

**Sudanese American Community Cultural_School of Maryland,
Silver Spring**
SACCMD at Silver Spring

CONSTITUTION

Final draft modified as of February 15th 2009

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of this school shall be the SUDANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CULTURAL_SCHOOL of MARYLAND, at Silver Spring, here in referred to as the school. SACCMD shall mean and refer to the **Sudanese American Community Cultural_School in Maryland, at Silver Spring**. The school shall constitute an integral part, though financially and administratively independent, of the Sudanese American Community Development Organizations -SACDO -duly incorporated in DC, MD, and VA.

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE

The school is organized exclusively for educational purpose. It is to provide opportunities for all interested individuals regardless to race, color, nationality, and creed to study the Sudanese culture and languages. The school shall promote and teach Sudanese culture and language, and shall maintain high standings in its members.

ARTICLE 3: SCOPE

The scope of the school shall encompass all aspects of Sudanese culture and languages; and also its teachings, studying and promotion. The school shall be a non-political, and non-sectarian educational institution.

No part of the activities of the school shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the school shall not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of the candidate for public office.

The school shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempted from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE 4: BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

The board of trustees, herein referred to as the board, shall be composed of five members of the school:

- a) A minimum of three members shall be representatives from parents/guardians of enrolled students;
- b) Up to two members shall be representatives from the broader school membership;
- c) Stagger elections of members is encouraged to guarantee stability and continuity – elect two members every year for a two year term.

The board has the authority to recommend amendments of the constitution and bylaws to the General Assembly for approval. The board shall recommend or endorse appointment and dismissal of any Director of the School to the General Assembly.

The chairman of the board of trustees is elected among the board members by a majority vote. The term of the chairman of the board is one year and shall be eligible for re-election, but not eligible as the school General Director during his/her term. The chairman of the board of trustees shall call for the annual General Assembly meeting, or for special general assembly meeting upon request submitted by five members of the school to the board of trustees.

ARTICLE 5: THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The school general assembly, herein referred to as the assembly, shall have supreme authority at the school, and shall be composed of all parents or guardians of enrolled students, alumni, teachers, and approved active school supporters and friends registered at the school and committed to the school mission.

The assembly shall meet annually during school hours on a Sunday during the month of May, as per the School Calendar, to review end of academic year report and financial report of the calendar year ending the previous December. The quorum for the assembly meeting is 50+% of the registered members and the second meeting should be quorum by any number, but should be held at least one week after the first meeting.

ARTICLE 6: MANAGEMENT

The school shall be managed by volunteer directors, also known as board of directors, elected by the General Assembly according to the bylaws which includes the SACCMD organization structure.

ARTICLE 7: MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the school consists of all parents or guardians of enrolled students, alumni, teachers, active school supporters and friends registered at the school and committed to the school mission. Active school supporters and friends of the school must claim full membership, provided that they get their application approved by at least two thirds of the members of a joint quorum meeting of the Board of Trustees and Board of Directors according to the bylaws. Members must be at least eighteen years old and have privileges and responsibilities according to the bylaws. The Board of Trustees shall produce the membership application form and set the criteria and guidelines for the approval of school membership.

ARTICLE 8: FINANCE

The school shall maintain its financial status as a non-profit organization according to the section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code derived from the SACDO Federal non-profit status.

No part of the net earnings of the school shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the school shall pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.

The board shall have the sole authority and responsibility to obligate the funds and assets of the school, and any authorized officer or representative thereof may take such obligations and commitments provided they are within the terms of properly approved budget.

The school budget as well as any changes to the budget must be approved by the board. The school may collect dues, tuitions, fees, and donations from its members. The school may raise revenue by other means with the approval of the board.

ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the constitution may be initiated by at least five members of the General Assembly accompanied by a motion for the scheduling of a special meeting to consider the proposed amendment. Any such motion and proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the board of trustees at least thirty days in advance of the special assembly meeting. Amendments shall be adopted subject to the approval by two thirds of the assembly.

Amendments to the bylaws shall be initiated by at least one member of the board of the trustees or by the school general director and subject to the approval by the majority of the quorum of the board of trustees.

ARTICLE 10: CHANGE OF STATUS

Merger, dissolution, subordination, affiliation or any other change of status of the school shall be approved by two third of the board of trustees, and the general assembly.

ARTICLE 11: DISPOSITION

Upon the dissolution of the school, the board of trustees shall after payment of all liabilities, dispose all the remaining assets of the school to SACDO.