

**CONSTITUTION OF
GEORGIA TEACHERS OF ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES**

I. NAME

The name of this association shall be Georgia Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages. The association shall be an affiliate of TESOL, an international professional organization for those concerned with the teaching of English to speakers of other languages.

II. PURPOSE

The purposes of this non-profit organization are

To encourage professional development, participation and leadership within the state of Georgia;

To provide opportunity for study and research;

To work cooperatively toward the improvement of instruction in all programs which seek to provide students with an opportunity to acquire English language skills and proficiency;

To promote understanding and respect for other cultures, norms, and beliefs.

This association is organized exclusively for educational purposes, including the making of distributions to an organization that qualifies as exempt under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Monies may be disbursed only with the approval of the Executive Board. Members in good standing may attend Board Meetings and present proposals for Board consideration.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone, without regard to race, creed, sex, religion, or national origins, who wishes to promote the purposes of this organization. All individual members in good standing shall be entitled to vote.

IV. MEETINGS

Georgia TESOL shall hold an Annual Meeting in the fall each year for the total membership, at such time and place as the Executive Board shall determine, with the meeting devoted to the business of Georgia TESOL, including the annual election of officers. This meeting shall be held in tandem with the annual GATESOL Conference when possible. Members shall be notified no less than thirty (30) days prior to all general meetings. The Executive Board shall hold regular

meetings of the board as needed to accomplish the work of GATESOL. Special meetings of the general membership may be called by the Executive Board. Members shall be notified no less than thirty (30) days prior to a special meeting.

V. OFFICERS

The term of office is from January 1 – December 31 of the following year. The period following the election until December 31 shall be used to train and orient individuals to their new roles and responsibilities on the Board. An annual Board Retreat may be held during this time. The officers shall perform duties as prescribed in the Bylaws.

VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD

All members of the Executive Board shall be members of *TESOL International Association*.

VII. COMMITTEES

The standing committees shall be as follows: (1) Conference Committee; (2) Outreach and Communication Committee; (3) Professional Learning Committee; (4) Grants and Awards Committee, (5) Socio-Political concerns committee. The Committees shall perform duties as prescribed in the Bylaws.

VIII. AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to this Constitution may be initiated by a majority of the members of the Executive Board or may be submitted to the President by petition, signed by at least 10% of the members in good standing.

Any such proposed amendment shall be distributed to all members at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Business Meeting or a special meeting called by the Executive Board. To become effective, the proposed amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the ballots cast. Ballots will be cast electronically, and members will be notified via email and provided a minimum of 7 days to consider the changes and cast their vote.

IV. STANDARD AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order Revised, latest edition, shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and Bylaws.

X. EARNINGS

No part of the net earnings of this association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II

hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the association 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 provisions of these articles, the association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law).