

January 2022

School Director Recognition Month

Did you know?

School directors are a vital segment of every community. They contribute many volunteer hours fulfilling their school-related responsibilities and duties. They are committed individuals who serve their districts and seek out the best for their students. January is a time to recognize their work and show your appreciation. In honor of their public service, you are encouraged to congratulate, support and salute your school directors throughout the month.



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- 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.
- 16% of school directors also serve on career and technical school boards and 9% also serve on intermediate unit boards.
- 5% of school directors work in the legal field, 9% work in education, and 3% works in trades.
- The number of female school directors was 41% in 2021.
- School directors are key decision-makers on issues such as school safety and security, budgeting, policy, hiring and textbooks.
- 22% of Pennsylvania school directors have more than 10 years' experience as of 2021.
- 60% 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.
- 82% of school boards engaged their communities by participating in cooperative projects with business and community organizations.
- While the challenges of the pandemic have shifted priorities at times, Pennsylvania school directors continue to keep focus on school funding as a top concern 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.