



GET ONBOARD – SCHOOL BOARDS

How do they operate and what does it take to be a school board director?

First off, it takes dedication and a strong commitment to public education and service to your local community. **AND THEN?**

A few basics ...

ELIGIBILITY:

- » You must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age, of good moral character and a resident of the school district for at least one year prior to the date of election or appointment.
- » There are some [restrictions according to provisions of state or federal law](#) that would cause an otherwise qualified candidate to be ineligible to run for or hold the office of school director.

TERM:

- » In Pennsylvania, school board directors or school directors are unpaid elected public officials.
- » For each school district, 9 school directors are elected, each fulfilling a 4-year term.
- » Board appointments occur when a vacancy arises caused by unforeseen circumstances. These seats are filled by an appointment process conducted by the remaining school board directors, which would result in a briefer term in the role.

The state and nationwide public education system rests upon the governance of locally elected school board officials, who comprise the school district's board of directors. The authority and decision-making carried out by a school board has a large impact on the success of K – 12 students in their district.

The role of school board director is complex and highly rewarding.

[The Pennsylvania School Boards Association \(PSBA\)](#) is the only professional association dedicated solely to educating and supporting the school boards of Pennsylvania, and as the oldest school boards association in the nation, we've been doing this successfully and continuously for 125 years.