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.