

CONSTITUTION

PROPOSED NAME:

Association for the Advancement of Inclusive and Equitable Education in South Africa (AAIEESA)

DEFINITION:

A voluntary association of role players and other relevant stakeholders who are part of a community of learning and practice aimed at increasing and improving the inclusion of all people with or without disabilities and disadvantages in education.

PURPOSE:

To create a platform for participating members to formulate and provide expert guidance and advice to relevant role players in the field of education (e.g. State departments, Educational institutions, Educators) to improve inclusivity and equity in education in South Africa.

LEGAL STATUS:

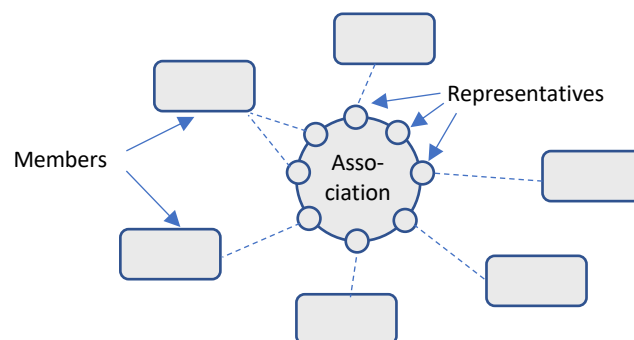
The Association is a voluntary, non-profit body. It has no legal status in its proposed form. The Association will not own any assets or employ any staff.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership is voluntary and does not require registration with the Association.

Membership shall be open to all Education Departments, Institutions and persons who support, and can contribute to, the objectives of the Association. These partners should agree to comply with the rules, regulations and responsibilities of the Association.

The Association members will identify, invite and approve all future new members to the association.



MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES:

Should a member be unavailable to attend a meeting, they may nominate a maximum of 2 representatives to attend formal meetings of the Association.

CHAIRMANSHIP:

The process for electing the chairman, and the rotation thereof, will be decided by the members of the Association.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

There will be no membership fees.

Member organisations and their representatives will be responsible to manage their own costs to attend Association meetings, conferences and events. Any additional overhead costs required to host Association meetings and events (e.g. conference venue, catering, event coordinator, stationary, etc.) will be shared in a fair and equitable manner by members agreed upon by the Association members.

Sponsorships may be sought to fund certain activities of the Association. The funds may only be utilised to cover actual expenses for the event, and not for the purposes of accumulating cash reserves in a financial account..

The Association shall establish appropriate financial controls and procedures to safeguard the financial decisions, transactions and integrity of the Association. All financial transactions and affairs conducted by or on behalf of the Association will be recorded, accounted for and reported to the Association members on an agreed basis and frequency.

MEETINGS:

Formal Association meetings, open to all member representatives, will be conducted on a regular basis (e.g. quarterly, twice-yearly) at a frequency, venue and time agreed upon by members.

Member organisations or groups can nominate maximum 2 representatives each to attend the official meetings

Meetings can be conducted in-person or by utilising appropriate video conferencing software platforms.

At the conclusion of each Association meeting, the representatives will agree upon issues to be discussed in the next meeting.

The agenda for each meeting will be compiled by the Chairperson, with assistance from the Management Committee members, and circulated timeously prior to the next meeting.

GOVERNANCE:

Key decisions involving and impacting on the Association and its activities, will be attended to at the formal meetings of the Association representatives.

Where necessary, the Chairman of the Association will disseminate information and decisions to member organisations and groups by means of regular and formal communications. In addition, individual representatives attending the Association meetings also carry responsibility to communicate information and decisions emanating from the Association meetings to their respective organisations or groups.

Ongoing operational matters, as well as urgent and unexpected matters that may arise from time to time, will be attended to by a selected Management Committee of three members.

Where possible, any decisions or recommendations of the Management Committee required to be formulated outside of the formal Association meetings will be communicated to, and ratified (where necessary) by the Association members

by means of an agreed communication process using various electronic media (e.g. email, social media, messaging groups, etc.)

Amendments to the adopted constitution can only be affected with the approval of at least two thirds of the member organisations.

ASSOCIATION ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Networking:**

- Assist in building a cooperative network of partners with credibility and position within the field of inclusive and equitable education.
- Establish relations and engage with the various Education Departments on National and Provincial levels (e.g. Basic Education, Higher Education), South African Council of Educators (SACE) and other professional associations and stakeholders where needed.

2. **Communication:**

- Provide a platform for communication, debate and deliberation among members of the network of role players in order to advance inclusivity and equity in education
- Effect communication and dissemination of information to the broader community of role players in various forms and on various platforms, e.g. through journals, workshops, conference, newsletters, research publications, etc.

3. **Advocacy:**

- Advocate and exert influence for the rights of all persons who are marginalised in the education system, including those with or without disabilities, to access quality education and learning.
- Actively engage the general public and relevant stakeholders on a regular and consistent basis regarding the inclusion of persons who are marginalised in the education system, including those with or without disabilities.
- Provide relevant information about inclusivity and equity in education and learning.

4. **Support:**

- Provide informed guidance and advice to role players involved in advancing education of persons who are marginalised in the education system, including those with disabilities.
- Provide professional support and assistance to relevant stakeholders in order to develop and strengthen their understanding, including their implementation practices with regards to inclusive and equitable education in South Africa.
- Educate role players and communities by facilitating the availability of educational programs, workshops or training sessions.
- Provide guidance and support to the role players involved in policy and curriculum development

5. **Coordination:**

- Play a coordinating and facilitating role to ensure the effectiveness of any initiatives, projects and task teams that the Association are responsible for or are involved in, or where such coordination is requested by any of the role players

6. Funding:

- Assist where possible in seeking and obtaining financial donations and sponsorships and directing these funds to relevant areas of need.

7. Monitoring:

- Develop protocols to monitor the effectiveness of the Association
- Develop protocols to monitor the progress in the field of inclusive and equitable education in South Africa