

# National Constitution

Ratified/Revised 1988

## Article I — Name and Purposes

**Section 1.** The official name of this organization shall be “Distributive Education Clubs of America” and may be referred to as “DECA.”

**Section 2.** The purposes of this organization shall be to provide students an avenue for (1) career identification and development; (2) understanding our economic system; (3) understanding their responsibilities to society; and (4) self-development.

## Article II — Organization

**Section 1.** The Distributive Education Clubs of America is an organization of states, territories or equivalent geographic units which are chartered associations, each operating in accordance with a charter granted by DECA, Inc. Chartered associations shall be an organization of local chapters chartered by the association. Local chapters shall consist of individual members.

**Section 2.** Each chartered association of DECA shall be responsible for all operational activities within that state, territory or equivalent geographic unit.

**Section 3.** The administration of all National DECA interests shall be vested in the Board of Directors of DECA, Inc.

**Section 4.** DECA shall be composed of five divisions: (1) a High School Division, (2) a Delta Epsilon Chi Division, (3) a Collegiate Division, (4) an Alumni Division and (5) a Professional Division. Each division shall have officers as specified in the bylaws of that division and may make recommendations to the Board of Directors of DECA, Inc. with respect to the welfare of that division in the best interest of DECA.

## Article III — Membership

**Section 1.** Membership in DECA shall be as described in the bylaws of each division of DECA.

## Article IV — Voting

**Section 1.** Member associations shall exercise their voting privileges through voting delegates at the annual meeting of each respective division of DECA. Apportionment of the number of voting delegates will be determined annually as described in the bylaws of each division. Voting delegates will be entitled to individual vote, as described in the bylaws of that division.

## Article V — Meetings

**Section 1.** A National DECA Conference for annual meetings of each division may be held each year with the time and place to be designated by the Board of Directors of DECA, Inc.

**Section 2.** Parliamentary procedures for all meetings of DECA shall be governed by *Robert’s Rule of Order; Newly Revised*.

## Article VI — National Officers

**Section 1.** Officers for each division of DECA shall be elected by majority vote of the voting delegates at the National DECA Conference of that division and may consist of a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and other necessary officers, as described in the bylaws of each division. Duties of each officer will be as described in the bylaws of that division.

**Section 2.** Individuals elected as national officers at one annual meeting shall hold office until the close of the next annual meeting. No individual may hold a national office in more than one division of DECA at the same time.

### **Article VII — Advisors**

**Section 1.** The head supervisor of Marketing Education or his appointed representative of any chartered association affiliated with DECA, Incorporated, shall be responsible for that association as described in the “Articles of Incorporation” of DECA, Inc.

**Section 2.** Advisory groups to assist DECA growth and development may be appointed as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors of DECA, Inc.

### **Article VIII — Finances**

**Section 1.** Chartered associations shall be responsible for national dues according to the number of individual members claimed in each membership division times the amount of dues established for that membership classification as described in the bylaws of each division.

**Section 2.** The Board of Directors of DECA, Inc. shall manage all DECA finances and shall furnish an annual audit to each chartered association.

### **Article IX — Emblem and Colors**

**Section 1.** The emblem of DECA shall be a diamond-shaped design as described and protected from infringement by Trade Mark Numbers 652.076 and 663.265, as filed with the Patent Office of the United States Department of Commerce. The wearing and use of this emblem as it applies to each division of DECA shall be governed through each chartered association under policy established by the Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** The colors of DECA shall be blue and gold.

### **Article X — Amendments**

**Section 1.** To amend this constitution, proposed amendments shall be submitted according to the following procedures:

- a.** Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the president of DECA, Inc. and to each chartered association’s representative(s) at least 60 days prior to the beginning of the National DECA Conference.
- b.** Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the voting delegates of each of the divisions of DECA during the National DECA Conference. The number of voting delegates shall be identified in the bylaws of each division.
- c.** Proposed amendments shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of the voting delegates of each division of DECA present at the annual business meeting during the National DECA Conference.
- d.** Proposed amendments which are approved by the voting delegates during the National DECA Conference, shall be ratified by a two-thirds mail vote of the DECA, Inc. representatives within 90 days after the amendments are approved by the voting delegates of each division.

**Section 2.** The number of voting delegates for each division of DECA shall be identified in the bylaws of each division.

**Section 3.** For purposes of ratification of proposed amendments to the constitution, the official DECA, Inc. representative(s) of each chartered association shall be the voting delegate.

**Section 4.** All votes shall be cast by ballot.

### **BYLAWS**

Refer to division sections for  
High School, Delta Epsilon Chi, Collegiate, Alumni  
and Professional Divisions bylaws.