

Membership Overview

Updated December 2011

The State Board of Education's (SBE) election process is defined in [RCW 28A.305.011](#). Of the 16 members of the State Board of Education (SBE), five are elected, seven are appointed by the Governor, two serve as student representatives, and one serves as a private school representative. The Superintendent of Public Instruction is also a member of SBE.

Elected Representatives

Of the five public school elected representatives to SBE, two are from eastern Washington, and three are from western Washington. Candidates for election to SBE must meet several qualifications.¹ The length of a candidate's term with SBE is four years, and no elected candidate other than the Superintendent of Public Instruction can serve more than two consecutive four year terms. 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 SBE occurred in staggered terms of one to four years in length. When a term expires, the Governor appoints or reappoints a representative for a new four-year term. Upon appointment, the Governor will send a letter to the appointee with a cc to the Executive Assistant. The letter will include the expiration date of the term. Appointees to SBE should meet the following qualifications:

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

The law requires the Governor to consider the diversity population of the state when nominating a candidate. All nominations are subject to confirmation by the senate.

¹ [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.

Private School Representative

One member at-large is elected to a four-year term by the private school advisory committee board.

Student Representatives

Student representatives serve two-year terms with SBE 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 SBE 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.²

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 in Washington State.
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.

² [Association of Washington School Principals – SBE Information](#)