

**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 |

| <b>Current mandated requirements a person must meet to be elected or appointed to a local school board:</b> |                                               |                                          |                           |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>State</u></b>                                                                                         | <b><u>Resident of the school district</u></b> | <b><u>High school diploma or GED</u></b> | <b><u>Minimum age</u></b> | <b><u>Minimum age defined</u></b>                    |
| 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                                      |
|                                                                                                             | <b>34</b>                                     | <b>3</b>                                 | <b>30</b>                 |                                                      |

| <u>State</u>  | <u>Additional requirements mandated by state for local school board service</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

| <b>State</b>   | <b><u>Additional requirements mandated by state for local school board service</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| 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        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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| <b>State</b>  | <b>College education or continuing education requirements that a school board member must meet to remain on the board once appointed or elected</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 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. |

| <b>State</b>   | <b>College education or continuing education requirements that a school board member must meet to remain on the board once appointed or elected</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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.<br><a href="http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&amp;app=9&amp;p_dir=&amp;p_rloc=&amp;p_tloc=&amp;p_ploc=&amp;pg=1&amp;p_tac=&amp;ti=19&amp;pt=2&amp;ch=61&amp;rl=1">http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&amp;app=9&amp;p_dir=&amp;p_rloc=&amp;p_tloc=&amp;p_ploc=&amp;pg=1&amp;p_tac=&amp;ti=19&amp;pt=2&amp;ch=61&amp;rl=1</a> |
| 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |