

**National Honor Society**  
**Constitution of the Ellwood City Area School District Chapter**  
**of Lincoln High School**  
**Ellwood City, Pennsylvania**

**Article I: Name and Purpose**

Section 1: The name of this chapter shall be the Ellwood City Area School District Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools (NHS).

Section 2: The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of Lincoln High School.

Section 3: The NHS shall be under the sponsorship and supervision of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1537.

**Article II: The Principal**

Section 1: The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 2: The principal shall annually appoint a member of the faculty as chapter adviser, who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 3: The principal shall annually appoint a Faculty Council composed of five members of the school's faculty who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 4: The principal shall receive appeals in cases of non selection of candidates, and the disciplining or dismissal of members.

**Article III: The Chapter Advisor**

Section 1: The chapter advisor shall be responsible for the direct, day to day supervision of the chapter and act as liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community.

Section 2: The chapter advisor shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions.

## **Article II: Membership**

**Section 1:** Membership in this chapter shall be based upon scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

**Section 2:** Membership of this chapter shall be known as active and graduate. The graduate members have no vote. Active members become graduate members upon graduation from Lincoln High School.

**Section 3:** To be eligible for election to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period equivalent to one semester in this school.

**Section 4:** Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be members of the sophomore, junior, or senior class. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum scholarship GPA of 3.75 or its equivalent. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for admission to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to candidacy for election to membership. Their eligibility shall then be considered on their service, leadership, and character.

**Section 5:** In order to maintain membership, each member must complete a minimum of 5 hours of tutoring in the Ellwood City Area School District during each school year.

## **Article III: Election of Members**

**Section 1:** The election of members to this chapter of the National Honor Society shall be by a chapter council, consisting of the principal and members of the faculty; in no case should there be fewer than four teachers, who are to be chosen by the principal.

**Section 2:** Any member of the faculty may propose to the council the names of students eligible for membership in the chapter.

**Section 3:** Any member who falls below the academic standards which were the basis of his election shall be promptly warned. If, during the next regular marking period of the school, the member fails to meet the standards used as a basis for his election to the Society, his case shall be passed upon by the faculty council. A National Honor Society member must maintain the standards for membership in order to retain his membership. A member will be allowed only one warning period. Once a member is dismissed, he is never again eligible for membership in the National Honor Society.

**Section 4:** When a member is dismissed, he must be notified in writing and his emblem and membership card returned to the advisor or principal. Notice of his dismissal must be indicated on the annual report submitted to the national secretary at the end of the school year.

**Section 5:** An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his membership and signed by the principal.

Section 6: An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. This transfer member must maintain membership requirements for this chapter in order to retain his membership.

#### **Article IV: Officers**

Section 1: The officers of this chapter shall be president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 2: A majority of votes cast shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter.

Section 3: It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of this chapter.

Section 4: The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president.

Section 5: the chapter secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings, a record of all business, and all records on file. He shall, with the approval of the principal or advisor, certify to the national secretary of the National Council the names of all members for the current school year on the annual report submitted to National Headquarters.

Section 6: The treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of the chapter and keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements in accordance with school regulations.

#### **Article V: Executive Committee**

Section 1: The executive committee shall consist of four members of the chapter council and the officers of the chapter.

Section 2: The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and business of the chapter, but any action on the part of the executive committee may be subject to the review of the chapter.

Section 3: All accounts of the treasurer must be audited annually by an auditing committee appointed by the executive committee of the chapter.

#### **Article VI: Supervision**

Section 1: The activities of this chapter shall be subject to the approval of the principal.

#### **Article VII: Meetings**

Section 1: The regular meetings of this chapter shall occur during the school year on days designated by the executive committee and approved by the principal.

Section 2: The officers of the chapter shall be elected at the last regular meeting of the year.

Section 3: Special meetings, approved by the executive committee, may be called by the president.

Section 4: All meetings shall be open meetings and shall be held under the sponsorship of the principal or some other member of the faculty selected by him.

Section 5: This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised in all points not expressly provided for in the constitution of this chapter.

### **Article VIII: Emblem**

Section 1: Each member of this chapter shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools.

Section 2: Any member who withdraws or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem. (See Article III, Section 4).

Section 3: Each member agrees that, whether the emblem comes to him as a gift, a personal purchase, an award, or from whatever source, the title to the emblem (shall) rest (s) with the chapter of which he is a member. The faculty council can, therefore, by a majority vote, request that any member return the emblem. In the case where the emblem can be shown to have been a personal purchase of the member, the council shall reimburse the member for the original cost of the emblem upon its surrender. Furthermore, each member agrees that his acceptance of the emblem shall be considered affirmation of this stipulation in regard to the title of the emblem.

Section 4: All insignia must be procured from the national secretary of the National Honor Society, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091. All insignia are registered in the United States Patent Office, and cannot be duplicated by anyone.

### **Article IX: Dues**

Section 1: The annual chapter dues for each member shall be \$10.00. This amount shall be subject to the approval of the executive committee of the chapter.

### **Article X: Bylaws**

Section 1: A chapter may wish to include bylaws to amplify sections of its constitution. Bylaws do not need to be approved by the National Council if they are consistent with regulations outlined in the constitution.

# National Honor Society

## Ellwood City Area School District

### Bylaws

#### **Article I: Membership**

**Section 1:** Election shall be following the end of the sophomore and junior year with induction occurring in the spring.

**Section 2:** Considered for membership on the basis of scholarship, service, leadership, and character, the student must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.75.

**Section 3:** In order to retain membership, each member must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.75 and a minimum semester average of 3.0 in each individual course (core and elective) throughout their junior and senior years. Each member will be responsible for presenting their report card to the advisor chapter at the conclusion of each semester (2<sup>nd</sup> 9 weeks period and 4<sup>th</sup> 9 weeks period). If his semester GPA has fallen below a 3.75, he will be placed on academic probation for a period of 1 semester. If he fails to improve his GPA to a 3.75 or above, he will be dismissed from NHS membership. No student may receive more than one semester of academic probation throughout his high school career. The consequence for falling below a 3.75 GPA for the second time will be automatic dismissal.

**Section 4:** A minimum of five (5) credits plus physical education in their junior year and a minimum of five (5) credits in their senior year must be carried to be retained as a member. NHS students must be in school for a full day (i.e. no work release/senior privilege). **Those seeking a waiver from this statute must request a hearing before the NHS Faculty Committee.**

**Section 5:** Any member abusing the oath or cardinal principles shall be taken before the chapter council. This could result in disciplinary action or expulsion from the society. **(This includes cheating, plagiarism, bullying, skipping school, or any other activity in conflict with school district policy).** Once a member is dismissed, he is never again eligible for membership in the National Honor Society.

#### **Article II: Meetings**

**Section 1:** Failure to attend more than two (2) meetings within one school year may result in dismissal from the society.

#### **Article III: Bylaws**

**Section 1:** These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter council.