



## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I – NAME and PURPOSE

Section 1: The name of the committee shall be the Nebraska Youth Leadership Council.

**Youth Speak:** We're called the Nebraska Youth Leadership Council (NYLC).

Section 2: The Nebraska Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) is organized exclusively for leadership, guidance, advocacy and educational purposes, more specifically to provide a youth perspective on disability issues related to the area of transition.

**Youth Speak:** NYLC gets together to share our stories about being young in Nebraska and having disabilities. We learn from each other and share what we learn with people outside of our group. Being a part of the group has helped us become more confident and better leaders.

### ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership shall consist of only those council members appointed by the Commissioner of Education.

NYLC members must have a disability, live in Nebraska, and be between the ages of 14 and 24.

**Youth Speak:** This is an official group in Nebraska. Any Nebraskan between 14 and 24 who has a disability can apply to be a member of NYLC.

### ARTICLE III – MEETINGS

Section 1: NYLC meeting dates and times are established at the beginning of each school year and are held at a mutually agreed upon location as availability permits. There are to be 4-5 meetings throughout a year.

Youth Speak: 4-5 meetings will be scheduled at the beginning of each school year at a location in your regional area. Usually that means we meet for a few hours on a Saturday, but this can change at any time if the group decides something else would work better.

Section 2: Each summer NYLC will host a Summer Youth Leadership Conference for members of all councils. The conference is to be held at a centrally located facility and attendance will be at no cost to the participant.

Youth Speak: We will have a conference in the summer that ALL members from ALL councils get to come to and it's FREE!

Section 3: Notice for meetings is to be given no less than one month prior to the date of the meeting. Meeting information will be made available on the NYLC website, social networking pages, through email, and paper hard copy for accessibility to all members and attendees. It is the council member's responsibility to maintain a record of the established meeting dates and maintain communication with the facilitator regarding any accommodations he or she may need in order to participate fully.

Youth Speak: Everyone will get a calendar of the scheduled meeting times in advance. Meeting announcements will also be made on Facebook and via email. It is the council member's job to let the facilitator know if they will be at the meeting AND if there is anything they need that will help them participate best at the meeting.

#### ARTICLE IV – LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Section 1: The State Advisory council is to have no more than fifteen members at a given time, while each regional council will be represented by up to twelve members each.

Youth Speak: Up to 15 people can be on the State Advisory council and up to 12 can be on each regional council.

Section 2: The role of a member is to represent young people of Nebraska on issues related to disabilities and the transition into independent living, including college and work.

Youth Speak: Council members have the important job of being leaders for other students with disabilities in Nebraska. We meet with schools in our region and talk about our experiences related to disabilities and transitioning into adult life.

Section 3: Members are appointed following an application process that shall include the completion of a youth application, 1 referral letters and an essay. State Advisory members will review all new applications and notify applicant of council status. An interview may or may not be required based on the number of applicants during a given period. All new council members will be presented the NYLC BYLAWS at their inaugural meeting.

Continued membership shall be contingent upon attendance of at least 50% of all council meetings throughout a school year. If due diligence is made to attend meetings yet the

member remains unable to attend required meetings, participation in at least two presentations or outside activities is required. If due to location/travel, schedules, or other reasonable obligations the member is unable to participate in any of the above activities, the member must make arrangements with the NYLC to find alternative opportunities for involvement.

Failure to comply with the aforementioned membership criteria within a full school year, the member shall be informed of “inactive” status for a period of 6 months. If the council member remains inactive, he or she shall be asked to resign their council seat.

Youth Speak: You will need to fill out an application and get letters of recommendations from adults. The application can be found on our website [nylc.nebraska.gov](http://nylc.nebraska.gov) and Facebook. Applications are read by current State Advisory council members who may ask you for an interview in order to learn more about you. If you are asked to be on the council, you have to come to half of all scheduled meetings or make other arrangements to participate in outside activities. There are a lot of chances to get involved. It is up to you to do this though! If you do not stay actively involved, other council members could ask you to step down from the council so someone else can join in your spot.

Section 4: Unless otherwise decided by the council member, individual terms will last from appointment through the age of twenty-four so long as Nebraska residency is physically maintained. Attendance and participation requirements must also be met.

Youth Speak: You can be on the council until you turn 25.

Section 5: Vacancies.

NYLC application process will operate on an ongoing, rolling basis to fill vacancies as they present themselves.

Youth Speak: You can apply to be on any of the councils at any time.

Section 6: Resignation, Termination and Absences.

Resignation from any of the councils may be made at any time for any reason and will only require notification to the facilitator.

Youth Speak: If you aren't able to be on the council anymore for any reason you just have to let the facilitator know. We understand how busy everyone is and it can be hard to balance everything sometimes. We just ask that you let us know.

Termination from the council may be made on the basis of meeting absences and lack of participation or if the individual moves out of Nebraska. The decision for termination is to be made by the council from which the individual is a member.

Youth Speak: Council members might ask you to step down from the council (or no longer be on the council) if you are not participating in at least half of the available activities or have not made other plans to participate.

#### ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES

Section 1: The NYLC may create committees as needed for special projects, such as marketing, videos, etc. Committees shall dissolve at the completion of each project.

Youth Speak: Depending on what activities we have going on, there might be new opportunities to join a special project committee.

#### ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS

Section 1: These Bylaws may be amended when necessary by a two-thirds majority of the State Advisory NYLC. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the council facilitator to be sent out with regular announcements.

Youth Speak: These are our rules and were decided by most of the State Advisory council members.

These Bylaws were approved at a meeting of the State Advisory Nebraska Youth Leadership Council in 2016.