

# CONSTITUTION

## ACCREDITATION COMMISSION OF THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BAPTIST SCHOOLS

### ARTICLE I. DESCRIPTION AND MEMBERSHIP

The Accreditation Commission of the Texas Association of Baptist Schools (ACTABS) is an approved unit of the Texas Association of Baptist Schools (TABS). It is made up of schools who voluntarily meet the following criteria:

- A. 1. are affiliated with churches cooperating as members of local associations of churches of the Southern Baptist Convention (or the school may be affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas or a local Texas Southern Baptist Association).
- 2. are evangelical Christian affiliate schools who espouse the goals of TABS.
- B. are members of the Texas Association of Baptist Schools.
- C. are certified by ACTABS as having met (and are continuously meeting) the standards of accreditation prescribed by ACTABS.

Each TABS school that becomes accredited appoints two commissioners to the commission. Each commissioner has one vote in ACTABS policy decisions. The head of the accredited school (or designated representative) is one of the school's official commissioners to business meetings of ACTABS. The head also appoints the second commissioner.

Thus, ACTABS is an association of schools sponsored by TABS and authorized to accredit Southern Baptist schools and affiliate member schools operating in Texas. (See I.A.2)

Christian schools not meeting the criteria above may become affiliate-members by meeting the criteria stated in Section I.B. of the Standards for Accreditation.

### ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

ACTABS has two primary purposes:

- A. to promote high standards in academic, physical and spiritual programs among Southern Baptist schools and affiliate member schools in Texas and

to honor by accreditation those schools who demonstrate such standards are being maintained.

- B. to maintain recognition of ACTABS as an approved accreditation commission by any Texas non-public school umbrella approved to grant such recognition by the Texas State Board of Education (e.g., the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission of the Texas Association of Non-Public Schools).

### **ARTICLE III. OFFICERS AND GOVERNING STRUCTURE**

- A. The officers of ACTABS are President, Vice-President, Secretary/Custodian of Records, and Treasurer. The president of TABS is a member of ACTABS with voting rights and serves on the Executive Committee. The president of TABS may not serve as an officer of ACTABS.
- B. The Texas Association of Baptist Schools is composed of both ACTABS-accredited and non-ACTABS-accredited schools. It recognizes and supports ACTABS as the official accrediting agency within TABS, and delegates to ACTABS the authority to adopt and administer its own budget, to make revisions to the accreditation standards as needed, to elect its own officers, to formulate its own by-laws, and to implement visitation and accreditation procedures.
- C. A standing committee of ACTABS is the Standards Committee and it will work in conjunction with the executive director to accomplish the following:
  - 1. receive applications of schools seeking accreditation.
  - 2. review self-study documentation.
  - 3. implement and conduct site visits to candidate schools.
  - 4. act upon applications for accreditation.
  - 5. make recommendations for approval, disapproval, or other pertinent proposals concerning applicant schools to the convened meeting of ACTABS members.
- D. The executive director, as an employee of TABS/ACTABS, reports to the executive board of each organization, but is not a voting member of ACTABS. (See By-Law Article I. - I. and Addendum A).

**ARTICLE IV. RELIABILITY AND AUTONOMY OF ACTABS**

- A. The Executive Committee of the Commission annually reviews and analyzes its standards, policies, and procedures at the summer stated meeting. Member-schools may submit their suggestions to the Commission in writing at least two weeks prior to the stated meeting.
- B. The policies, evaluation methods, and decisions are reviewed by a panel of educators representing the teaching profession.
- C. ACTABS uses its standards as the sole guide for evaluating the quality of a school.

**ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- A. A quorum of ACTABS is established when one-half of the voting member schools plus one are in attendance at a stated or called meeting.
- B. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of commissioners attending and voting at a stated or called meeting at which a quorum is established. Proxy votes are not allowed.
- C. A proposed change in the constitution, accompanied by the rationale for the change, must be submitted in writing to the president and mailed to all members of the commission no less than thirty days prior to a stated or called meeting. Only a member school (or the President of TABS) is entitled to propose a constitutional revision, and it must be signed by the sponsor.

**AS AMENDED NOVEMBER 11, 1991, EXPANDED JANUARY, 1999.**