

**State Requirements for Local School Board Service
September 2007**

**Current mandated requirements a person must meet
to be elected or appointed to a local school board:**

<u>State</u>	<u>Resident of the school district</u>	<u>High school diploma or GED</u>	<u>Minimum age</u>	<u>Minimum age defined</u>
Arizona	X			
Arkansas	X			
California	X		X	18; legal voting age
Connecticut	X		X	at least 18
Delaware	X			18
Georgia	X			
Idaho	X		X	18
Illinois	X		X	18
Indiana	X		X	21
Iowa	X		X	18
Kansas	X		X	18
Louisiana	X		X	18
Maryland	X		X	registered voter
Massachusetts			X	18
Michigan	X		X	18
Minnesota	X		X	21 at time term of office begins

Current mandated requirements a person must meet to be elected or appointed to a local school board:				
<u>State</u>	<u>Resident of the school district</u>	<u>High school diploma or GED</u>	<u>Minimum age</u>	<u>Minimum age defined</u>
Mississippi	X	X	X	18
Montana	X		X	18
Nebraska	X		X	must be a registered voter (which is 18 in Nebraska)
New Jersey	X	X	X	18
New York	X		X	18
North Carolina	X		X	21
North Dakota	X		X	18
Ohio	X		X	18
Oregon	X		X	Voting age - 18 years
Pennsylvania	X		X	18
South Carolina	X		X	18
South Dakota	X		X	18
Tennessee	X	X	X	18
Texas	X		X	18
Utah	X		X	18
Vermont	X			
Virginia	X		X	qualified voter - 18
Wisconsin	X		X	18
Wyoming	X		X	voting age - 18
	34	3	30	

State	<u>Additional requirements mandated by state for local school board service</u>
Arizona	Gather a specified number of petition signatures.
Arkansas	To qualify for school board membership in Arkansas, a candidate must be a bona fide resident and a qualified elector of the district (and sometimes a specific zone) he or she wants to serve.
California	As long as you are a registered voter and a legal resident of the district, you may serve on the school board. The only prohibitions are: 1. A school district employee may not serve as a member of the county board of education in the county in which they are employed. 2. The school district cannot hire a relative of a sitting school board member. If, however, a relative of a district employee is elected to the board, they may not participate in any action that would affect the employees status.
Connecticut	None
Delaware	Must be qualified to vote. This means they cannot have any felony convictions.
Georgia	Must have been a resident of the county from which elected for 12 months immediately preceding election. Must be a qualified voter. Must not be employed or serving on the governing board of any private educational body or institution; employed by the local board of education and be on the same board; employed by either the State Dept. of Education or the State Board of Education.
Idaho	School Board Trustees must be a qualified "elector" in the district, i.e., able to vote.
Illinois	
Indiana	
Iowa	None
Kansas	
Louisiana	Each member of a city and parish school board shall receive a minimum of six hours of training and instruction in the school laws of this state, in the laws governing the powers, duties, and responsibilities of city and parish school boards, and in educational trends, research, and policy. Such instruction may be received from an institution of higher education in this state, from instruction sponsored by the State Department of Education, or by an in-service training program conducted by a city or parish school board central office or the Louisiana School Boards Association.
Maryland	Each County in Maryland that has an elected (as opposed to appointed) school board is so authorized by specific home rule legislation, and there are variations such as "must live in a specific part of the district if not running at large" in each of those pieces of legislation. Would be far more information than anyone would need or want re: Maryland's peculiarities.
Massachusetts	Get more votes than the next guy. That's all.
Michigan	Must be a registered voter in the school district where he or she is a candidate.
Minnesota	Be an eligible voter, which includes the requirement that the individual be a citizen of the US. A sex offender who has been convicted of an offense which requires registration under the Predatory Offenders Registration Act is ineligible to become a candidate for school board.

State	<u>Additional requirements mandated by state for local school board service</u>
Mississippi	
Montana	None
Nebraska	
New Jersey	None
New York	Must be able to read and write; be a qualified voter of the district; cannot be judged to be incompetent; must be a resident of the district for at least one year; may not reside with another member of the same board as a member of the same family; may not be a current employee of the district; cannot be a convicted felon if maximum sentence has not been served; has not been removed from the same board within the past year; may not serve simultaneously in an incompatible public office.
North Carolina	A convicted felon cannot run.
North Dakota	
Ohio	None
Oregon	1. Not an employee of the district; 2. Resident in school district for 12 months prior to taking office; 3. An "elector" which we interpret as a registered voter.
Pennsylvania	Section 322 of Pennsylvania's Public School Code contains the following eligibility requirements for school directors: 1. Must be a citizen of Pennsylvania having "good moral character." 2. Must be at least 18 years of age. 3. Must be a resident of the school district for at least year prior to being elected or appointed. Section 322 also provides a list of incompatible offices. An individual holding one of those offices would be ineligible for the office of school director.
South Carolina	
South Dakota	Registered voter and resident of director district, if any.
Tennessee	Citizen of TN and registered voter in county. File a petition signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the school district. Show evidence of a high school diploma or G.E.D. Once elected, board members are mandated by law to attend a two-day orientation plus one seven-hour module in their first year of service. Veteran board members are required to attend one seven-hour module annually.
Texas	Resident of US and State of Texas; registered voter; no felony convictions; not adjudged mentally incompetent.
Utah	
Vermont	Must be a legal voter in the school district; may not be an employee of school district or of any school district within same supervisory union.
Virginia	Must be a resident of the district from which he/she is elected or appointed if selection is by district.
Wisconsin	
Wyoming	

State	College education or continuing education requirements that a school board member must meet to remain on the board once appointed or elected
Arizona	None
Arkansas	Newly elected board members must obtain 9 hours of training within the first 15 months of their election. All other board members must obtain six hours per year.
California	None
Connecticut	None
Delaware	Only mandated financial training, developed and delivered by the Department of Education.
Georgia	In the sense that training is required. New board members must have 12 hours of training including six hours of training in school finance in the first 12 months after being elected. After that, they must have six of hours of training each year. Training plans are approved by the State Department of Education and hours are reported to them.
Idaho	None
Illinois	None
Indiana	None
Iowa	None
Kansas	None
Louisiana	Board members have to have the 6 hours completed within the four year term of office.
Maryland	None
Massachusetts	Eight-hour orientation on school issues to be provided by the state school boards association. There are no penalties for failure to complete the training.
Michigan	No
Minnesota	Minn. Statute provides: "A member shall receive training in school finance and management developed in consultation with the Minnesota School Boards Association and consistent with section 127A.19. The School Boards Association must make available to each newly elected school board member training in school finance and management consistent with section 127A.19 within 180 days of that member taking office. The program shall be developed in consultation with the department and appropriate representatives of higher education." Note that this statute does not carry a penalty for noncompliance.

State	College education or continuing education requirements that a school board member must meet to remain on the board once appointed or elected
Mississippi	Twelve hours basic education for newly appointed or elected board members; six hours of continuing education for veteran board members.
Montana	None
Nebraska	None
New Jersey	None
New York	Six hours of fiscal oversight training.
North Carolina	Board members are required to have 12 clock hours of training annually; however, there is no penalty for failure to get the training.
North Dakota	Attend a seminar for new school board members within the first year of serving on the board. Beyond that, there are no additional requirements.
Ohio	None
Oregon	None
Pennsylvania	None
South Carolina	Six hours of mandated training for newly elected school board members in the first year of serving on the board. Training is done by SCSBA under contract with the state board of education.
South Dakota	None
Tennessee	Once elected, board members are mandated by law to attend a two-day orientation plus one seven hour module in their first year of service. Veteran board members are required to attend one seven-hour module annually.
Texas	The link below takes you to the CE requirements for Texas. In addition, one hour of training is required on the Texas Open Meetings Act. http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=2&ch=61&rl=1
Utah	None
Vermont	None
Virginia	Each school board must require its members to participate annually in high quality professional development activities at the state, local or national levels on governance, including, but not limited to personnel, curriculum, and current issues in education as part of their service on the local board.
Wisconsin	None
Wyoming	None