

**Constitution & By-Laws
Revised 2021**

Constitution

Article I: Name

The name of this organization will be Le Congrès de la Culture Française en Floride, Inc.

Article II: Objectives:

The objectives and purposes of this Congrès shall be:

A. To have an organization of the French students of this state which will promote interest and appreciation for French culture.

B. To foster in French students an appreciation of French civilization and to increase their desire to perfect themselves in the use of the language.

Article III: Membership

Section 1

Membership in this organization shall be open to those schools offering at least one year of French on the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade level.

Subsection 1

La Coalition Supérieure shall consist of students who attended Congrès as a high school or middle school student in previous years. They shall be able to shadow teachers and board members to learn about running a program like Congrès, and will continue spreading the commitment to learning about the francophone world. Coalition Supérieure members will not be competing against high school and middle school delegates in any way, but may enjoy the banquet and a variety of separate activities determined by the Board.

Section 2

Each school shall be entitled to send a student team to the annual CCFE convention. The size of the team shall be decided upon by the Executive Board.

Section 3

Each school shall be entitled to send three (3) official delegates to the annual business meeting. The power to vote shall be vested solely in the official delegates.

Section 4

For purposes of Competition, Congrès member schools shall be divided into equal divisions determined by the number of schools participating. The divisions shall be created by the President and the Vice President of the Congrès and their sponsors.

Section 5

The top four schools in each division will receive recognition.

Section 6

In order to compete in Congrès, every participant school shall have at least one French teacher registered in the AATF.

Section 7

Students enrolled in a trimester or multi-tracking system who are not enrolled in a French course at the time of Congrès, but have completed a course requirement during the school year, shall be eligible to compete in Congrès. Students who are enrolled in Virtual School may compete with their school if their school is participating at Congrès.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1

The officers of this Congrès shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Historian, Publicity Secretary and Chaplain.

Section 2

All officers shall be required to be currently enrolled in French, and be of blameless character at the time of the election and during the term of office. The President and the Treasurer shall each have the option to be excluded from his/her competition.

Section 3

All candidates must turn in a signed statement, from their sponsors to the Parliamentarian, stating the sponsor's willingness to support an officer, no later than fifteen minutes before the beginning of the business meeting.

Section 4

No person shall be eligible as a candidate who, at the time of the election, shall not be in the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade.

Section 5

Not more than one (1) officer may be elected from one school during the same term.

Section 6

All officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year.

Article V: Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of the officers of the Congrès, their sponsors, and any other person previously approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board members.

Article VI: Standing Committees

Section 1

Committees listed in the by-laws shall be established by the Executive Board as the need arises.

Section 2

The Chairman of these committees shall be appointed by and shall be a member of the Executive Board. Members of these committees shall be appointed by the Executive Board and shall be the official delegates from each member school.

Article VII: Annual Meetings

An annual meeting shall be held at Congrès in the spring of the year, as scheduled by the CCFB Board members.

Article VIII: Amendments to the Constitution

Section 1

This constitution shall be amended at any annual meeting of the Congrès by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the delegates present.

Section 2

Proposed amendments must be submitted, in writing to the Parliamentarian, at least one month before the Congrès, and copies sent by him/her to all member schools at least two weeks before the Congrès.

Article IX: Ratification

Two-thirds (2/3) of the official delegates must ratify this constitution.

Article X: Honor Code

Section 1

Pledge d'Honneur: All participating students must sign a Pledge d'Honneur.

Section 2

Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco: If a member of the Congrès is charged and found in illegal possession or under the influence of drugs, alcohol, and/or tobacco while attending the Congrès, he/she will be considered in violation of the Pledge d'Honneur and will be subject to disqualification that year, and excluded from further participation in Congrès. The school of said member shall be subject to the decision of the Conduct Committee.

Article XI: Emergency Amendment for Congrès 2021

At the board meeting on Saturday, January 9, 2021, the board members made and unanimously passed an emergency motion to amend the constitution and bylaws to accommodate for a virtual competition.