

SCHOOL DIRECTOR RECOGNITION MONTH JANUARY 2023

Suggested Editorial

The following can be adapted for use in your district newsletter, as an article in your local newspaper, as a letter to the editor or as the foundation of a speech. Localize the article by adding information about your school's directors, details of how school directors will be honored during January and examples of ways your board has improved education for the students in your district. Be sure to include school directors' names and years of service. Nine out of every 10 students in the United States attend public schools. Therefore, access to high-quality public education is crucial not only for our children's success, but for the strength of our society. It takes a team of dedicated people – teachers, administrators, staff, parents and other community members – to provide that education. The nine members of your local school board are a key part of this team, making informed decisions that shape our public schools.

In honor of the commitment and time school board directors volunteer on behalf of our schools and communities all year long, January is designated School Director Recognition Month. The work of these public servants is vital to the success of our students and schools.

School board directors' work is complex and diverse. From voting on budgets to adopting policy to conducting comprehensive planning, school boards make key decisions that drive public education. School directors devote, on average, 10 hours each month to board business, which has only been made more challenging by the ongoing effects of the pandemic and related issues that impact the well-being of our students and families.

Board service is unpaid, and school directors are often motivated to pursue the role out of a desire to benefit their community. The vast majority of school directors indicated their primary reason for serving is to give back or contribute to public education, or to improve educational outcomes for students.

School directors are locally elected officials, focused on improving the townships and boroughs in which they live. About 41% of school directors serve the district they once attended as a student and 94% are parents of students who attend or attended the district they serve. They are our fellow neighbors, local leaders, co-workers, parents and friends.

As citizens and parents, the success of our schools is a collective interest. This month, recognize your school directors for their time and dedication. Your appreciation is a great encouragement to these public servants, as they help ensure our schools remain a pathway to opportunity for every student.



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