

School Board Member Fact Sheet 2017



Commitment to Public Education

School board members take on one of the most important citizen responsibilities: overseeing the education of the community's youth.

The board of education guides the community's public school system and ensures public schools are flexible and responsive to the needs of the community. School boards are comprised of volunteers, most of whom do not receive a stipend for service. They are individuals within the community who dedicate their time to better public education.

School board members statewide collectively oversee 2.6 million students and \$65 billion in budgeted spending.

With schoolchildren their ultimate focus, school board members strive to:

- Create a shared vision for the future of education
- Set the direction of the school district to achieve the highest student performance
- Provide accountability for student achievement results
- Develop a budget and present it to the community
- Align district resources to improve achievement
- Support a healthy school district culture in which to work and to learn
- And much more!

K-12 School Boards

New York has 691 public school districts, each with its own board of education. Except for New York City and Yonkers, board members are publicly elected. The number of board members in these districts ranges from three to 13, with seven being the most common. New York also has 37 Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) that provide shared educational programs and services to school districts across the state. BOCES boards range in size from seven to 15 members, with nine being the most common. BOCES board members are elected by school board members in districts within their service area.

School Board Members by the Numbers

No. of board seats in New York.....	5,106
Male board members	56%
Female board members	44%
Most board members serve.....	6 or more years
Most board members spend	6 hours or more per week on board activities