and Regional Coordinators provide additional support and programming for members within their state or region and shall be responsible for managing the affiliated state as set forth by the national staff.

Section 4. **Chapters**

A chapter may be affiliated in public and private schools looking to participate in a Grow Your Own Program and diversify the education profession. The chapter shall be composed of students possessing the qualifications for membership.

Section 5. **Membership Qualifications**

- A. Active Membership. Any middle school, high school, or collegiate students exploring a career in education shall be eligible for active membership within the school. Active members shall be eligible to hold office, make motions, and vote.
- B. Professional Membership. Any professional educators who are mentoring aspiring educators, looking to start Grow Your Own Programs, or working to address the teacher shortage and diversify the profession shall be eligible for professional membership. Professional members shall not be eligible to hold office, make motions, or vote.

Section 6. **Membership Year**

The membership year begins on July 1 and concludes on June 30 the following year.

ARTICLE IV Dues and Fiscal Year

Section 1. **National Dues**

The dues of the national program for all membership types shall be recommended by the National Student Leaders and PDK International Board of Directors and approved by the voting delegates at a regular meeting of the national program.

Section 2. **State Dues**

Affiliated State and/or Regional programs may charge additional membership dues. Such dues shall be in addition to the national dues. The national program shall collect these dues at the same time as the collection of national

dues and remit payment to the state affiliates.

ARTICLE V Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the Educators Rising program, assets shall remain with PDK International. A dissolved chapter and/or State Affiliation shall return funds to their original source and cannot be repurposed. Funds not able to be returned to their original source shall be distributed to the national office.

ARTICLE VI National Student Leaders

Section 1. **National Officers**

The national program shall have at least three national officers. Such officers shall be members of the National Student Leaders. The offices shall be President, Vice President of Engagement, and Vice President of Communications. Other offices may be designated, as necessary, by the national staff.

The total number of officers shall not exceed six.

Section 2. **Qualifications**

National Student Officers shall meet all of the qualifications set forth by the national staff.

Section 3. **Nomination and Election**

- A. A nominating committee shall be composed of five members of the Senate and chaired by the immediate past National Student Leaders President. The nominating committee shall evaluate the national officer candidates and select a number of candidates not to exceed twice the number of positions available for National Student Leaders to move on to the next round of the election process.
- B. All voting delegates shall evaluate the national officer candidates presented by the nominating committee. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes will

be elected as the National Student Leaders.

- C. If it is impossible to hold a national meeting, the election may be conducted electronically or by mail as determined by the PDK International Board of Directors.

Section 4. **Officer Duties**

- A. The President shall preside at the Educators Rising National Conference and all officer meetings and coordinate the development of the annual program of work among the National Student Leaders and national staff.
- B. The Vice President of Engagement shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President and collaborate with the national staff to recommend activities best suited for members and the education community.
- C. The Vice President of Public Relations shall keep the minutes of all regular and special meetings and handle general correspondence.
- D. Other offices and duties of the National Student Leaders may be adjusted as determined by the national office.

Section 5. **National Student Leaders Duties**

The National Student Leaders shall serve as ambassadors of the national program to promote and grow the Educators Rising community. The National Student Leaders shall make themselves available, as necessary, to promote the general welfare of Educators Rising.

Section 6. **Advisors**

- A. The Director of Membership shall serve as the official advisor to the National Student Leaders.
- B. State and Regional Coordinators or Teacher Leaders accompanying National Student Leaders members to meetings shall serve as consultants to the national staff.

Section 7. **Term of Office**

Officers shall serve for one year as a National Student Leader, or until their successors are elected. Upon the completion of their term, and during the year immediately thereafter, officers may serve as advisors to the current National Student Leaders.

Section 8. **Vacancies**

- A. If the office of the President should become vacant, the national staff shall appoint a current member of the National Student Leaders to automatically assume the office and duties of the President.
- B. Appointment for vacancies in offices other than the President, which occur before one-half of the officer's term, shall be made by the national staff.
- C. With the exception of the office of the President, if a vacancy occurs after one-half of the officer's term has been completed, the duties of the vacant office shall be assumed by the remaining members of the National Student Leaders as determined by the national staff.

ARTICLE VII

Board of Directors

The legal governing body of Educators Rising shall be the PDK International Board of Directors. The primary functions of the Board shall be those identified in the PDK International Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII

Meetings

Section 1. **National Conference**

The time and place of the National Conference shall be determined by the national staff. The purpose of the conference shall be to transact the business of the national program.

Section 2. **National Senate**

- A. The National Senate shall consist of the State President of each chartered State Affiliate. In the event a State

Affiliate does not have a State President, an individual should be appointed by the State and/or Regional Coordinator for that state. Contact information for each State President, or appointed representative, must be communicated to the national staff by the State and/or Regional Coordinator no later than October 1.

- B. The National Senate shall be responsible for reviewing any and all business to be brought before the voting delegates at the National Conference, including but not limited to: amendments to these bylaws, changes to membership dues, changes to national program policy, etc. The National Senate shall also have the power and authority to develop committees, make recommendations, and propose changes to these bylaws or national program policy.
- C. The National Student Leaders shall not have voting rights in the National Senate but shall have the right to make motions and debate.
- D. The National Senate shall meet virtually at least two times per year.
- E. The National President shall be the presiding officer of the National Senate. In their absence, another member of the National Student Leaders shall be appointed by the National President to serve as the presiding officer, pro-tempore.
- F. The Vice President of Public Relations shall serve as the Secretary of the National Senate. In their absence, another member of the National Student Leaders shall be appointed by the National Vice President of Public Relations to serve as the Secretary, pro-tempore.
- G. A majority of the members of the National Senate shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The same shall pertain to all

committees of the National Senate. Proxy voting is not allowed.

Section 3. **Voting Delegates**

The number of voting delegates to which each chartered State Affiliate is entitled shall be determined by the number of active members within the state on February 1 of the meeting year according to the following scale:

Each chartered State Affiliate with active members shall have one voting delegate.

Each chartered State Affiliate shall have one additional voting delegate following the affiliation of the first 100 members.

Each chartered State Affiliate shall have one additional voting delegate following the affiliation of each 100 members, thereafter.

Section 4. **Voting**

- A. The privilege of making motions, debating, and voting shall be limited to the designated voting delegates and the National Student Leaders. Proxy voting is not allowed.
- B. A majority of the voting delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE IX

National Staff

The national staff shall be those individuals employed by PDK International whose work is directly related to Educators Rising.

ARTICLE X

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. **Parliamentary Procedure**

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the business of the national program in all cases in which they are applicable and consistent with these bylaws.

Section 2. **Parliamentarian**

A qualified parliamentarian shall be available, when needed, to

assist with conducting the business of the national program.

ARTICLE XI Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at the National Conference by two-thirds of the voting delegates present and voting with the following provisions:

- A. Amendments shall be proposed by: a chartered State Affiliate, the National Student Leaders, national staff, or National Senate 90 days prior to the National Conference.
- B. The National Senate shall review and approve proposed amendments for recommendation to the voting delegates.
- C. Notice of proposed amendments shall be circulated by the National Vice President of Public Relations to all State and/or Regional Coordinators for distribution to their voting delegates at least 45 days prior to the National Conference. Amendments shall be considered only as presented in the official notification to the chartered State Affiliates.
- D. The national staff shall be allowed to make editorial changes to these bylaws that do not interfere with their intention or purpose.