



**Bylaws
Of Region IV
Association of Texas
Professional Educators
(ATPE)**

ARTICLE I. NAME and PURPOSE

Section 1: Name

This organization shall be known as the Region IV Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE).

Section 2: Purpose

ATPE Region IV is organized to promote the purposes and guiding principles of the Association of Texas Professional Educators, as defined in the State Bylaws. These purposes include: to further education as a service and as a profession through support of public control of public schools in Region IV; to promote activities, services and training for educators; and, to develop and maintain high standards of professional ethics among all ATPE members. In addition, ATPE Region IV is organized for the following purposes: to provide leadership in assisting ATPE local units within Region IV; to implement the programs and objectives of the state and regional organizations; to assist in the promotion of items of concern to ATPE Region members; to ensure an uninterrupted education for all students, and preserve free choice for all educators; to act as a liaison between the members of Region IV and the state organization; to promote professional growth; and, to assist and promote the formation and development of college and local units within the region.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Boundaries

In accordance with Article VIII, Section 1 of the ATPE State Bylaws, ATPE Region IV shall coincide with the boundaries established by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for Education Service Center Region IV in its Texas School Directory updated October, 1979, (with the sole exception that Waller County shall

be considered a part of Region VI), and includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Liberty counties.

Section 2: Membership

As stated in the ATPE State Bylaws, ATPE members within the boundaries of a region are members of that respective organization. As such, persons who have paid the prescribed ATPE state membership dues for the current membership year, who educate or reside within the boundaries of Region IV, and who have not otherwise had their state membership suspended will be members of Region IV. The membership year of the Association shall be from August 1 through July 31 of the following year.

Section 3: Charter Procedures

Region IV will submit a copy of its duly adopted bylaws and its officer list, upon amendment, to the ATPE state office.

Section 4: Voting Rights

All professional, associate, teacher trainee, college student, and retired members of ATPE Region IV shall be entitled to vote when a matter is submitted for a vote. The only voting rights accorded to the membership of ATPE Region IV shall be to participate in a Region assembly and in the election of a region director and region officers and to participate in referendums. No proxy voting shall be recognized.

ARTICLE III. REGION OFFICERS

Section 1: Region Officers

The officers of ATPE Region IV shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Immediate Past President, and a Director. No two offices may be held simultaneously by the same person.

Section 2: Tenure/Term

All region officers, with the exception of the Director and the President, shall take office on August 1, following his/her election, and shall serve a one-year (1) term of office, ending on July 31, of the following year. The President and Director shall take office on August 1, following his/her election, and shall serve a two-year (2) term of office, ending on July 31 at the end of the two-year term. The President and Director are elected on alternating years.

No officer may hold the same office for more than two years in succession, except for the President and the Director who may serve for four years if elected to a second term, and except that any person who assumes an office for the remainder of an existing term or terms may be elected to full terms in that office immediately

following his/her partial term.

Section 3: Qualifications

All region officers shall be members of ATPE Region IV as dues paying members and be employed or retired from a public school district.

Section 4: Election

The Region Executive Committee shall appoint a Nomination/Election Committee to receive nominations for all offices except Immediate Past President, and including that of the Region Director. The President shall automatically succeed to the office of Immediate Past President. Only nominations received at least 30 days prior to the annual Spring meeting of the Region 4 Assembly at which the election shall be held, shall be included by the Nominations/ Election Committee on the ballot of nominated candidates. Additionally, nominations may be submitted from the floor of the ATPE Region IV Assembly. A list of nominated candidates shall be given to the Local Unit Presidents of Region IV at least ten (10) days prior to the regular annual Spring meeting of the Region IV Assembly.

The officers of ATPE Region IV shall be elected by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting during the regular annual Spring meeting of the Region IV Assembly. Each officer shall hold office until his/her successor has been duly elected and qualified.

Section 5: Removal

Any officer may be removed for cause by an affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the Region IV Assembly, provided a notification indicating that there will be a vote on whether or not to remove an officer has been given to all members at least thirty (30) days in advance.

Section 6: Vacancies

An officer may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the Region IV Executive Committee. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by succession of the Vice President to the office of President for the remainder of the term. A vacancy in any other office, except that of the Region Director, may be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by an appointee of the Region Executive Committee.

A vacancy in the office of the Region Director will be filled in accordance with the terms outlined in the ATPE State Bylaws: (a) if more than one third (1/3) of the term remains, the vacancy will be filled by an election within the region organization at the next Region Assembly; (b) if less than one third (1/3) of the term is remaining, the Board of Directors shall fill the vacancy by appointment from the membership within the respective region.

Section 7: Duties

The officers of the ATPE Region IV shall have and shall exercise the duties as outlined in the ATPE State Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 5.

(a) **President.** The President shall plan the meetings. He/she shall preside at those meetings, direct the planning of all programs, assist in the coordination of the activities between Region IV ATPE and the local organizations, and perform all duties incident to the office of president and all other duties given to him by the bylaws of the regional organization.

(b) **Vice-President.** In the absence of the President, or in the event the President is unable to act or refuses to do so, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President. When so acting, he/she shall have the powers of and shall be subject to all the restrictions placed upon the President. The Vice-President shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the President or the regional organization.

(c) **Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings, and perform all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President.

(d) **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of and shall be responsible for all funds. He/she shall perform all the duties incident to the office of treasurer and such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President. He/she shall keep the officers duly apprised of the financial condition of the regional organization and shall render a written fiscal report at least annually.

(e) **Immediate Past President.** The Immediate Past President shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him/her from time to time by the President.

(f) **Director.** The Director shall perform the duties as outlined in the state bylaws Article V, Sections 3 and 10. In addition, he/she shall be responsible for the coordination of the activities between ATPE and his/her region and aid in the formation of local units.

ARTICLE IV. REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1: General Power

Subject to these bylaws and the overall policy directives of the Region Assembly, the affairs of ATPE shall be managed by the Region Executive Committee.

Section 2: Region Executive Committee

The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, and Director shall collectively constitute the voting members of the Region Executive Committee, and shall have duties as herein/after described. The Executive Committee may not amend, alter, or repeal the bylaws. Only the Region Assembly shall have that authority.

Section 3: Duties

The Region Executive Committee shall have and exercise the authority of the Region in the management of the Region. In addition, the Region Executive Committee shall have the following powers:

- (a) Determine annually the number of members of, and appoint such members to, all standing committees. From the committee members so appointed, the President shall have the authority to designate the chairperson
- (b) Appoint such special committees as considered necessary and desirable.
- (c) Require each Region Officer, including the Region Director, and all such committees, to submit periodic and annual reports to the Region Executive Committee. Such reports shall be subject to such action as the Region Executive Committee may deem appropriate. Annual reports from standing committees shall be forwarded by the Region Executive Committee to the Region Assembly, and the Region Executive Committee shall have authority to present all others as appropriate.
- (d) Receive and review an annual report of financial matters of the Region from the Treasurer, and shall print and distribute to each member of the Region Assembly at its annual meeting.
- (e) Have final authority in setting the annual budget of ATPE Region IV;
- (f) Set the time and place of the annual, as well as any special meetings of the Region Assembly and to approve the minutes of such meetings;
- (g) Set ATPE Region IV policy that is consistent with the policies established by the Region Assembly and ATPE State Association.

Section 4: Presiding Officer

The Region President shall preside at all meetings of the Region Executive Committee.

Section 5: Meetings

The Region Executive Committee shall meet at least once annually, as determined by the Region President.

Section 6: Notice

Notice of any meeting of the Region Executive Committee shall be given at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting date by direct contact, by electronic communication, or by U.S. Mail to each Region Executive Committee member, including Region Director, at his or her address as shown on the records of the State Association. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail as addressed with postage thereon prepaid.

In case of an emergency meeting, at least five (5) days verbal notice shall be given. Any Region Executive Committee member may waive notice of any meeting. The attendance of a Region Executive Committee member at any meeting

shall constitute a waiver of notice to such meeting, except where a Region Executive Committee member attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. Neither the business to be transacted nor the purpose of any meeting of the Region Executive Committee need be specified in the notice, or waiver of notice, of such meeting unless specifically required by law or by these bylaws.

Section 7: Quorum

A majority of the members of the Region Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The act of a majority of the committee members present at a meeting at which quorum is present shall be the act of the Region Executive Committee, unless the act of a greater number is required by law or these bylaws.

Section 8: Attendance

A member of the Region Executive Committee who misses two (2) consecutive meetings without just cause, as determined by the Region Executive Committee, will be contacted by the President concerning the member's absence. Absence of the member at the following meeting shall result in an immediate vacancy.

ARTICLE V. REGION ASSEMBLY

Section 1: Duties and Responsibilities

The Region Assembly shall be the supreme policy making, governing body of ATPE Region IV, giving overall direction and mandating policy for the operations of ATPE Region IV. In the event of conflict between action or policy of the Region Assembly and the Region Executive Committee, that of the Region Assembly shall prevail.

The Region Assembly shall: (a) approve all changes in the bylaws of ATPE Region IV; (b) elect all officers of ATPE Region IV; and (c) establish appropriate policies for the operations of ATPE Region IV.

Section 2: Composition

The Region Assembly voting delegates will include each region member in attendance at the Region Assembly who has registered his/her name in the Region Assembly register provided at the Region Assembly.

Section 3: Meetings

The meetings of the Region Assembly shall be determined by the Region Executive Committee. All members of ATPE Region IV shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Region Assembly. Special meetings of the Region Assembly may

be called by petition of one third (1/3) of the persons eligible to participate in referendum or by majority vote of the Region Executive Committee. In the event of petition, such meeting shall be called not less than thirty (30) days after the Region Executive Committee received the membership petition.

Section 4: Notice

Each local unit and region officer shall be notified of the time and place of the annual or special meeting of the Region Assembly by U.S. Mail, by electronic communication, or by an official publication, not less than fifteen (15) days before the day of the meeting. The Region Executive Committee shall prepare an agenda for the meeting. If, in the event the agenda includes a bylaws change, then notice must be given to all members thirty (30) days prior to the meeting, and shall include the name of the person or persons who submitted the proposed bylaws change and the wording of the proposed bylaws change which will not be thereafter altered in subject substance.

Section 5: Quorum

A majority of the duly certified delegates, who have been verified in attendance at the annual meeting of Region Assembly or a special meeting of the Region Assembly, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The act of a majority of delegates present and voting at a meeting of the Region Assembly at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Region Assembly, unless the act of a greater number is required by law or by these bylaws.

Section 6: Presiding Officer

The Region President shall preside at all meetings of the Region Assembly.

Section 7: Agenda

If an item has not been placed on the agenda of the Region Assembly, any member of ATPE Region IV may file a request with the Region Secretary to be heard at a time to be designated by the presiding officer and shall be allowed to speak not more than five (5) minutes.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

Section 1: Standing Committees

The Standing Committees of the ATPE Region IV are: (a) Nomination/Election; and (b) Bylaws. The Standing Committees of the ATPE Region IV may also include: (a) Resolutions; (b) Education Policy and Curriculum; (c) Legislative; (d) Membership; (e) Services; (f) Public Information; and (g) Minority and Diverse Populations Recruitment.

Section 2: Duties of Standing Committees

The Standing Committee of ATPE Region IV shall have the following duties

and responsibilities.

(a) Nomination/Election. The Nominations/Elections Committee shall meet no later

than February 15, to review rules and determine responsibilities for contacting each local unit president for possible nominations. The Committee shall ascertain, from the bylaws, which offices will need to be filled. The Region President shall obtain a list of the region's local unit presidents with mailing addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, and a set of mailing labels for the local unit presidents from the ATPE State Office for the Committee's use prior to February 15. Notices seeking nominations for region officers will be sent to local unit presidents via electronic communication by February 15 and will be mailed to local unit presidents by February 28 if confirmation of receipt of electronic communication is not received.

By March 15, all local unit presidents shall receive a follow-up call from a Nominations/Elections Committee member.

All nominees shall submit a letter or electronic communication to the Nominations/Elections Committee confirming that they desire to run for an office, designate the office for which they plan to run, and include contact information. All letters of confirmation must be received at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual spring meeting of the Region 4 Assembly to have the candidate's name placed on the printed ballot.

The Committee shall receive all nominations for region officers, and within ten (10) days, prepare a report including a list of candidates and any unsuccessful contacts, for the Region Executive Committee. Within seven (7) days of the report to the Executive Committee, copies of the Nominations/Elections rules shall be sent to all the candidates.

The Region President shall secure from the State Office a list of ATPE members in Region IV, and prepare a list of those members registering for the annual Spring meeting of the Region Assembly to be used by the Nominations/Elections Committee to verify eligible voters.

At the annual Spring meeting of the Region Assembly, the Nominations/Elections Committee shall present the candidates nominated for the Region Executive Committee and shall call for and accept nominations for office from the floor.

All candidates for office shall be allowed three (3) minutes for presentations to the members attending the annual Spring meeting of the Region Assembly.

The Nominations/Elections Committee shall prepare the ballots, deliver the ballots to the members attending the annual Spring meeting of the Region Assembly, collect, and tally the ballots. Candidates may choose a representative to observe the process.

A candidate must receive over fifty percent (50%) of the vote to be elected to the office for which he/she ran.

The chairman of the Nominations/Elections Committee shall announce the results and give procedures, if needed, for any run-off election.

No member of the Nominations/Elections Committee may run for office in the year he/she serves on the committee.

The Nominations/Elections Committee will make recommendations, if needed, for changes in the nominations and elections process to the Region Executive Committee.

(b) Bylaws. To present all proposed changes in the bylaws of ATPE Region IV to the Region Assembly for its consideration; to place the proposals in proper wording for inclusion into the bylaws; to correct all grammatical errors; to combine proposals of like substance; to recognize authors of proposed amendments during the committee presentation to the Region Assembly; and to offer the recommendations of the committee regarding the usefulness and propriety of each proposed amendment. The author of a proposed amendment shall have five (5) minutes to speak before the Region Assembly in defense of the change.

(c) Resolutions. To review and/or propose resolutions to be considered by ATPE Region IV Region Assembly.

(d) Educational Policy and Curriculum. To recommend innovative programs in the education field; to be informed and provide information about teacher certification, teacher recruitment, curricula, and other issues of importance to educators.

(e) Legislative. To research, draft, and promote legislation to be considered by ATPE Region IV; to represent ATPE Region IV in any activities involving legislation; and to monitor political activities that would affect the membership of ATPE Region IV, the State Association, or education in Texas.

(f) Membership. To promote the growth of ATPE Region IV by the development and implementation of recruitment programs and materials.

(g) Services.- To design all region-sponsored programs involving services for the membership of Region IV.

(h) Public Information. To recommend to the Region Executive Committee methods that would increase public awareness of the association's goals, objectives, and accomplishments.

(i) Minority and Diverse Population Recruitment. To promote the growth of ATPE among urban area educators, ethnic minorities, new teachers and student

teachers by the development and implementation of recruitment programs and materials targeting these groups.

Section 3: Appointment

The members of Standing Committees shall be appointed from among Region IV members. A list of proposed Standing Committee appointments shall be submitted to the Region Executive Committee by the president after receiving nominations from the local unit presidents or individual region members. The Region Executive Committee will make necessary changes and approve the appointments.

Section 4: Other Committees

The Region Executive Committee shall appoint, from among Region IV members, such special committees as are considered necessary or desirable.

Section 5: Term of Office

Following his/her appointment, each member of a committee shall serve from the end of the Spring Region Assembly meeting until the end of the next Spring Region Assembly meeting, or until the duties of the committee are fulfilled, unless the committee shall be terminated at an earlier date, or the member is removed, or ceases to qualify.

Section 6: Chairperson

One member of each committee shall be designated chairperson by the Region President, subsequent to the candidate's approval by majority vote of the Region Executive Committee.

Section 7: Vacancies

Vacancies in any committee may be filled by appointment by the Region President, subsequent to the candidate's approval by majority vote of the Region Executive Committee.

Section 8: Quorum

Unless otherwise provided in the resolution of the Region Executive Committee designating a committee, a majority of the whole committee shall constitute a quorum and the act of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the committee.

Section 9: Rules

Each committee may adopt rules for its own government not inconsistent with these bylaws or with rules adopted by the Region Executive Committee. All recommendations for implementation of programs will be the responsibility of the Region Executive Committee unless these bylaws specify action of the Region Assembly.

Section 10: Limitations of Service on Committees

Members may simultaneously serve on up to two (2) Standing Committees, in addition to one (1) Special Committee.

ARTICLE VII. CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS, AND FUNDS

Section 1: Contracts

The Region Executive Committee may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, or ATPE Region IV, in addition to the officers so authorized by these bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of ATPE Region IV. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 2: Checks and Drafts

All checks, drafts, orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of ATPE Region IV shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of ATPE Region IV in the manner determined by resolution by the Region Executive Committee. In the absence of such designation by the Region Executive Committee, the instruments shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by any other Region IV officer.

Section 3: Deposits

All ATPE Region IV funds shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of ATPE Region IV in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Region Executive Committee may select.

ARTICLE VIII. BOOKS AND RECORDS

ATPE Region IV shall keep: (1) correct and complete books and records of account; (2) minutes of its committee meetings, Region Assembly meetings and Region Executive Committee meetings; and (3) a listing of the names and addresses of all ATPE Region IV members and local unit officers. All books and records of ATPE Region IV may be inspected by any member or his/her agent or attorney for any proper purpose at any reasonable time. The Executive Committee may, from time to time, require an audit or financial review by a professional.

ARTICLE IX. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of ATPE Region IV shall be from August 1 through July 31 of the following year.

ARTICLE X. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1: Procedure

Unless otherwise specifically provided, the proceedings of ATPE Region IV and its local units shall adhere to standards of proceedings established in Robert's Rules of Order, as the current edition now provides, or as it may be hereinafter updated.

Section 2: Referendum Provisions

A referendum of the membership on any issue may be called for by either of the following methods: (a) the Region Assembly may call for a vote of the membership on any issue by approving the form of the ballot by a three fourths (3/4) majority of the full membership of the Region Assembly; (b) any member of the ATPE Region IV may call for a vote of the membership on any issue of the question to be voted upon by presenting a petition.

The petition must contain the signatures at least equal to ten percent (10%) of the Region membership on February 1 of the immediate preceding year. Petitions must be presented to the Region Secretary on or before March 1 in order to be certified.

Any issue approved for a vote of the membership by either of the foregoing methods shall be put to the membership by the mailing of ballots to all members on April 1. Such ballots must be returned to the Nominations/Elections Committee or to the State ATPE Office, postmarked by May 1, and received by May 7. The ballots shall call for a vote of "yes" or "no", or "for" or "against", the question being put. The result of the vote, including the number of votes cast, shall be announced as soon as possible.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Section 1: Authority to Amend

These bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new bylaws may be adopted, by a three fifths (3/5) vote of the delegates present and voting at any meeting of the Region Assembly at which time a quorum is present, provided proper notice of the intention to alter, amend, or repeal these bylaws, or to adopt new bylaws at such a meeting, has been given in compliance with other provisions of these bylaws.

Section 2: Submission Requirements

All proposed amendments to these bylaws shall be submitted to the Region Executive Committee in writing and signed by the ATPE region member making the proposal at least thirty (30) days prior to the announced date of the next Region Assembly.

Section 3: Effective Dates of Adopted Bylaws

Unless otherwise noted, bylaws that are adopted by the Region Assembly are effective immediately.

Certification and Signatures

Certified as the true and correct bylaws of ATPE Region IV, as amended and aligned with the State ATPE Bylaws on July 28, 2011, and effective immediately. This certification executed on the 11th day of September 2011, and signed by each regional officer.

The original signed document is on file at the ATPE state office.