

THE POWER TO PURSUE EXCELLENCE

The decisions made by the school board affect virtually every important aspect of local schools, from boundaries to bus schedules, curriculum to clubs, and funding to field trips.

- The school board hires the director of schools, the “chief education officer” responsible for managing district staff and operations.
- The school board sets the priorities and adopts the budget that determine how millions in federal, state, and local tax dollars are spent.
- The school board sets goals for student achievement and evaluates progress toward those goals.
- The school board decides how school boundaries are drawn and whether schools are constructed or closed.
- The school board sets the policies that determine which courses and programs are offered and what texts, tools, and technology are purchased.
- The school board works with a variety of stakeholders to develop a vision and chart the course for a school district’s future direction and success.

Serving on a school board means the voice of your community is represented in the making of those choices.



YOU HAVE EVERYTHING TO GAIN—OR LOSE

Everyone—not just parents—has a stake in the success of public schools. When schools are strong and students succeed, everyone benefits.

- Good schools are good business—they attract employers, strengthen the local economy, and enhance property values.
- Good schools keep the American Dream alive with an opportunity for every child to receive a world-class education.
- Good schools keep the quality of life in a community high by producing citizens who pay taxes and obey the law.
- Good schools teach students from all backgrounds how to live and participate in our democracy.

Serving on a school board is an investment in the future of children, of your community, and of the nation.

THE RIGHT PERSON MAKES A DIFFERENCE

What qualities, skills, and experience does the public look for in a school board candidate? Here are some questions voters may consider:

- What are the candidate’s vision and goals for high academic achievement for all students?
- Does the candidate inspire parents and other stakeholders to have confidence in the local public schools?
- Does the candidate understand that the school board’s role is about the big picture—setting the direction for the district, and providing oversight and accountability—rather than day-to-day management?
- Does the candidate focus on one issue or discuss a broad range of school district concerns?
- Does the candidate’s approach make it likely that he or she will be able to work effectively with the rest of the board to get things done?
- Will the candidate enhance the mix of skills and backgrounds on the board and help represent the diversity of the community?
- Is the candidate committed to doing what is right for all children, even in the face of opposition?



Every child enrolled in your school district is a reason to serve on your local board of education. The overall quality of your schools, both now and in the future, rests with decisions made by the school board. Your community wants to be represented by someone who will always defend the best interests of all children.

SCHOOL BOARDS IN TENNESSEE

Tennessee law requires that school boards be elected by the people for four-year terms. Individual members may succeed themselves. Most county school board members are elected by district, where a number of members on city or special districts are elected at-large.

To qualify as a candidate for school board, a person must hold a high school diploma or GED. Once elected, members are required to attend annual training sessions established by the state board of education. The commissioner of education may remove from office any local board member who fails to attend annual training sessions.

For additional information about dates of elections and all legal and technical requirements of running for office, candidates should contact their county election commissions.

The Tennessee School Boards Association appreciates your interest in serving the children of your community as a member of your local board of education.

TSBA

Tennessee School Boards Association

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ALL IN FAVOR

*Getting involved
for student
success*

Board of education members have a tremendous responsibility. Your local school board makes the decisions that determine how your community's children are educated and how your tax dollars are spent. Serving as a school board member is one of the most powerful ways to support student success and strengthen your community.