

MEMBERSHIP POLICY
OF
EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION

Section 1.1. Eligibility. The membership requirements of the Educational Theatre Association (“EdTA”) are set forth below and shall be consistent with the Articles of Incorporation and Code of Regulations of EdTA. All memberships are subject to payment of dues as established in accordance with provisions of Article II of the Code of Regulations. EdTA reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to interpret and apply its definitions and eligibility requirement to determine membership eligibility.

Section 1.2. Divisions. There shall be two (2) divisions of membership in EdTA: (i) EdTA Professional Membership and (ii) International Thespian Society Membership.

Section 1.2.1. EdTA Professional Membership. EdTA Professional Membership shall be the adult division. This division shall have five classes of professional membership: (a) Professional Member (including all ITS troupe directors); (b) Pre-Professional Member; (c) Affiliate Professional Member (d) Emeritus Member; and (e) Lifetime Member.

(a) Professional Member. Any individual eighteen (18) years of age or older may become a Professional Member of EdTA upon payment of the dues as established in accordance with provisions of Article II, Section 2.1 of the Code of Regulations.

(b) Pre-Professional Member. Any college or university student, including graduate school student, may become a Pre-Professional Member of EdTA upon payment of the dues as established in accordance with provisions of Article II, Section 2.1 of the Code of Regulations.

(c) Affiliate Professional Member. Any adult affiliated with an active ITS member school may become an Affiliate Professional Member of EdTA upon payment of the dues as established in accordance with provisions of Article II, Section 2.1 of the Code of Regulations.

(d) Emeritus Member. Any theatre educator or Professional Member who has retired from teaching may become an Emeritus Member of EdTA upon payment of dues as established in accordance with provisions of Article II, Section 2.1 of the Code of Regulations.

(e) Lifetime Member. Any past member of the Board of Directors of EdTA who is not serving as an ITS Troupe Director is granted honorary lifetime professional membership.

Section 1.2.2. International Thespian Society Membership. The International Thespian Society (“ITS”) shall be the student honor society membership division. There shall be three classes of ITS membership: (a) Thespians; (b) Junior

Thespians; and (c) Honorary Thespians. Nevertheless, EdTA reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to interpret and apply its definitions and eligibility requirements to determine ITS affiliation eligibility. Affiliation eligibility status may be re-evaluated and changed by EdTA at any time.

(a) Thespian. An Eligible High School may qualify its enrolled students for Thespian membership by chartering a Thespian troupe. Each Eligible High School in good standing shall be required to designate one adult individual to serve as its official representative for all interactions with EdTA and its divisions. The designee shall be given the title of Troupe Director, shall be designated an EdTA Professional Member, and shall receive all the benefits of the Professional Member class.

(b) Junior Thespian. An Eligible Middle School/Junior High School may qualify its enrolled students for Junior Thespian membership by chartering a Junior Thespian troupe. Each Eligible Middle School/Junior High School in good standing shall be required to designate one adult individual to serve as its official representative for all interactions with EdTA and its divisions. The designee shall be given the title of Junior Troupe Director, shall be designated an EdTA Professional Member, and shall receive all the benefits of the Professional Member class.

(c) Honorary Thespian. Any adult may be named an Honorary Thespian of an active ITS troupe for outstanding service and support of the mission and purpose of ITS.

Section 1.3 School Eligibility. Pursuant to Section 1.2.2(a), the following rules shall be used to determine whether a high school meets the definition of an Eligible High School. Pursuant to Section 1.2.2(b), the following rules shall be used to determine whether a middle school or junior high school meets the definition of an Eligible Middle School/Junior High School.

Section 1.3.1. Eligible High School. For purposes of this Membership Policy, an Eligible High School shall be any high school that meets the definition of either a Traditional High School or a Non-Traditional High School. Any high school that does not meet the definition of a Traditional High School or a Non-Traditional High School shall not meet the definition of an Eligible High School and, thus, shall not be permitted to form a Thespian troupe.

Section 1.3.1.1 Traditional High School. A high school (public or private) shall be deemed a Traditional High School if all of the following criteria are met:

(i) The high school provides full academic course work (including but not limited to language arts, math, science, and social studies) to students in any combination of grades nine, ten, eleven, and twelve;

(ii) The high school occupies or is located in a primarily non-residential, physical building or campus;

(iii) The high school has state accredited teachers who facilitate the instruction of students; and

(iv) The high school provides appropriate levels of oversight and supervision of its teachers by a principal (or other building-level administrators), superintendent and/or school board.

Section 1.3.1.2 Non-Traditional High School. An educational organization (including, but not limited to, home school groups, virtual schools, youth theatre groups, theatre-only schools or academies, and professional or community theatre company educational programs) that does not meet the definition of a Traditional High School, shall nevertheless meet the definition of a Non-Traditional High School if all of the following criteria are met:

(i) The educational organization is a U.S. based organization (including U.S. commonwealth and U.S. military and governmental locations in foreign countries);

(ii) The educational organization has a system of administrative and financial control equivalent to that of a public school district or equivalent private school administrative structure that includes a hierarchy of at least three progressive levels of authority: a governing board, a principal/administrator, and a teacher/troupe director;

(iii) Each such level of hierarchy authority referred to above, must have full financial and oversight responsibility, including the ability to hire and fire, for the level of authority below it, and related individuals (e.g. spouse, family member) may not hold more than one authority position;

(iv) The educational organization provides sufficient, written documentation from an overseeing organization confirming that it is administratively and financially responsible for the education organization (e.g. a charter or constitution.) The adequacy of any such documentation shall be determined by EdTA, in its sole and absolute discretion; and

(v) The educational organization has the principal, or similar authorized administrator, of the organization sign and approve the troupe charter application.

Section 1.3.2. Eligible Middle School/Junior High School. For purposes of this Membership Policy, an Eligible Middle School/Junior High School shall be any middle school/junior high school that meets the definition of either a Traditional Middle School/Junior High School or a Non-Traditional Middle School/Junior High School. Any middle school/junior high school that does not meet the definition of a Traditional Middle School/Junior High School or a Non-Traditional Middle School/Junior High School shall not meet the definition of an Eligible Middle School/Junior High School and, thus, shall not be permitted to form a Junior Thespian troupe.

Section 1.3.2.1 Traditional Middle School/Junior High School. A middle school/junior high school (public or private) shall be deemed a Traditional Middle School/Junior High School if all of the following criteria are met:

(i) The middle school/junior high school provides full academic course work (including but not limited to language arts, math, science and social studies) to students in any combination of grades six, seven, eight and sometimes nine;

(ii) The middle school/junior high school occupies or is located in a primarily non-residential, physical building or campus;

(iii) The middle school/junior high school has state accredited teachers who facilitate the instruction of students; and

(iv) The middle school/junior high school provides appropriate levels of oversight and supervision of its teachers by a principal (or other building-level administrators), superintendent and/or school board.

Section 1.3.2.2 Non-Traditional Middle School/Junior School. An educational organization (including, but not limited to, home school groups, virtual schools, youth theatre groups, theatre-only schools or academies, and professional or community theatre company educational programs) that does not meet the definition of a Traditional Middle School/Junior High School, shall nevertheless meet the definition of a Non-Traditional Middle School/Junior High School if all of the following criteria are met:

(i) The educational organization is a U.S. based organization (including U.S. commonwealth and U.S. military and governmental locations in foreign countries);

(ii) The educational organization has a system of administrative and financial control equivalent to that of a public school district or equivalent private school administrative structure that includes a hierarchy of at least three progressive levels of authority: a governing board, a principal/administrator, and a teacher/troupe director;

(iii) Each such level of hierarchy authority referred to above, must have full financial and oversight responsibility, including the ability to hire and fire, for the level of authority below it, and related individuals (e.g. spouse, family member) may not hold more than one authority position;

(iv) The educational organization provides sufficient, written documentation from an overseeing organization confirming that it is administratively and financially responsible for the education organization (e.g. a charter or constitution.) The adequacy of any such documentation shall be determined by EdTA, in its sole and absolute discretion; and

(v) The educational organization has the principal, or similar authorized administrator, of the organization sign and approve the troupe charter application.

Section 1.4 Student Eligibility. Students attending an Eligible High School or an Eligible Middle School/Junior High School with active Thespian and Junior Thespian troupes, are eligible to be inducted as members of International Thespian society in accordance with the criteria set forth below.

Section 1.4.1. The Eligible High School or the Eligible Middle School/Junior High School's designated Troupe Director shall have sole authority to approve student induction.

Section 1.4.2. Students who have met the minimum requirements set forth in the Troupe's approved Thespian Point System will be inducted upon payment of the dues as established in accordance with the provisions of Article II, Section 2.1 of the Code of Regulations.

Section 1.4.3. Under no circumstances are students elected to become members of International Thespian Society. Student peers may not take an active role

in determining the induction eligibility of their fellow students. The International Thespian Society forbids hazing of prospective, new, or current members.

Section 1.4.4. Inductees in Thespian troupes shall be identified as “Thespians”. Inductees in Junior Thespian Troupes shall be identified as “Junior Thespians”.

Section 1.4.5. If a student receives primary academic coursework (including but not limited to language arts, math, performing arts, science and social studies) from a school with an active troupe, he or she may only be affiliated with, inducted into, and receive ITS benefits through that troupe. Student troupe affiliation and membership is determined based on EdTA’s “Guidelines for determining student troupe affiliation”. EdTA reserves the right to determine any student’s eligibility to participate and affiliation in accordance with current regulations and policies.

Section 1.4.6. In general, troupes may induct students who attend other schools only when those schools do not have their own active troupes. When a school charters or reinstates a troupe to active status, Thespians who attend that school but were inducted elsewhere must transfer to that troupe. See the student transfer guidelines in the troupe and junior troupe handbooks.

Section 1.4.7. The school or troupe director may impose more stringent requirements for induction through an amendment to the troupe’s constitution. All troupes operate under the provisions of the “ITS troupe constitution template” unless a properly approved amended constitution is adopted.