



Want More Information?

Contact:

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What does a school board do?

- A school board establishes the vision for their school district or supervisory union.
- It adopts an annual budget that supports the vision and presents it to the voters for approval.
- It hires and oversees the superintendent.
- It monitors student progress and establishes policies to further student achievement.
- It engages with the community as it plans for the future.



THINKING ABOUT RUNNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD?



Becoming a school board member is a wonderful way to serve your community and support student success.



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Be Part of the Solution

Become a School Board Member



What are the characteristics of a successful school board member?

- Are you open-minded and able to make tough decisions?
- Do you want what's best for students while keeping fiscal realities in mind?
- Can you stay focused on the 'big picture'?

If so, you might have what it takes. School board members must be registered to vote in their town and be a resident of the school district they serve. They cannot be employed by that school district or hold certain other elected positions. For specific requirements, talk to your town clerk or contact the VSBA.



What does a school board member do?

School board members **act as trustees on behalf of the voters** in the district they serve. Board members establish and monitor policies, exercise financial oversight, engage with their communities, attend meetings, and make thoughtful, informed decisions to the best of their ability.

They **set the course for the superintendent, principals, and teachers to follow** – and then they step aside to **allow the educational professionals to conduct the day-to-day work** of teaching our students. As this work moves forward, board members discuss what future years will look like.



What are the next steps to run?

If you live in a municipality that relies on the **Australian Ballot method** of elections (a.k.a., voting by ballot), you need to submit a petition to your town clerk with the requisite number of signatures before the deadline, which is typically the sixth Monday preceding the day of the election. Check with your local town clerk to verify when and how to file a valid petition. You can also run a write-in campaign – but again, talk to your town clerk.

If you live in a municipality that **votes from the floor during Town Meeting**, ask someone to nominate you at the appropriate time and be prepared to explain why you want to be elected to the school board.