BYLAWS
FLORIDA HOSA, INC.

ARTICLE I.

Name

The Florida health science education students' organization shall be Florida HOSA, Inc.

ARTICLE II.

Purposes

Section 1 Provide programs and activities which will develop

A. Physical, mental and social well-being of the individual.
B. Leadership, character and citizenship.
C. Ethical practices and respect for the dignity of work.

Section 2 Foster self-actualization of each member which will contribute to meeting the individual's psychological, social and economic needs.

Section 3 Build the confidence of students in themselves and their work by learning to assume responsibilities, developing personal and occupational competencies and social skills which lead to realistic choices of careers and successful employment in the field of health.

Section 4 Promote inter-organizational relationships with professional groups, businesses, industries and other organizations.

Section 5 Recognize achievements of Florida HOSA, Inc. members at the individual, Chapter, Regional, State, and National/International levels.

Section 6 Promote involvement in current health care issues, environmental concerns and survival needs of the community, the nation and the world.

Section 7 Assist each member in establishing realistic career goals.

Section 8 Assist each Chapter in meeting the objectives of the organization.

ARTICLE III.

Membership

Section 1 The total eligible members of the chartered local health science education student Chapters shall comprise the membership of the Florida Association.

Section 2 Membership in a local Chapter shall be non-discriminatory and open to students regardless of age, race, sex, color, national origin or religious beliefs.

Section 3 Classes of membership:

A. Active Member - The Middle School Division shall be composed of middle school students in grades 6 - 8 who are enrolled in an organized health career awareness program or who are interested or planning to pursue a career in the health professions.

B. Active Member - The Secondary Division shall be composed of secondary students who are enrolled in high school and are, or have been, enrolled in a Health Science program or an organized career awareness program or are interested, planning to pursue, or pursuing a career in the health professions.

C. Active Member - The Postsecondary/Collegiate Division shall be composed of students who are not enrolled in high school, have received a high school diploma and/or are pursuing a GED and are majoring in a health care related field or are interested or planning to pursue a career in the health professions.

D. Alumni Member - A former Active Member who no longer meets the criteria for active membership may become an alumni member. The Alumni Member shall not be able to vote, hold elective office, or enter the competitive events. One Alumni member who is appointed to the State Board of Directors shall have a vote at Board meetings.

E. Members-at-Large shall be those persons otherwise qualified for membership where active HOSA chapters are not yet established. Members-at-large shall affiliate directly with Florida HOSA, or by geographic region as determined by the Florida HOSA Board of Directors. At-Large Members may participate in competitions, act as voting delegates and seek regional and state office. They may not seek National/International Office.

F. Professional Member - A person participating in professional development of Florida HOSA, Inc. is eligible to join as a Professional Member. Such membership includes, but need not be limited to, HSE Advisors, Teacher Educators, Department of Education Health Science staff and practitioners in the health field. The Professional Member shall pay dues as established by the chapter, state and national/international organizations but shall not be eligible to vote, hold elective office or enter the competitive events. A Professional Member appointed to the State Board of Directors shall have a vote at Board meetings.

G. Honorary Member - An individual who has made significant contributions to Florida HOSA, Inc. may be elected by the Board of Directors by a 2/3 vote to become an Honorary Member. The Honorary Member shall not be eligible to vote, hold elective office, or enter the competitive events.

ARTICLE IV

Organization

Section 1. The Department of Education will sponsor and support Florida HOSA, Inc. as an integral part of the secondary or postsecondary health science education programs as defined by the State Board of Education Rule - 6A-6.0571.

Section 2. The organization of Florida HOSA, Inc. will be compatible with that of HOSA, Inc.

Section 3. Florida HOSA, Inc. is an organization of affiliated Chapters, each operating in accordance with the charter granted by Florida HOSA, Inc. Each Chapter is responsible for operational activities with the Chapter.

Section 4. Florida HOSA, Inc. shall be divided into geographical regions. Each geographic region, hereinafter referred to as a Regional Unit, shall be responsible for operational activities with that Regional Unit (see Regional Map on Florida HOSA website).

Section 5. The Regional Unit shall be designated by the Florida HOSA, Inc. Board of Directors and shall not be smaller than a school district.

Section 6. Each geographical region with membership over 1,000 may choose to form districts within that region with the consent of the Florida HOSA, Inc. Board of Directors.

Section 7. Florida HOSA, Inc. shall be governed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V

Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors of the corporation shall be the State Officers, Regional Advisors from each region, and the At-large Alumni member. There will be two Chairpersons to serve as Co-Chairperson. The non-voting members of the Board will be the two Co-Chairpersons, the HOSA State Advisor, a representative from the Department of Education Health Science Education, a representative from Florida Health Occupations Educators Association of Florida (HOEAF), industry representation, and student state officers under the age of 18. A student state officer who is under 18 years of age may choose one of the other state officers who is at least 18 years of age to represent his/her vote. If there are no 18+ students elected to the board, an advisor will be appointed by the Chair to serve as the student officers' representative.

Section 2. The State Officer President will serve as presiding Co-Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The Regional Advisors shall elect from among them a Co-Chairperson of the Board to serve a 2-year term. Term of office shall begin immediately after the organizational meeting that occurs after September 1.

Section 4. The Co-Chairpersons of the Board serve as the Chief Executive Officers of Florida HOSA, Inc. with responsibilities as specified in the policies and procedures.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall:

A. Perform duties as specified in these Bylaws and Policies as may be adopted by the Board.
B. Recommend to the State President creation of such committees, standing or special, as may be deemed appropriate to meet the goals of Florida HOSA, Inc.
C. Ratify chairperson and committee members appointed by the State President. The State President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees appointed by the Board.
D. Amend the Bylaws and take other actions necessary to implement the purposes of Florida HOSA, Inc.
E. Establish the date on which the Chapter monetary assessment shall be delinquent and the subsequent penalty

Section 6. Meetings:

A. The Board of Directors shall meet at least twice each year at the call of the State Advisor in consultation with the State President and Regional Advisors.
B. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called when requested by five members of the Board but not less than ten (10) days prior to the meeting.
C. The State President shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors.
D. The Board may conduct business by correspondence, telephone, or virtual means.

Section 7. One Regional Advisor per region will be appointed by the State Advisor. A region with sufficient membership and permission of the Board of Directors may appoint one Regional Advisor per active student membership division.

Section 8. Any member of the Board of Directors will serve until their successors are appointed. Any member of the board may be removed at any time by a majority vote of all Directors in office. Removal from office shall not prejudice any contract rights of the person removed.

Section 9. Vacancies on the board will be filled by appointment and with approval of the Board of Directors except for State Officer vacancies as specified in Article X.

Section 10. The duties of the various members of the board shall be such as are directed in these Bylaws in the parliamentary authority adopted by the corporation, as well as those duties assigned by the Board of Directors and/or set forth in the policies or procedures.

Section 11. The salaries, if any, of member or officers of the corporation shall be set by the Board of Directors, and no member shall be prevented from receiving a salary because of simultaneous service on the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI

Executive Committee

Section 1. The Executive Committee will be composed of the Co-Chairpersons of the Board of Directors, the State Advisor, and five Regional Advisors elected from among the Board of Directors who have served on the Board of Directors for at least one year.

Section 2. Election of the five Regional Advisors will be done on a rotating basis for a two-year term as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Vacancies on the Executive Committee shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors for the remainder of the term with members of the Board of Directors who have served on the board for at least one year.

Section 4. The Executive Committee is empowered by the Board of Directors to oversee the daily operations of the corporation and will represent the corporation in all matters pertaining to the corporation.

Section 5. The Executive Committee has the power to take emergency action as required to meet the operational needs of the corporation.

Section 6. The Executive Committee may conduct business by telephone, correspondence, or virtual means. Meetings will be recorded.

ARTICLE VII

Chapters

Section 1. Charter to Chapters:

A. Middle School Charters may be issued to each middle school health science education teacher/program or to the school.
B. Secondary Charters may be issued to each secondary health science education teacher/program or to the school.
C. Postsecondary Charters may be issued to each postsecondary health science education teacher/program or to the school.
D. When more than one Chapter exists in a school, the Chapters shall be referred to by school and chapter name.
E. A chapter may be recognized as an at-large chapter when it represents a region as defined by the Board of Directors and includes Postsecondary schools where no HOSA chapters are organized. Members of an at-large chapter will have the rights and privileges of membership including participation in HOSA activities, competitions, state voting delegates, and the right to seek regional and state office. They may not seek National/International office.

Section 2. A school may apply for affiliation as a Chapter with HOSA, Inc. using prescribed forms when:

A. Chapter Bylaws have been adopted.
B. No provision of the Chapter Bylaws is in conflict with Florida HOSA, Inc. Bylaws.
C. Chapter Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian) have been elected.
D. Planned Chapter activities are in harmony with ideals and purpose of Florida HOSA, Inc.
E. Application for Charter is made to HOSA, Inc. One permanent Charter will be issued to each Chapter by HOSA, Inc.

Section 3. A chapter may collect funds necessary for Chapter operation.

ARTICLE VIII

Finances

Section 1. The Chapter monetary assessment shall be determined by the Chapter consistent with State Board of Education Rules.

Section 2. Each Chapter shall have autonomy in its fiscal affairs except that: 1) The Chapter is responsible for the state and national/international associations monetary assessments. 2) The Chapter shall submit to HOSA, Inc. by January 1, an amount of funds equal to Chapter monetary assessment.

Section 3. All Florida HOSA, Inc. funds shall be disbursed by check or EFTs, consistent with the policies established by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX

Regional Unit Officers

Section 1. Each Regional Unit may have Regional Officers to assist the Regional Advisor in the area. Parliamentarian may be elected by delegates or appointed.

Section 2.
1) Each Active Chapter may endorse only one active HOSA member as a candidate for each Regional Office. The Officer Candidate shall attend the Regional Leadership Development Conference at which elections are held to seek election as a Regional Officer.
2) In regions where there are fewer chapters than offices, a chapter may nominate more than one candidate for each regional office.

Section 3. Candidates for Regional Unit Office shall be eligible for office when they:

A. are Active Members.
B. are endorsed by the Chapter, Chapter Advisor, school principal and parent if enrolled in a secondary program.
C. are endorsed by the Chapter and Chapter Advisor if enrolled in a postsecondary program.
D. satisfactorily pass a Parliamentary Procedure Qualifying Examination according to policies adopted by the Board of Directors under the auspices of the Florida Department of Education.
E. submit an Endorsement of Candidate Form to the Regional Advisor with a copy to the State Advisor.
F. have a 2.5 GPA.
G. are elected by ballot at the Regional Unit Fall Conference. A plurality shall elect. Their term of office shall begin immediately after election and continue through the end of the membership year in which elected.

Section 4. Each Regional Unit President may appoint a qualified Parliamentarian to assist the appointed Regional Unit Parliamentarian in conducting business.

Section 5. Vacancies:

A. A vacancy in the office of Regional Unit President shall be filled by the Regional Unit Vice President.
B. A vacancy in a Regional Unit Office other than the President shall be filled by appointment made by the Regional Unit President in consultation with Regional Unit Advisor. The member appointed shall meet the same criteria as candidates for election to a Regional Unit Office.

Section 6. A Member may hold office as a Chapter Officer, Regional Unit Officer, State Officer or National/International Officer concurrently during the same term of office. The higher office takes precedence over the lower office when duties conflict.

ARTICLE X

State Officers

Section 1. The State Officers shall consist of the following eight officers:

President - either secondary or postsecondary/collegiate
President-Elect - either secondary or postsecondary/collegiate
Northwestern Vice-President - Secondary
North Central Vice-President - Secondary
Southwestern Vice-President - Secondary
Southeastern Vice-President - Secondary
Postsecondary/Collegiate Vice-President
Postsecondary/Collegiate Representative

Section 2. All of the State Officers, except the President, will be elected at the annual State Leadership Conference. The President's position will be filled by the President-Elect, elected at the prior State Leadership Conference.

Section 3. The President and President-Elect may be a secondary or postsecondary/collegiate student.

Section 4. All of the State Officers will be elected by the entire delegate assembly.

Section 5. The state shall be divided into four areas that are Northwestern, North Central, Southwestern, and Southeastern. The area division shall be determined by membership.

A. The Northwestern area shall consist of Regions I, II, and III.
B. The North Central area shall consist of Regions X, XI, and XII.
C. The Southwestern area shall consist of Regions IV, V, and VI.
D. The Southeastern area shall consist of Regions VII, VIII, and IX.

Section 6. The State Officer Team and State Advisor may elect a Parliamentarian, Secretary, and Historian at the officer training meeting.

Section 7. The State Officers shall meet the following criteria:

A. are active members.
B. are endorsed by the Chapter, Chapter Advisor, school principal, and parent if enrolled in a secondary program.
C. are endorsed by the Chapter and Chapter Advisor if enrolled in a Postsecondary/Collegiate program.
D. satisfactorily pass a qualifying exam according to policies adopted by the Board of Directors.
E. submit a State Officer Candidate Application Form to the State Advisor by the designated deadline.
F. Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
G. Submit to a qualifying process as established in policies and procedures during the State Leadership Conference.
H. The Vice Presidents must attend school in the area they represent.
I. If elected must sign contract of duties.
J. Members of the State Officer Team are limited to two terms with the exception of the President. A member who has held one term may run for President-Elect and therefore, have a third term as President.

Section 8. Each active school may endorse a maximum of four active HOSA members as candidates for state office. The officer candidate shall attend the annual State Leadership Conference to seek election as a state officer. Any active member is eligible to seek election as a State Officer.

Section 9. State Officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual State Leadership Conference. Members elected to a state office may extend their active membership for the term of office. In the event of a tie vote, the scores of the interview committee will be used to break a tie.

Section 10. A plurality shall elect. The term of office for State Officers shall begin with the last gavel tap of the state conference at which they were elected, and will continue until the last gavel tap of the state conference the following year.

Section 11. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by a current State Officer at the State Advisor's discretion. A vacancy in the office of President-Elect may 1) be filled by a current State Officer if the State Officer can commit to a two-year term, or, if not, 2) an active member appointed by the State Advisor and the State Officer Team who was slated for office at the previous State Leadership Conference and was not elected.

A vacancy in a state office other than President or President-Elect may be filled by an active member, appointed by the State Advisor and the State Officer Team, who was slated for office at the previous State Leadership Conference and was not elected.

Section 12. All elected officers must fulfill their duties of office as agreed upon at the beginning of their term. Failure to do so will result in termination of office.

Section 13. Any State Officer may be removed from office if they fail to complete their duties of office as outlined in the State Officer Handbook. Removal must receive a 2/3 vote from the Board of Directors.

Section 14. No State Officer shall be permitted to compete in any competition at any level during their term of office and continuing throughout the following year. The exception to this bylaw shall be any new State Officer who was elected during that year's State Leadership Conference, who also successfully placed in their competitive event, may compete at the International Leadership Conference.

Section 15. After fulfilling a full term of office and the duties entailed in holding that office, the outgoing State Officers shall represent Florida at the International Leadership Conference.

ARTICLE XI

Meetings/Conferences

Section 1. Chapter meetings shall be scheduled by the Chapters.

Section 2. There shall be at least one Regional Unit Leadership Development Conference in each geographic region annually.

A. The majority of the Chapter members registered at the conference shall constitute a quorum.

B. Plurality shall determine voting decisions.

Section 3. There shall be an Annual State Leadership Conference with the location and date established by the Board of Directors.

A. Those eligible to attend the Annual State Leadership Conference shall be: Chapter Advisors; Regional Officers; the winners of each competitive event from the Regional Conferences; State Officers; State Officer Candidates; students with assigned specific responsibilities; Supervisors, Health Science Education; Florida Department of Education Staff; HOSA State Advisor; Director, Health Science Education; participants and invited guests.

B. Assistance in planning and implementation for the State Conference shall be provided by the: Board of Directors; HOSA Members; Alumni; Chapter Advisors; Supervisors, Health Science Education; Florida Department of Education State Staff; and the HOSA State Advisor.

C. The Regions of Florida HOSA shall exercise their membership voting privileges through voting delegates. Voting Delegates shall be allowed per each region according to the following formula:

Region Membership	# of Voting Delegates
1- 500	6
501-1000	7
1001-1500	8
1501-2000	9

For each additional 500 members, or fraction thereof, the region is allowed one additional voting delegate. The apportionment of the voting delegates shall be made according to membership reported to Florida HOSA by February 1. In addition to the voting delegates, the Florida HOSA State Officers may also vote.

D. A Credentials/Tellers Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Board in advance of each State Leadership Conference. The committee shall be composed of 2 secondary students and 2 secondary advisors and 1 postsecondary student and advisor, if available.

E. The Credentials/Tellers Committee shall review and approve the list of voting delegates compiled by Florida HOSA, shall supervise registration of the voting delegates, shall submit a report at the beginning of the session on the number of voting delegates present and shall distribute ballots and tally votes for any ballot vote.

F. The majority of the voting delegation registered at the conference shall constitute a quorum.

G. All Voting Delegates at the State Leadership Conference will be required to cast their ballots properly dressed in either the official HOSA uniform or navy blue/black suit General Session member attire.

H. Plurality shall determine voting decisions.

I. A copy of the minutes of all meetings and conferences shall be submitted to the State Advisor within three weeks.

Section 4. Florida HOSA, Inc. members shall participate in the HOSA International Conference each year.

A. Candidates for National/International Office shall have previously served as State Officers and shall continue to meet the same criteria as State Officers. Members of at-large chapters may not run for national/international office.

ARTICLE XII

Fiscal Year

Section 1. The fiscal year of Florida HOSA, Inc. shall be July 1 through June 30.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall designate a bonded fiscal agent to be responsible for all accounting records for Florida HOSA, Inc. and for the proper handling and disbursement of State Association funds.

Section 3. Books and records of Florida HOSA, Inc. may be reviewed at any reasonable time.

Section 4. The Florida HOSA, Inc. Board of Directors will direct an audit at the end of the fiscal year by an agent representing Florida HOSA, Inc. and the Board. The Board may direct additional audits as needed.

ARTICLE XIII

Communications Between Components

Section 1. Each Chapter shall submit each year the following information to Florida HOSA, Inc. State Advisor.

A. A list of elected regional officers and Chapter Officers by December 15.

B. A report of any amendments to the Chapter Bylaws within thirty days following such Chapter action.

Section 2. Notice of each Regional Unit meeting and Leadership Development Conference shall be sent to each Chapter within the geographic region at least thirty days prior to the meeting. The Regional Unit Advisor will notify the State Advisor of this date.

Section 3. The Board of Directors may designate publications, memos, audiovisual productions and other methods of communication necessary to distribute information about the corporation.

ARTICLE XIV

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern Florida HOSA, Inc. in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the association may adopt.

ARTICLE XV

Amendment of Bylaws

Section 1. These Bylaws may be approved for amendment by a two-thirds vote on the Board of Directors, provided that the proposed amendment(s) has been submitted in writing to each Board member at least thirty days prior to consideration by the Board.

Section 2. Bylaw changes approved for amendment by the Board of Directors must be submitted to a vote by the voting delegates and State Officers at the State Leadership Conference provided that the proposed amendment(s) has been submitted in writing to each Chapter at least thirty days prior to the conference.

Section 3. Bylaws amendments will be voted on by Articles and be approved by a plurality of the delegates.

ARTICLE XVI.

Dissolution

Section 1. Upon final dissolution or liquidation of this organization and after final discharge or satisfaction of all outstanding obligations and liabilities, its remaining in assets shall be disbursed by the Florida HOSA, Inc. Board of Directors in accordance with one or more of the purposes of this organization or to be transferred to a government instrumentality or a qualified exempt organization within the meaning of Section 501 (3c) of the Internal Revenue code.

Section 2. Upon final dissolution, all active chapters prior to the year of dissolution shall receive an equal share of any monies remaining after all obligations of the organization have been met.