



"Supporting, Promoting and Advancing Public Education"

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Saluting Wisconsin's School Board Members

Public school boards are at the heart of our democracy — they are locally elected by the people to prepare the next generation of citizens. This lofty principle means little without the men and women willing to stand up and serve as locally elected school board members. In Wisconsin, more than 2,700 people currently do so.

They are not full-time politicians nor are they usually experts in school governance when they join their local boards. They're regular citizens who balance their service with careers, families and other duties.

School boards have a difficult job. They set the vision of student success for their district and monitor progress. They're accountable to local residents for how taxpayer dollars are spent. They hire and oversee a district administrator to run day-to-day operations.

School boards don't run the schools; they make sure the schools are well-run.

In addition to attending meetings, school board members spend countless hours preparing for meetings, studying the issues, participating in professional development, and advocating on behalf of their students and communities.

Strong school boards lead to strong schools and strong communities. Helping school boards be effective is the mission of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards.

We ask you to join us this week in thanking your local school board members. It's important to honor and recognize their commitment to public service. It's also important for our children to see the direct link between their schools and their community and know that there is a large group of caring adults, many they never see, who care about their education and well-being.

Wisconsin School Board Week is Oct. 4-10. Please take a few minutes this week to thank the people who step up to serve on your local school board. If you get the opportunity, ask them about their role and about your schools. You'll undoubtedly hear about how proud they are of the students and what they have planned to make your schools even better.

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The Wisconsin Association of School Boards is a nonprofit association that provides information and services to Wisconsin school boards in the areas of school law and policymaking, bargaining, legislation and leadership development.