SCHOOL DIRECTOR RECOGNITION MONTH

JANUARY 2027



PSBA
Pennsylvania School Boards Association

DID YOU KNOW?

School board directors volunteer their time and effort to ensure our public schools are governed well, for the benefit of students and the whole community. In honor of their dedicated service, take time to celebrate and show appreciation for your school directors throughout the month.

- 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, 45-54 years of age, married with two children attending public schools, and voluntarily devotes six to 10 hours per month to school board business.
- More than 3/4 of school directors are postsecondary graduates.
- 4% of school directors work in the legal field, 14% work in education and 2% work in trades.
- School directors are key decision-makers on issues such as school safety and security, budgeting, policy, hiring and textbooks.
- 17% of Pennsylvania school directors have more than 10 years' experience as of 2022.
- 60% of all districts involve students at their local board meetings.
- 41% of school directors attended the schools in the district where they serve. 94% of school directors have children who attend school in their district.
- 85% of school directors with five or more years of service said their main reason for serving is a desire to contribute to public education or improve educational outcomes for students.
- PA school directors identify student mental health needs, budget pressures and staffing shortages as the top concerns for public schools.
- Many school board directors also serve on the board of their district's intermediate unit (IU).

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 district'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.

Public education remains one of the most important investments we make in our communities. Across the country, public schools prepare about 90% of the nation's school-age children for college, careers and citizenship while serving as centers of learning, opportunity and connection. Their success depends on the collective efforts of educators, staff, families, community partners and elected school board directors who help guide the future of their districts.

School board directors bring community perspectives to the board table and make decisions that affect everything from student programs and district finances to facilities, policies and long-term planning. While their work often happens behind the scenes, its impact reaches every classroom and every student.

For most school directors in Pennsylvania, board service represents a commitment to public service. They volunteer their time to attend meetings, review materials, engage with community members and tackle complex issues facing public education. Many serve in the same districts where they grew up or where their children attended school, giving them a personal connection to the communities they represent.

To acknowledge the dedication and leadership of these locally elected officials throughout the commonwealth, January is designated as School Director Recognition Month. Their role is not always easy, but it is essential. As we recognize their service, we also celebrate the strong public schools they help support and the communities they help strengthen.

This month, take a moment to thank your local school board directors for their commitment to students, schools and public education. Their service helps ensure that today's decisions create opportunities for future generations.





January is School Director Recognition Month! We are proud to recognize the dedicated members of the [District Name] School Board for their service to our students, schools and community. As locally elected leaders, they help guide important decisions that shape opportunities for every student.

Meet your school board directors! Throughout January, we're highlighting the individuals who volunteer their time to help lead [District Name]. Today we recognize [Director Name], who serves as [position, if applicable]. Thank you for your dedication, leadership and commitment to supporting students, staff and our community. Leave a comment below to share your appreciation!

Did you know? School board directors serve their communities as volunteers, overseeing district finances, setting goals, adopting policies and helping shape the future of local education. This School Director Recognition Month, join us in thanking the [District Name] School Board for their service.

A simple "thank you" can go a long way. During School Director Recognition Month, we invite students, families, staff and community members to help us recognize our school board directors for their dedication to [District Name]. Comment below or send a note to [Board Email on Website] with your thanks!

SUGGESTIONS

FOR SALUTING SCHOOL DIRECTORS DURING SCHOOL DIRECTOR RECOGNITION MONTH

- Tie school director recognition to a special event, such as an athletic game or performance.
- Contact student editors to do feature stories about the board in school publications.
- Have students create handwritten notes to be distributed to the directors at an upcoming meeting.
- Participate in an Adopt-a-School-Director program: Classrooms choose a school director to adopt for a month and share class projects. School directors can visit the class to thank students.
- Hold a mock school board meeting with students filling the role of school directors. Create an agenda and appoint others to serve as administrators and concerned citizens.
- Have school marquees display “Thanks!” or other words of appreciation to school directors.
- Arrange for public service announcements on local radio and TV.
- Arrange for a florist to donate a single flower for each school director and put it at their place at a board meeting as a thank-you for their service.
- Place an announcement of School Director Recognition Month on the school district’s website and social media accounts, and in all district publications.
- Create a “School-Director-For-A-Day” contest giving students the opportunity to serve and learn about the duties and responsibilities of a school director.
- Use student artwork to make thank-you cards.
- Arrange a speaking engagement at a local service or civic club to explain the school board’s role and how public education is governed.
- Create a bulletin board display featuring pictures of school directors, background information and years of service on the board.
- Send flyers or information sheets home with students that detail School Director Recognition Month to spread awareness among parents.
- Start a tradition of “school director spotlights” and highlight one member per meeting for specific works.
- Make a video of students thanking school directors and show it during a meeting.
- Work with your PTA or other local organizations to provide snacks during an upcoming school board meeting.
- Arrange to have a school director be a guest lecturer in class during the month.

WE LOVE TO SEE ALL THE WAYS DISTRICTS ARE CELEBRATING. BE SURE TO TAG PSBA ON YOUR DISTRICT’S SOCIAL POSTS!