

FAIRER EDUCATION NSW

1.0 PARTY NAME AND CONSTITUTIONAL STANDING

- 1.1 This is the constitution for Fairer Education NSW, “the Party”.
- 1.2 Fairer Education NSW is a subsidiary body of Public Schools First Inc, an incorporated association based in NSW.
 - 1.2.1 As a subsidiary body, the Party is subject to the rules outlined in the Public Schools First Inc constitution as they apply to the Party.
- 1.3 If any provision or provisions of this constitution are deemed invalid or unenforceable, then the remaining provisions of this document shall remain in full force and effect and this document shall be deemed to have been amended to remove such invalid provision/s.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY

Fairer Education NSW is committed to gaining representation in the NSW Legislative Council:

- 2.1 Advocating for high quality, secular and comprehensive education in NSW;
- 2.2 Working for the betterment of public education - students, educators and communities;
- 2.3 Influencing government policies and strategies to champion public education in NSW to ensure continued commitment and improvement from state and federal governments;
- 2.4 Promoting the equitable distribution of funding so that all public schools are supported according to the Schooling Resource Standard;
- 2.5 Ensuring that all students, irrespective of their background or ability, are sufficiently supported to access the stage appropriate curriculums and learning, designed and delivered by fully qualified teachers;
- 2.6 Ensuring that **all** public schools are adequately staffed with qualified personnel, in particular, rural and remote communities and other hard to staff areas, by advocating for incentives to attract quality educators to work and stay;
- 2.7 Ensuring that the curricula taught in NSW public schools are evidence-based, free of bias, and designed by qualified education experts, in consultation with diverse communities;
- 2.8 Consulting with all relevant public education stakeholders to develop positions on educational issues, and create plans to implement and support high quality teaching and learning programs;
- 2.9 Enhancing and promoting the profile, integrity and achievements of public education in NSW;
- 2.10 Monitoring and evaluating the administration and performance of the NSW Department of Education within a framework of formal industrial relations practices;
- 2.11 Advocating for adequate funding of public higher education including TAFEs, colleges and universities.

3 THE EXECUTIVE

The structure of the Party under this new constitution, is to manage it on the following principles:

3.1 The Management Committee of Public Schools First Inc is the State Executive of Fairer Education NSW. The State Executive is the supreme rule, policy and decision making body of the party and is empowered, subject to any contrary provision contained in this Constitution, to manage and make decisions in relation to all affairs of the Party.

3.2 The State Executive must not consist of less than 4 members.

3.3 At a minimum, the positions of:

- 3.3.1 President
- 3.3.2 Vice President
- 3.3.3 Treasurer
- 3.3.4 Secretary

shall exist.

In addition to the responsibilities and duties of the Management Committee, as outlined in the Public Schools First Inc Constitution, the State Executive members will undertake the following responsibilities:

3.4 The President and Vice President will:

3.4.1 Undertake necessary actions to lead and manage the Party's growth in NSW.

3.5 The Treasurer will:

3.5.1 Manage and maintain transparency and accuracy in the Party's financial transactions and records.

3.5.2 Ensure the Party complies with any financial obligations imposed by law and/or NSW Fair Trading.

3.5.3 Liaise and provide financial regular reports to State Executive.

3.6 The Secretary will:

3.6.1 Manage the correspondence of the Party.

3.6.2 Record the minutes of the State Executive meetings.

3.6.3 Ensure that any records required by the NSW Parliament and/or related to the functions of the Party are kept in an orderly and accurate manner.

3.7 The State Executive may meet as often as is deemed necessary and no less than once every 6 weeks.

3.7.1 A meeting may take place in person or via any electronic methods whereby the State Executive members in attendance may be heard and will not be compromised by any confidentiality issues.

3.7.2 A quorum of the State Executive is achieved when 75% or more of the members are in attendance.

3.7.3 A simple majority shall review, discuss and then decide on all matters before the State Executive for consideration at that time.

3.7.3.1 The State Executive has the option to defer any decision on any matter presented at a meeting.

3.8 Members may resign from the State Executive by providing written notice to the Secretary.

3.9 Members may be removed from the State Executive by a decision of the majority of the State Executive.

4.0 MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Membership is open to any individual who:

4.1.1 Is over 18 years of age, Is enrolled to vote in NSW and agrees to the objectives of the Party.

4.1.2 Has completed the application form accurately and honestly and kept all details up to date.

4.1.3 Agrees to uphold this Constitution and the Constitution of the Public Schools First Incorporated Association.

4.1.4 Agrees to maintain conduct and care that enhance the reputation of the Party.

4.1.5 Has not been convicted of a disqualifying electoral offence in the 5 years prior to applying for membership.

4.1.5.1 No member who is convicted of a disqualifying electoral offence may continue to be a member.

4.1.6 Has submitted a completed application form to the Party providing the required information.

4.1.6.1 The form may be digital or physical.

4.1.6.2 The necessary membership information may be determined or changed, at times, by the State Executive. The minimum information required will be the applicant's full name, date of birth and residential address.

4.2 To facilitate protection of the Party, the State Executive may reject any application for membership of the Party.

4.3 Membership is accepted once the above requirements are met and the application is processed into the membership data base.

4.4 Only current, unconstrained members of the Party for at least 3 months shall be eligible to be considered for candidature of the Party and/or to vote on relevant matters as determined by the State Executive.

4.5 Members may resign by submitting notice to the Party.

4.5.1 The notice may be communicated over the phone, in person, in writing or electronically.

4.6 As a subsidiary body of Public Schools First Inc, any member of the Party is a member of that incorporated association. The members' information may be shared between the 2 bodies.

4.7 In exceptional circumstances, the State Executive may approve the membership of any person who may otherwise be prohibited.

5.0 SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

5.1 The state executive will, by majority vote, endorse candidates to promote for election to the NSW Legislative Council.

5.2 The state executive will ensure best practices in relation to the vetting of candidates is conducted as described in the CANDIDATE SELECTION PROCESS FOR FAIRER EDUCATION NSW.

5.3 Preselection of ballots for the selection of candidates must satisfy the general principles of democratic elections.

6.0 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

6.1 Any proposals to change this constitution must be submitted to and approved by the state executive before being ratified or submitted for voting.

6.1.1 The state executive shall have an absolute veto power over any proposed changes to this constitution.

6.2 Any proposals for this constitution to be repealed or amended may only be approved by either:

6.2.1 a vote at a state member conference by a 75% in favour vote of current members in attendance; or

6.2.2 by a vote in a postal ballot in excess of 50% with at least 50% of the membership returning a vote.

6.3 This constitution will be presented for ratification as a new constitution for Fairer Education NSW at the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

7.0 STATE MEMBER CONFERENCES

7.1 A state member conference may be called at any time by resolution of the state executive.

7.2 The state member conference must be held at least once every three years.

8.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

8.1 Upon referral to the state executive, any disputes in relation to the affairs of the Party, will be mediated, conciliated, arbitrated or otherwise heard and determined by a dispute committee derived from 3 members of the state executive. The process is further prescribed in the constitution of Public Schools First Inc.