

**Recommended Changes to the  
Bylaws Of Georgia Teachers of English for Speakers of Other Languages (GATESOL)  
Approved by the Full GATESOL Board on August 13, 2022  
for consideration by the GATESOL membership**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Current Bylaws Of Georgia Teachers of English for Speakers of Other Languages (GATESOL) 2021</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recommended Changes</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Numbered Changes</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>Georgia Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (GATESOL) refers to the Georgia Affiliate of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. and is a registered non-profit organization in existence since the early 1980s. Its purpose is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encourage professional development, participation, and leadership within the state of Georgia.</li> <li>● Provide opportunities for study and research.</li> <li>● Work cooperatively toward the improvement of instruction in all programs that seek to provide students with an opportunity to acquire English language skills and proficiency.</li> <li>● <i>Promote an understanding of the cultures of non-native speakers of English.</i></li> <li>● <i>Create an online and offsite platform for Georgia educators to share the knowledge to better serve the ESOL community.</i></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>Georgia Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (GATESOL) refers to the Georgia Affiliate of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. and is a registered non-profit organization in existence since the early 1980s. Its purpose is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encourage professional development, participation, and leadership within the state of Georgia.</li> <li>● Provide opportunities for study and research.</li> <li>● Work cooperatively toward the improvement of instruction in all programs that seek to provide students with an opportunity to acquire English language skills and proficiency.</li> <li>● <i>Promote understanding and respect for other cultures, norms, and beliefs.</i></li> <li>● <del>Create an online and offsite platform for Georgia educators to share the knowledge to better serve the ESOL community.</del></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Change # 1</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mission Statement</b></p> <p>GATESOL's mission is to support Georgia's TESOL professionals through professional learning, advocacy, and <i>providing</i> a rich community.</p> <p><i>GATESOL supports TESOL professionals, students, and families by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Holding an Annual Conference</i></li> <li>● <i>Ongoing Professional Learning</i></li> <li>● <i>Advocacy</i></li> <li>● <i>Providing a Community for Connecting/Collaborating</i></li> <li>● <i>Participation in Interest Section Forums</i></li> <li>● <i>GATESOL in Action Journal</i></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mission Statement</b></p> <p>GATESOL's mission is to support Georgia's TESOL professionals through professional learning, advocacy, and <i>fostering</i> a rich, <i>connected professional</i> community.</p> <p><i>Specifically, GATESOL...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Provides a supportive forum where the TESOL educators and stakeholders are able to connect, communicate, and collaborate,</i></li> <li>● <i>Publishes the GATESOL Journal,</i></li> <li>● <i>Organizes and provides regular, ongoing professional learning on timely and relevant topics,</i></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Change # 2</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Newsletter</i></li> </ul> <p><i>GATESOL supports its members by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Grants and Awards</i></li> <li>• <i>Full Membership to Interest Sections</i></li> <li>• <i>Discounted Conference Rate</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sponsors an annual conference,</i></li> <li>• <i>Communicates with policymakers and officials at all levels of government and in the private sector regarding matters of concern to the profession.</i></li> </ul> <p><del>GATESOL supports its members by:</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• <i>Grants and Awards</i></del></li> <li><del>• <i>Full Membership to Interest Sections</i></del></li> <li><del>• <i>Discounted Conference Rate</i></del></li> </ul>	
<p><b>I. Membership and Dues</b></p> <p>Annual dues shall be specified by the GATESOL Executive Board. Membership begins on the date joined and continues for the length of time specified at the time of membership activation.</p>	<p><b>No change.</b></p>	
<p><b>II. GATESOL Elected Officers</b>  <i>The GATESOL Executive Board shall consist of 5 Executive Officers (President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer). This Executive Board together with the 8 Members-at-Large comprise the voting members of the full board. All elected officers shall be members of GATESOL and in good standing.</i></p>	<p><b>III. GATESOL Elected Officers</b>  <i>The elected officers of GATESOL shall consist of 5 Executive Officers, President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer; up to 8 Members-at-Large, and the immediate Past President. These officers comprise the voting members of the full board. All elected officers shall be members of GATESOL and in good standing and shall actively support the work of the committees of GATESOL and ensure that the key activities of the Association are carried out.</i></p>	<p><b>Change # 3</b></p>
<p><b>A. GATESOL Executive Officers</b></p> <p>1. <b>President</b> shall</p> <p>(1) preside at <i>all business meetings of the Association and at all quarterly meetings of the board;</i></p> <p>(2) make all necessary appointments to carry out the objectives of the Association;</p> <p>(3) be an ex-officio member of all committees and oversee the functioning of all Special and Standing Committees; and</p> <p>(4) serve as Liaison Officer to International TESOL, including responsibility for all communications and submission of annual reports. <i>The President shall be elected to serve a 1-year term by the Association membership at the annual conference and may not serve successive terms in office. The President's Advisory Board shall be appointed by the President to serve as an advisory body during</i></p>	<p><b>A. GATESOL Executive Officers</b></p> <p>1. The <b>President</b> shall</p> <p>(1) <i>set the meeting schedule of the Board,</i> (2) <i>preside at the Annual Business meeting and at all additional business meetings called by the Board,</i> (3) make all necessary appointments to carry out the objectives of the Association,</p> <p>(4) be an ex-officio member of all committees and oversee the functioning of all Special and Standing Committees,</p> <p>(4) serve as the Liaison Officer to International TESOL Association, including responsibility for all communications and submission of annual reports, (5) <i>be elected to serve a 1-year term by the Association</i></p>	<p><b>Change # 4</b></p>

<p><i>his/her term as President. Members of the President's Advisory Board represent the various ESOL constituencies in Georgia and do not include members of the Executive Board.</i></p> <p><i>(5) Submit announcements regarding timely information to the Publications Coordinator for the GATESOL e-Newsletter and/or post them directly on the website and have the Membership Officer send members a notice</i></p> <p><i>(6) The president may call additional meetings of the board as necessary.</i></p>	<p><i>membership at the annual conference and may serve one successive term in office, (6) appoint an advisory board to provide external perspectives and advice during his/her term as President that includes the immediate Past President,</i></p> <p><i>(5) submit timely information to the Outreach and Communication Committee and/or post information and announcements directly on the website and in Social Media, and/or email GATESOL members and contacts with the announcement or information.</i></p> <p><del><i>(6) The president may call additional meetings of the board as necessary.</i></del></p>	
<p>2. <b>First Vice President</b> shall (1) assume all the duties and responsibilities of the President in the President's absence and (2) serve as Annual Conference Chair. As Annual Conference Chair, the First Vice President (3) organizes and facilitates the Annual Conference Organizing Committee. The First Vice President shall agree to place his/her name on the ballot for President at the Association's annual conference. The First Vice President shall be elected to serve a 1-year term by the Association membership at the annual conference.</p>	<p>2. <i>Immediate Past President shall advise the President and the board and serve as a full, voting member of the Board.</i></p> <p>3. First Vice President shall (1) assume all the duties and responsibilities of the President in the President's absence and (2) serve as <i>chair of the Conference Committee</i>. As Conference Chair, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President oversees the development of the Conference Program. The First Vice President shall be elected to serve a 1-year term by the Association membership at the annual conference.</p> <p><del>The First Vice President shall agree to place his/her name on the ballot for President at the Association's annual conference. The First Vice President shall be elected to serve a 1-year term by the Association membership at the annual conference.</del></p>	<p><b>Change # 5</b></p>
<p>3. <b>Second Vice President</b> shall be responsible for (1) promoting Association membership and (2) managing the membership database. The Second Vice President shall be elected to serve a 1-year term by the Association membership at the annual conference.</p>	<p><b>No change.</b></p>	
<p>4. <b>Secretary</b> shall (1) record the minutes of and attendance at board and association meetings; (2) send an electronic copy of the minutes to the Executive full board within two weeks after a meeting; (3) upload approved minutes to the GATESOL website; and (4) act as parliamentarian at board and Association</p>	<p>5. <b>Secretary</b> shall (1) record the minutes of and attendance at board and association meetings; (2) send an electronic copy of the minutes to the <del>Executive</del> full board within two weeks after a meeting; (3) upload approved minutes to the GATESOL</p>	<p><b>Change # 6</b></p>

<p>meetings. The Secretary shall be elected to serve a 1-year term by the Association membership at the annual conference.</p>	<p>website; and (4) act as parliamentarian at board and Association meetings. The Secretary shall be elected to serve a 1-year term by the Association membership at the annual conference.</p>	
<p>6. <b>Treasurer</b> shall (1) prepare a budget each year subject to approval by the full board; (2) collect dues; (3) deposit monies received as dues into an accredited bank; (4) make all disbursements; (5) maintain proper financial records; (6) have the books audited as specified by the full board; (7) present a written financial report at the Association's annual conference and at board meetings; and (8) maintain a register of all paid members in collaboration with the Second Vice President. The Treasurer shall be elected to serve a 2-year term by the Association membership at the annual conference.</p>	<p>7. <b>Treasurer</b> shall (1) prepare a budget each year subject to approval by the full board; (2) collect dues; (3) deposit monies received as dues into an accredited bank; (4) make all disbursements; (5) maintain proper financial records; (6) have the books audited as specified by the full board; (7) <i>ensure that GATESOL taxes are filed annually in a timely manner</i> (8) present a written financial report at the Association's annual conference and at board meetings; and (9) maintain a register of all paid members in collaboration with the Second Vice President. The Treasurer shall be elected to serve a 2-year term by the Association membership at the annual conference.</p>	<p><b>Change # 7</b></p>
<p><b>B. Liaison Officers shall be appointed by the President (with the exception of the Annual Conference Exhibitor Liaison) with approval of the full board and shall be non-voting, ex-officio members of the board. All liaison officers shall be members of GATESOL and in good standing.</b></p>	<p><b>C. Liaison Officers may be appointed by the President as needed to represent various constituencies within the Georgia TESOL community, Liaison Officers shall be non-voting, ex-officio members of the board. All liaison officers shall be members of GATESOL and in good standing.</b></p>	<p><b>Change # 8</b></p>
<p>1. <b>The Past President</b> shall serve on the President's Advisory Council and represent the GATESOL board at the annual International TESOL conference.</p>	<p><b>Delete</b></p>	
<p>2. <b>The Newsletter Editor</b> shall solicit material for, prepare, and distribute the GATESOL newsletter.</p>	<p><b>Delete</b></p>	
<p>3. <b>GATESOL in Action Journal Editor(s):</b> Shall publish at least one</p>	<p>4. <b>GATESOL Journal Editor(s):</b> Shall publish at least one</p>	<p><b>Change # 9</b></p>

<p>journal issue per year, maintain regular communication with the GATESOL president, provide current journal website information to the GATESOL president, <i>provide an update for each board meeting (at least one per year in-person)</i>, and submit an annual report to the full board on the state of the journal.</p>	<p>journal issue per year, maintain regular communication with the GATESOL president, provide current journal website information to the GATESOL president, <i>provide a synchronous or asynchronous update for each board meeting</i>, and submit an annual report to the full board on the state of the journal.</p>	
<p>5. <b>The Annual Conference Exhibitor Liaison</b> shall be appointed by the annual conference chair. The Annual Conference Exhibitor Liaison shall be responsible for maintaining contact with major ESOL publishers and other interested parties in order to coordinate their participation in advertising in GATESOL publications, sponsoring events and awards, displaying texts and materials at conferences and other meetings, soliciting conference support, and providing sample materials to the affiliate.</p>	<p><b>Delete</b></p>	
<p>6. <b>Regional Liaisons</b> serve as contacts between the GATESOL board and members who live or work in one of the 16 designated regions. Liaisons shall be appointed by the President. Regional Liaisons shall attend a minimum of 1 board meeting per year of service; become informed about issues concerning political/legislative initiatives that impact English learners in Georgia; organize a regional meeting for his/her region for local members, universities, school districts, etc.</p>	<p>7. <b>Board Liaisons</b> serve as contacts between the GATESOL board and GATESOL members. Board Liaisons may organize events for members in their region, plan an event or gather information about an issue of concern to the profession, or serve as a liaison to certain constituencies to strengthen the GATESOL community and ensure that all member concerns are heard and understood by the Board</p>	<p><b>Change # 10</b></p>
<p>a. <b>The Georgia Department of Education ESOL Program Manager</b> shall be asked by the President to appoint a liaison to the board each year.</p>	<p><b>No change.</b></p>	
<p>b. <b>Interest Section Leaders</b> shall hold an annual meeting to be held at the annual conference and organize events that support</p>	<p><b>Delete wording regarding Interest Section Leaders.</b> <i>b. The liaison to the SETESOL shall be appointed by</i></p>	<p><b>Change # 11</b></p>

<p>the mission of GATESOL.</p>	<p><i>the President to serve a one-year term and shall be a current GATESOL board member.</i></p>	
<p><b>C. Members at Large</b></p> <p>8. <b>Members-At-Large</b> shall be responsible for (1) helping to promote GATESOL's membership; (2) ensuring representation of special interest groups; and (3) acting as resource persons for GATESOL Executive Officers. Members-at-Large shall be drawn from a variety of geographical areas and special interests. There shall be one</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>member-at-large for each twenty-five (25) Association members or major fraction thereof, not to exceed eight. A Member-at-Large shall be elected to serve a 2-year term by the Association membership at the annual conference.</i></p>	<p><b>Members at Large serve as full voting members of the Board and serve on the Grants and Awards Committee, in addition to other duties.</b> There shall be one member-at-large for each twenty-five (25) Association members or major fraction thereof, not to exceed eight. Members-at-Large shall be elected to serve a 2-year term by the Association membership at the annual conference on an alternating basis, with approximately 50% of Members-at-Large elected each year.</p>	<p><b>Change #</b> <b>12</b></p>
<p>9. <b>Members-at-Large</b> are very important to the successful operation of GATESOL and, therefore, duties and responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <i>Serving on the Awards and Grants Committee;</i></li> <li>ii. <i>Promoting membership in GATESOL;</i></li> <li>iii. <i>Ensuring representation of special interest groups in the field throughout Georgia;</i></li> <li>iv. <i>Serving as resource persons for Executive Officers;</i></li> <li>v. <i>Serving on Standing and Special Committees;</i></li> <li>vi. <i>Attending board meetings throughout the year (at least 4)</i></li> <li>vii. <i>Participate as members of the Annual Conference Organizing Committee; and</i></li> <li>viii. <i>Attend the GATESOL's annual conference.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Delete.</b></p>	
<p><b>III. Interest Sections.</b> Interest Sections shall reflect the professional concerns of the GATESOL membership and shall pursue professional activities consistent with GATESOL's mission, bylaws, procedures, and strategic plans. Such activities shall be in concert with GATESOL's other activities and affairs. Interest sections may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>K-12 Education</i></li> <li>2. <i>Social Responsibility</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>III. Interest Sections.</b> Interest Sections may be organized as needed to reflect the professional concerns of the GATESOL membership and shall pursue professional activities consistent with GATESOL's mission, bylaws, procedures, and strategic plans. Such activities shall be in concert with GATESOL's other activities and affairs.</p>	<p><b>Change #</b> <b>13</b></p>

<p>3. <i>Higher Education</i>  4. <i>Bilingual Education (Dual Language &amp; Multicultural)</i>  5. <i>Adult Education</i>  6. <i>English as a Foreign Language</i>  7. <i>Applied Linguistics</i>  8. <i>International and Transnational Undergraduate and Graduate Students</i></p>		
<p><b>IV. Grants and Awards Committee</b>  <i>The Grants and Awards Committee shall have a Chairperson. That Chairperson shall announce the upcoming grants and awards using GATESOL's website and social media platforms and through the Executive Officers, Members-At-Large, Liaisons, and Committee Members; (2) coordinate collection and review of grant and award applications; and (3) be responsible for the timely notification of applicants (successful and otherwise). Furthermore, the Chairperson shall (4) be responsible for obtaining necessary award certificates, plaques, etc., and (5) presenting them to the Recipients at the Annual Conference. The Chairperson shall be appointed from the Members-at-Large and shall serve for a minimum of two years.</i></p>	<p><b>IV. Grants and Awards Committee</b>  <i>A current Member-at-Large shall chair the Grants and Awards Committee. That Chairperson shall announce the upcoming grants and awards using GATESOL's website and social media platforms and through the Executive Officers, Members-At-Large, Liaisons, and Committee Members; (2) coordinate collection and review of grant and award applications; and (3) be responsible for the timely notification of applicants (successful and otherwise). Furthermore, the Chairperson shall (4) be responsible for obtaining necessary award certificates, plaques, etc., and (5) presenting them to the Recipients at the Annual Conference. The Chairperson shall be appointed from the Members-at-Large and shall serve for a minimum of two years.</i></p>	<p><b>Change # 14</b></p>
<p><b>V. Nominations</b>  The President shall issue a call for board nominations to the Association's membership at least 30 days prior to the Association's Annual Conference. Nominations shall be submitted by one week prior to the Annual Conference.</p>	<p><b>V. Nominations</b>  The President shall issue a call for board nominations to the Association's membership at least 60 days prior to the Association's Annual Conference. Nominations shall be submitted two weeks prior to the Annual Conference.</p>	
<p>Qualifications for Office:  Qualifications for President: To maintain continuity, nominees for President shall have previously served on the <i>Executive Board</i> for a minimum of 2 years prior to running, and be a current member of the <i>Executive Board</i> (1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer).</p>	<p>Qualifications for Office:  Qualifications for President: <i>To maintain continuity, nominees for President shall have served on the Board for a minimum of 2 years prior to running and be a current Board member.</i></p>	<p><b>Change # 15</b></p>
<p><b>VI. Removal from Office and Vacancies</b>  A. <i>If an Executive Board Member fails to attend more than one board meeting and/or fails to fulfill the duties of his/her position, the full board may declare a vacancy by a two-thirds majority vote. If an Executive Officer resigns or is removed, the full board shall appoint a replacement from the GATESOL member(s)</i></p>	<p><b>VII. Resignations and Vacancies</b>  <i>If any Board member fails to fulfill the duties of his/her/their position, the full board may declare a vacancy by a majority vote. If an Executive Officer resigns or is removed, the full board shall appoint a GATESOL member in good standing with the knowledge and qualifications to fulfill the duties of the office to take over the duties and serve the remainder of the term via a</i></p>	<p><b>Change # 16</b></p>

<p><i>who received the next highest votes on the ballot for the position at the previous annual conference. If it is not possible to replace the Board Officer in this manner, the President shall appoint a replacement with a two-thirds majority approval of the board.</i></p>	<p><i>majority vote.</i></p>	
<p><b>VIII.</b> If a Member-at-Large fails during the 1st year of his/her term to attend at least two board meetings and/or does not fulfill appointed duties, he/she shall forfeit the position. The Executive Board shall then appoint a replacement from GATESOL member name(s) that appeared on the Member-at-Large ballot at the previous annual conference. If it is not possible to replace the Member-at-Large in this manner, the President shall appoint a replacement with a two-thirds majority approval of the board.</p>	<p><b>Delete</b></p>	
<p>C. Failure to disclose a conflict of interest by any Board Member within 30 days of the conflict arising is grounds for removal from office. Please see the GATESOL Conflict of Interest Policy.</p>	<p><b>No Change</b></p>	
<p><b>VII. Financial Operations</b></p> <p>The Treasurer will present a proposed budget to the full board at the first board meeting of the year. The full board must approve all line items.</p> <p>Budgeted funds may be expended for the purposes specified, without further approval.</p> <p><i>Expenditures in excess of the amount budgeted must be approved by the President.</i></p> <p>Any expenditure greater than 15% of the <i>budgeted amount</i> must be approved by the full board.</p> <p>Unbudgeted expenditures, or expenditures requiring a change in the budget, require approval of the full board.</p> <p>Funds allocated in an annual budget are available for use only during the specified fiscal year. Unspent funds revert to GATESOL's general fund balance.</p>	<p><b>VII. Financial Operations</b> <i>The fiscal year for GATESOL is January 1 – December 31.</i></p> <p>The Treasurer will present a proposed budget to the full board at the first board meeting of the year, which shall take place in January. The full board must approve the amount budgeted for each line items.</p> <p>Budgeted funds may be expended for the purposes specified, without further approval.</p> <p><i>Expenditures in excess of the amount budgeted but less than 15% over the original approved budget may be approved by the President and reported to the Board at the next scheduled board meeting.</i></p> <p>Any expenditure greater than 15% of the <i>original, approved budgeted amount</i> must be approved by the full board prior to the purchase.</p> <p>Unbudgeted expenditures, or expenditures requiring a change in the budget, require approval of the full board.</p> <p>Funds allocated in an annual budget are available for use only during the specified fiscal year. Unspent funds revert to GATESOL's general fund balance.</p>	<p><b>Change #</b> <b>17</b></p>



The full board may approve carrying funds over into the next fiscal year to ease implementation of a specific budgetary line item.	The full board may approve carrying funds over into the next fiscal year to ease implementation of a specific budgetary line item.	
<b>Amending Association Bylaws</b> Association Bylaws are to be amended by a <i>vote of the Association's membership.</i>	<b>Amending Association Bylaws</b> Bylaws are amended by a <i>2/3rd vote of the ballots cast by GATESOL members to approve the changes.</i>	<b>Change #</b> <b>18</b>

