

January is School Director Recognition Month.

Did you know?

You may be ignoring an important segment of your school community: school directors who contribute many volunteer public service hours to school-related duties and responsibilities. You are encouraged to congratulate, support and salute your local school directors throughout the month of January. Such recognition can be a bright spot in an otherwise difficult year for board members, who should be appreciated. Here are some facts on school directors:

- 4,500 school directors serve Pennsylvania's 500 public school districts; all boards have nine members.
- School director elections are held every two years, on a 5-4 rotation to ensure continuity.
- All board members are elected to four-year terms.
- School directors are elected locally; however, the state constitution delegates to them the responsibility to administer the school system as agents of the General Assembly.
- All serve as volunteers, without pay.
- The "typical" Pennsylvania school director is male, well-educated, 55-59 years of age, married with two children attending public schools, and voluntarily devotes 16-20 hours per month to school board business.
- 16% of those serving on school boards in 2014 are retirees.
- 6% of school directors are homemakers, 9% are self-employed or business owners and 5% are office supervisors.
- The number of female school directors was 35% in 2014.
- More than three quarters, 75% of Pennsylvania school directors, have attained a college degree or beyond.
- 23% of Pennsylvania board members have more than 10 years' experience in 2014.
- 57% of all districts involve students at their local board meetings. Of those districts, 95% rate their involvement with students at meetings as satisfactory or highly satisfactory.
- During their meeting, most boards, 51%, allow two public comment periods; 48% allow one. Most, 72%, impose time limits on those comment periods.
- Pennsylvania school directors continue to keep adequate school funding at the top of the list of the most important educational concern facing public schools.
- 43% of school directors identified public service, desire to give back and contribute to public education as the primary motivating factor in their decision to run for school director.

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