

State Board of Education Membership Overview

Of the 16 members of the Board of Education, five are elected, seven are appointment by the Governor, two serve as student representatives, and one serves as a private school representative.¹ The Superintendent of Public Instruction is also a member of the Board.

Elected Representatives

Of the five public school elected representatives to the Board, two are from eastern Washington and three are from western Washington.² Candidates for election to the Board must meet several qualifications.³ The length of a candidate's term with the Board is four years, and no elected candidate other than the Superintendent of Public Instruction can serve more than two consecutive four year terms.⁴ The terms are staggered so that no more than two of the positions are open for election in a year, unless a person has resigned.

A separate document covering the election process of elected school board members is available [here](#).

Governor Appointees

Initial appointments to the Board occurred in staggered terms of one to four years in length. When a term expires (on the second Monday of January of the fourth year), the Governor appoints or reappoints a representative for a new four year term.⁵ Appointees to the board should meet the following qualifications⁶:

1. Demonstrated interest in public schools and are supportive of educational improvement.
2. A positive record of service.
3. Capable and willing to devote the time necessary to meet the responsibilities of the board.

The Governor should consider the diversity population of the state when nominating a candidate⁷, and all nominations are subject to confirmation by the senate.⁸

¹ [RCW 28A.195.011](#)

² [WAC 392-109-040](#)

³ [WAC 392-109-065](#)

- (1) Eligibility: A person is eligible to be a candidate for only one position on the state board of education at a time.
- (a) A candidate for a vacancy among the five positions on the state board elected by members of public school boards of directors must be a resident of the region represented by the position and meet the other qualifications established by RCW 28A.305.102; and
 - (b) A candidate for a vacancy in the position on the state board elected by private schools must be a resident of the state of Washington and meet the other qualifications established by RCW 28A.305.021.
- (2) Forms for filing: A person who desires to be a candidate shall complete:
- (a) The declaration and affidavit of candidacy form provided for in WAC [392-109-070](#); and
 - (b) The biographical data form provided for in WAC [392-109-075](#): Provided, That a declarant may elect not to submit biographical data.

⁴ [RCW 28A.305.021](#)

⁵ [RCW 28A.195.011 \(2\)](#)

⁶ [RCW 28A.195.011 \(2a\)](#)

⁷ [RCW 28A.195.011 \(2b\)](#)

Private School Representative

One member at-large is elected to a four year term by the members of the boards of directors of all private schools in the state.⁹

Student Representatives

Student representatives serve two-year terms with the Board and are elected from the [Washington Association of Student Councils](#) (WASC). The annual election rotation ensures equal representation from eastern and western Washington and that one junior and one senior fill the Board positions. Each spring, a sophomore is elected to serve. Students from eastern Washington are selected in even-numbered years, with western Washington offering the nominee in odd-numbered years.¹⁰

Qualified students must:

1. Be enrolled in a secondary school throughout the academic years of his or her term.
2. Be a sophomore at the time of selection.
3. Reside and attend school on the west side of the state with the Cascade Mountains serving as the dividing line.
4. Be able to attend and participate in all scheduled SBE and WASC Board meetings.
5. Have above-average grades and be responsible to make up school work missed while attending scheduled meetings.

⁸ [RCW 28A.195.011 \(2c\)](#)

⁹ [RCW 28A.195.011](#)

¹⁰ [Association of Washington School Principals – SBE Information](#)