SkillsUSA
Middle School Division Constitution

ARTICLE I—NAME
The official name of this organization shall be “SkillsUSA Middle School Division.”

ARTICLE II—PURPOSES
The purposes of this organization are:
• To unite in a common bond without regard to race, sex, religion, creed, national origin or disabilities, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, full-time students enrolled in exploratory courses that prepare for future study in a career and technical education pathway.
• To provide leadership for the state organizations.
• To provide a clearinghouse for information and activities.
• To provide national recognition and prestige through an association and affiliated organizations.
• To provide a vehicle, national in scope, for organizations to work articulately with trade, industrial, technology and health occupations student groups.
• To develop leadership abilities through participation in educational, occupational, civic, recreational and social activities.
• To foster a deep respect for the dignity of work.
• To assist students in establishing realistic career goals.
• To help students attain a purposeful life.
• To create enthusiasm for learning.
• To promote high standards in trade ethics, workmanship, scholarship and safety.
• To develop the ability of students to plan together, organize and carry out worthy activities and projects through the use of the democratic process.
• To foster a wholesome understanding of the functions of labor and management organizations and a recognition of their mutual interdependence.
• To create among students, faculty members, patrons of the school and persons in industry a sincere interest in and esteem for trade, industrial, technology and health occupations education.
• To develop patriotism through a knowledge of our nation’s heritage and the practice of democracy.

ARTICLE III—ORGANIZATION
Section 1. SkillsUSA is an organization of state associations, each operating in accordance with a charter granted by SkillsUSA, Inc.

Section 2. The administration and authority in SkillsUSA affairs will be vested in the Board of Directors of SkillsUSA, Inc.

Section 3. The national executive director is the administrator of the national headquarters. The executive director shall be appointed by and responsible to the Board of Directors for conducting the work of the national program.

ARTICLE IV—MEMBERSHIP
Section 1. Membership of SkillsUSA Middle School Division shall consist of the total eligible Middle School Division members of the chartered state association, territorial or U.S. possession, and members shall hold the same membership status as in their respective state and local organizations.

Section 2. A state association must have at least four local chapters and all members of the state must be members of the national organization to qualify for a charter.

Section 3. Each local chapter and state association shall be open for membership to all students regardless of race, sex, religion, creed, national origin or disabilities, as defined by the American with Disabilities Act.

Section 4. SkillsUSA will recognize members only through a state association with the exception of direct membership. Classes of membership which will be recognized are:
Active Membership—Students who have been or are currently enrolled in a middle school exploratory course that prepares for future study in a career and technical education pathway.

Direct Membership—Full-time preparatory students who have been or are currently enrolled in a middle school exploratory course that prepares for future study in a career and technical education pathway meeting the requirements of the State Plan for Career and Technical Education and residing in states without a state association to serve them. This classification will only be recognized if application for membership is made as part of an organized local SkillsUSA Chapters sponsored by the appropriate Board of Education and with the consent of the state director. Direct members may not serve as national voting delegates or hold national office.

Alumni Membership—Former active members who are no longer enrolled in trade, industrial, technology and health occupations education and are no longer eligible for membership through high school or college/postsecondary membership. Although alumni members pay dues and may participate at the national level through the SkillsUSA Foundation, Inc., they are not eligible to serve as national voting delegates, hold national office or otherwise represent the state active association membership in SkillsUSA. Charters may be issued for local and state alumni associations. The National Alumni Coordinating Committee oversees contributions to the SkillsUSA Alumni Fund, a fund which supports a variety of worthwhile projects for active SkillsUSA members.

Professional Membership—Persons associated with or participating in the professional development of SkillsUSA as approved by a state association. Such members shall include chapter advisors, teacher educators and supervisors. Professional members will pay dues as established by SkillsUSA, but members will be ineligible to serve as national voting delegates, hold national office or otherwise represent the state association in SkillsUSA.

Honorary Life Membership—Individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of SkillsUSA and trade, industrial, technology and health occupations education whose membership has been approved by the National Executive Council upon the recommendation of a state association. Such membership shall not require payment of national dues.

Section 5. A membership year shall be from September 1 through August 31.

ARTICLE V—NATIONAL OFFICERS
Section 1. Middle school members are not allowed to campaign for a national office.

ARTICLE VI—HOUSE OF DELEGATES
Section 1. The Middle School Division House of Delegates shall consist of two voting delegates from each chartered state association plus an additional delegate for each 1,000 Middle School Division members or major fraction thereof. Each delegate shall have one vote and must be present to vote. It shall be the duties and functions of the House of Delegates to:

• Enact bylaws, rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the affairs and activities of the organization as they relate to middle school business.

• Act upon items of business as requested by the National Executive Council and the Board of Directors.

Section 2. No student delegates, contestants or participants at a national meeting shall be recognized or seated unless they are accompanied by one or more adult advisors from their respective state, territory or U.S. possession.

ARTICLE VII—MEETINGS
Section 1. An annual meeting of SkillsUSA shall be held at such time and place as the National Executive Council and Board of Directors may decide.

Section 2. The National Executive Council, with approval of the Board of Directors, shall be empowered to call special meetings.

Section 3. Parliamentary procedures at all meetings will be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised.
ARTICLE VIII—VOTING
Section 1. Members shall exercise their franchise at national meetings or conferences through duly elected representatives or delegates of the chartered state associations.

Section 2. All official delegates and alternates must be certified by the state advisor of each state, territory or U.S. possession to the National Executive Director not later than June 1 prior to national meeting.

ARTICLE IX—FINANCES
Section 1. State associations shall be responsible for annual national dues according to the number of individual members claimed in each membership classification.

Section 2. All organization monies from the state associations shall be deposited with the corporate treasurer of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Annual dues shall be established and determined by the national board of directors, in consultation with the state association directors, with the proviso that increases shall be no more than $0.50 increments for student dues and no more than $1 professional dues and documented by actual “proof of need.”

Section 4. Upon final dissolution or liquidation of SkillsUSA, and after the discharge or satisfaction of all outstanding obligations and liabilities, the remaining assets shall be used by the Board of Directors for the benefit of students of trade, industrial, technology and health occupations education, or be transferred to some recognized educational foundation.

Section 5. The fiscal year of SkillsUSA shall be September 1 through August 31.

ARTICLE X—AMENDMENTS
Section 1. The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended as follows:
• A proposed amendment must be presented in writing to the national executive director 90 days prior to a national meeting.
• The amendments shall be reviewed by the National Executive Council and the Board of Directors.
• Amendments must be submitted to each state association as soon as possible, but not less than 60 days before the annual meeting of the National Executive Council at the time of the national meeting.
• It must then be presented for vote at an official business meeting of the House of Delegates at the national meeting. Amendments to the Constitution shall be adopted upon two-thirds affirmative vote of the House of Delegates. Amendments to the Bylaws shall be adopted by a majority of the House of Delegates.

ARTICLE XI—BYLAWS AND OPERATING POLICIES
Section 1. Bylaws shall be adopted by a majority vote of the House of Delegates.

Section 2. Operating policies shall be adopted as determined by the National Executive Council and Board of Directors.

Section 3. The national president shall appoint committees as necessary to conduct the work of the national organization.

Section 4. All business to be brought before the House of Delegates must first be reviewed by the appropriate committee before presentation to the House of Delegates.