

Article V. Membership

5.1- Composition

- A. NESILC will provide statewide representation, representing a broad range of individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds. NESILC membership shall always remain at or above 51% of people with significant disabilities representing a broad range of disabilities and are knowledgeable about Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Independent Living services.
- B. The majority of voting NESILC membership shall consist of individuals with disabilities who not are employed by a CIL or by any state agency, including agencies which provide services to persons experiencing disabilities.
- C. The NESILC will be composed of, no less than 11 and no more than 19, voting members appointed by the Board of Education in conformance with the Act.
- D. One director of a Center for Independent Living chosen by the directors of centers for independent living will be included on the NESILC as required under the Act.
- E. A representative from the DSUs, state agencies, and all CILs will be included as nonvoting, ex officio members and will be chosen by their respective agencies.
- F. The remaining voting members may be appointed to represent family members with disabilities and other groups concerned with independent living services for individuals experiencing a significant barrier to independent living due to a disability.

5.2- Term of Office

- A. Each member of the NESILC shall serve a term of 3 years except that
 - 1. Members appointed to fill a vacancy shall carry out the remainder of their predecessor's term;
- B. No member of the NESILC may serve more than two consecutive full terms. At the end of serving two consecutive terms, members are ineligible for reappointment until one full year has passed.
- C. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The vacancy shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the duties of the NESILC.
- D. Members shall be appointed, in such a manner, as to stagger the ending of terms.

5.3- Membership Responsibility

- A. The NESILC may recommend to the Board of Education that a member who misses two consecutive full (quarterly and/or special) council meetings without good cause be replaced.
- B. Recommendation for replacement will require 2/3 vote of the voting membership.
- C. If a member chooses to resign, the member must submit a resignation in writing to the Chair of the Council and the Executive Director 30 days prior to the next quarterly meeting.
- D. Members shall be required to attend all scheduled full (quarterly and/or special) council meetings unless they contact Executive Director ~~by telephone~~ prior to the meeting requesting an excused absence.
- E. Members will actively participate to fulfill their obligations as members of SILC Committees, including attending all committee meetings of which they are members.

5.4- Removal

- A. Any members of the NESILC Council may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote of NESILC members at a duly convened meeting of the NESILC.
- B. Any member so removed from the Executive Committee can appeal said removal.
- C. Any member removed from office may appeal removal as follows:
 - 1) Notice of appeal by the removed member shall be given to the Council by registered mail no later than ten days before the next regular or special NESILC meeting.
 - 2) The Chair shall instruct the Secretary to read the Executive Committee's reasons for removal.
 - 3) The removed member shall then be allowed to make a thorough defense. Upon conclusion of defense the removed officer shall leave the meeting.
 - 4) The NESILC shall then discuss the removal specifically and by two-thirds vote uphold or reverse the NESILC's decision.
 - 5) The removed member shall be called back into the meeting and informed of the vote. Should the NESILC uphold the removal, the Executive Committee shall take immediate steps to elect a new officer.
 - 6) Should the NESILC reverse the removal, the member shall be immediately reinstated to the Council.