



TODAY'S SCHOOL BOARDS AND THEIR PRIORITIES FOR TOMORROW

2018 Survey conducted by the National School Boards Association

Most of the nation's children (87%) attend public schools guided by community members who serve on district school boards. These local leaders, the majority of whom are elected (88% v. 12%), set the vision and align a district's resources to advance learning goals. Periodically, the National School Boards Association conducts research to describe who is serving on America's school boards and to understand the issues and priorities they have for their students in their districts.

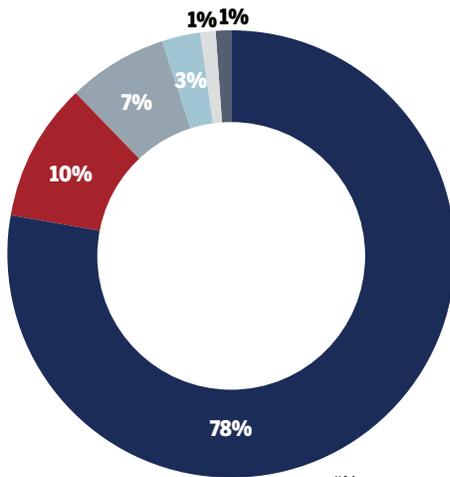
NSBA, in partnership with K12 *Insight*, conducted *Today's School Boards and Their Priorities for Tomorrow* between Nov. 14, 2017 and Feb. 12, 2018. Participants received an email invitation and survey link based on the distribution list NSBA provided. Of the 9,236 valid email addresses, 1,031 responses were received. Additionally, a public URL was distributed by state associations, which resulted in 411 additional responses. Responses were received from every state except Hawaii, and the District of Columbia.



ABOUT THE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

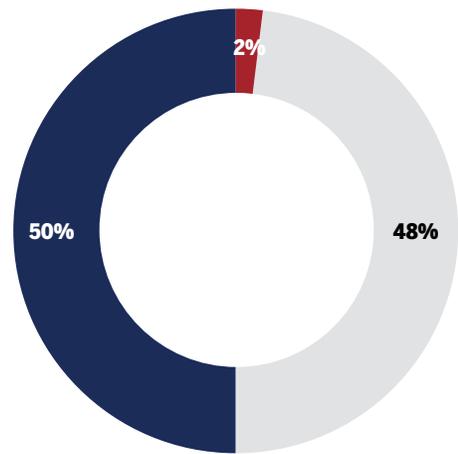
- The average age of school board participants is 59 years old.
- The youngest participant is 21 years old.
- 40% of participating school board members are retired.
- 1 in 4 participating school board members have experience working in education.
- The average school board member experience is 8.6 years, and the median is 6 years.
- 78% of school board member participants indicated they are white.
- 46% of participants have advanced degrees (Masters or Doctorates).
- 49% of participants earn \$100,000 or more.
- When asked their political philosophy, 44% of participants said they were progressive or leaning progressive, and 36% indicated they were conservative or leaning conservative.

Participants race/ethnicity



- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander*
- Asian*
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Multiracial
- Hispanic or Latino(a)
- Prefer not to answer
- African-American or Black
- White

Participants gender

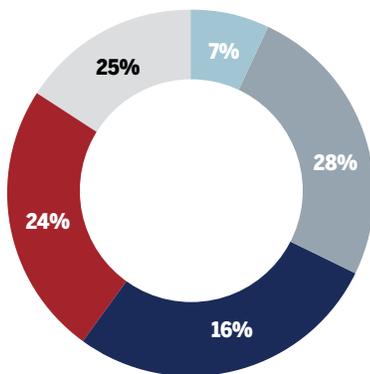


- Female
- Male
- Preferred not to answer

Current issues facing school boards

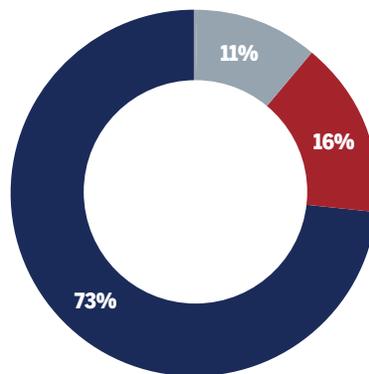
- Participating school board members rated budget (95%), factors that impact student achievement (93%), and evaluation of superintendent and principals (92%) as extremely important or very important to effectively performing their board duties.
- The three most important approaches to improving student learning identified by participating board members are high-quality leadership (97% school-level leadership and 96% district-level leadership), engaging and relevant curriculum (96%), and aggressively recruiting qualified teachers (94%).
- When evaluating superintendent performance, participating board members rated effective working relationships with others (98%), student achievement (95%), and financial management (95%) as the most important factors.
- Participating board members rated the following items as not at all important to improving student learning: supporting the creation of new charter schools (75%), increasing school choice in the district (43%), and linking teacher pay to student performance (37%).
- However, 89% of participating board members agree or strongly agree that there is a need to emphasize the development of the whole child.
- Participating board members identified top barriers to their work as state laws regarding the hiring of non-traditional teachers (73%) and implementing state accountability systems (81%).

Time spent on board business



- More than 40 hours
- 25-40 hours
- 15-24 hours
- 7-14 hours
- Fewer than 7 hours

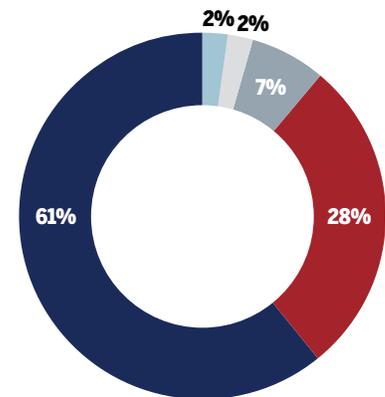
Per-meeting stipend received for board service



*No response

- No per-meeting stipend
- Less than \$100
- \$100-\$499
- \$500-\$1,000*
- More than \$1,000*

Annual salary for board service



- No salary
- Less than \$5,000
- \$5,000-\$9,000
- \$10,000-\$15,000
- More than \$15,000

Preparing the class of 2030: Looking to the future

Participating school board members were asked to rank their top three priorities in preparing school districts for the future in five categories: People, Finance, Technology, Enhancing Education, and Community Engagement/Board Operations. Based on weighted scores, the top three ranked priorities for each category are as follows:

People

- Having a workforce that can educate a diverse student population
 - Addressing potential teacher shortages
 - Preparing teachers to integrate technology into the curriculum
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Finance

- Ensuring the district is fiscally sustainable despite potential decreases in federal and state funding
 - Offering a competitive salary to the workforce
 - Ensuring funds are available to maintain existing buildings
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Technology

- Providing training and support for staff in the effective use of technology and data systems
 - Adapting to rapid changes in technology
 - Providing cutting-edge, technology-based career and technical education
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Enhancing Education

- Teaching 21st-century skills (critical thinking, collaboration, evaluating information for validity, the ability to solve non-routine problems, etc.)
 - Improving achievement of a diverse student population
 - Personalizing learning for all students
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Community Education/Board Operations

- Developing and implementing a continuous improvement process
 - Engaging community and staff members in improvement efforts
 - Identifying ways for the district to demonstrate its value to the community
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The top three most frequently cited sources for information were:

- 89% said they almost always or often consult their superintendent
 - 72% referenced their state school boards association or other state associations
 - 45% indicated NSBA or other national associations
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