

January 2021

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 school directors, who need to feel appreciated.

- 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 school directors 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, 50-54 years of age, married with two children attending public schools, and voluntarily devotes six to 10 hours per month to school board business.
- 14% of those serving on school boards in 2020 were retirees.
- 5% of school directors are homemakers, 10% are self-employed or business owners, and 4% are engineers.
- The number of female school directors was 40% in 2020.
- School directors are key decision-makers on issues such as school safety and security, budgeting, policy, hiring and textbooks.
- 21% of Pennsylvania school directors have more than 10 years' experience as of 2020.
- 57% of all districts involve students at their local board meetings.
- 42% of school directors attended the schools in the district where they serve. 95% of school directors have children who attend school in their district.
- 90% of school boards engaged their communities by participating in cooperative projects with business and community organizations.
- Pennsylvania school directors continue to keep adequate school funding at the top of the list of the most important educational concerns facing public schools.
- 50% of school directors identified public service, and desire to give back and contribute to public education as the primary motivating factor in their decision to run for school director.
- 85% of school directors indicated that incorporating equity into district programs was important or very important.



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