

FREE and OPEN RESOURCES for EDUCATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME AND LOCATION

The name of this organization shall be the **Free and Open Resources for Education Special Interest Group (FORE-SIG)**, a division of TCEA, which is a non-profit corporation, incorporated in the State of Texas. Hereinafter, the Special Interest Group will be referred to as **FORE-SIG**.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of the **FORE-SIG** shall be consistent with those purposes outlined in the TCEA Bylaws, which are:

1. To encourage an active interest in the innovative and evolving use of technology tools and resources in elementary, secondary, and higher education throughout the state of Texas.
2. To provide an opportunity to keep abreast of trends in technology education.
3. To provide and improve pre-service and in-service in the area of technology education.
4. To provide professional cooperation and communication among educators toward the appropriate use of technology tools and resources.
5. To serve as a liaison among organizations and other interests involved in the use of the technology tools and resources in education.
6. To provide personal and professional services to members.

Section 2. Objectives

The objectives of the **FORE-SIG** shall be as follows:

1. To create a community of educators that develops and shares best practices using Free and Open Source technology and application tools.
2. To maintain a web presence that demonstrates the use of Free and Open Source tools in K-16 education.
3. To study and keep abreast of any new trends in Free and Open Source technology and applications.
4. To promote cooperation, communication and advocacy among educators, students and parents in demanding the use of Free and Open Source solutions in education.
5. To connect with other organizations involved in K-16 education to promote and advocate the use of Free and Open Source technology.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualification

Membership in this SIG shall be composed primarily of persons employed in K-16 education. These members contribute to the movement of bringing Free and

Open Source technology and Open Source applications to all school districts in Texas. Any person wishing to belong to **FORE-SIG** must also be a current member of TCEA.

ARTICLE IV. DUES

Section 1. Establishment of Dues

Dues shall be determined by majority vote of the **FORE-SIG** officers. All members of the SIG shall be notified within sixty (60) days of any change in the amount of dues.

Section 2. Membership Period

The membership period shall be one (1) year from the date dues are received at the Association mailing address. The date the dues are received shall be recorded to establish each member's anniversary date for future renewals.

Section 3. Delinquency and Cancellation

A procedure that provides for adequate notice of membership renewal and establishment of procedures for removal of delinquent membership shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director. Members may not be removed unless dues are delinquent for more than thirty (30) calendar days.

ARTICLE V. MEETING AND VOTING

Section 1. Regular Meetings

Meetings of **FORE-SIG** may be held when needed. Notice of any meeting of the **FORE-SIG** membership at which official business is to be transacted will be given to members not less than ten (10) days before the date of the meeting.

Section 2. Voting

Proposals to be offered to members for a vote shall first be approved by the officers of the **FORE-SIG**. In any vote, a majority of those voting shall determine the action. Voting rights of a member shall not be delegated to another nor exercised by proxy.

Section 3. Cancellation of Meetings

The officers may cancel any meeting for just cause.

Section 4. Rules of Order

All meetings and proceedings of the **FORE-SIG** shall be regulated and controlled according to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order for parliamentary procedure, except as may be otherwise provided by these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

Section 1. Officers

FORE-SIG Officers will consist of:

1. President
2. Past President
3. Vice-President

4. Communications Officer
5. Treasurer
6. Member-at-Large

The **FORE-SIG** officers shall be elected by an at-large membership of **FORE-SIG**.

Section 2. Qualifications for Office

Any Regular **FORE-SIG** member, having been a member in good standing for a minimum of one (1) year, shall be eligible for nomination and election to any office of the **FORE-SIG**.

Section 3. Terms of Office

1. The President shall hold the office for one year and serve for one (1) consecutive additional term as Past President.
2. The Vice-President shall be elected annually. The Vice-President shall serve in the office of vice-president for one (1) year, president for one (1) year, and past president for one (1) year.
3. The Communications Officer shall be elected for a term of one (1) year.
4. The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of one (1) year.
5. The Member-at-Large shall be elected for a term of one (1) year.

Terms of office will begin April 1.

Section 4. Nomination and Election Procedures

Notice that nominations are open shall be made available to the entire voting SIG membership. Nominations shall be in writing (electronic or written), signed by a SIG Member, and shall include a brief resume and a written consent of the nominee to be nominated and serve, if elected.

In order to be accepted, nominations must be received at the Association's or the Nomination Committee Chair's no later than the last Monday in February, by the end of the business day. If no nominations are received for any open position, candidates will be provided by the acting President of the SIG in accordance with these Bylaws.

Election ballots will be made available by the 2nd Monday in March. Ballots must be verifiable. Election results will be determined by a plurality of votes received by the deadline.

Section 5. Duties of the President

The President shall be the chief elected officer of the **FORE-SIG** officers. The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the officers and the membership. The President shall make all required appointments of standing and special committees and trustees, and fill board vacancies as necessary.

Section 6. Duties of the Past President

The Past President will assist all other officers in duties that the President determines.

Section 7. Duties of the Vice-President

The Vice-President shall succeed to the Presidency. He/she shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's inability to be present. The Vice-President will serve as Program Chairperson for all meetings.

Section 8. Duties of the Communications Officer

The Communications Officer will see that minutes are recorded for all business meetings, special meetings, and each officer meeting. Minutes will be shared with the TCEA office.

Section 9. Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall report on the financial condition of the **FORE-SIG** at all meetings and at other times when called upon by the officers.

Section 10. Duties of the Member-at-Large

The Member-at-Large will assist the President in achieving SIG goals and effecting policies and/or decisions made by the SIG.

Section 11. Compensation

Officers will not receive any compensation for their services.

ARTICLE VII. DISSOLUTION

FORE-SIG shall use its assets only to accomplish the objectives and purposes specified in these Bylaws.

No part of said assets should be distributed to the members of **FORE-SIG**. Any assets remaining upon dissolution of the **FORE-SIG** shall become part of the assets of TCEA.

A majority vote of itself or the TCEA Board of Directors may dissolve **FORE-SIG**, if **FORE-SIG** is non-functioning, or operating in violation of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCE

Section 1. Fiscal Period

The fiscal year and the administrative year for this Association will be from April 1 to March 31.

Section 2. Budget

The officers shall submit an annual operating budget covering all activities of the SIG to the TCEA Board of Directors. A financial report of the fiscal year just completed is available upon request by any Regular Member.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended or repealed by two-thirds vote of the Regular Members voting by a thirty (30) day mail ballot. Notice of such proposed changes must be sent, in writing, to the members thirty (30) days before the meeting. Amendments may be proposed by an officer of the SIG, or upon petition of a

simple majority of the regular members, addressed to an officer of **FORE-SIG**. All such proposed amendments shall be presented by the officers of **FORE-SIG**.