

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

HONORING

ALASKA SCHOOL BOARDS AND MEMBERS

The members of the Thirty-Third Alaska State Legislature honor and celebrate elected school board members and Alaska School Boards.

Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution directs the Legislature to, “establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the state.” By law, the Legislature has vested the governance of Alaska’s public school system in boards of locally elected citizens. Alaska’s fifty-three locally elected school boards are the core of the public education governance system in our state.

School board members are dedicated to the success of Alaska’s public education system, children, and youth who attend them. They work closely with families, students, educational professionals, and other community members to provide support in student learning and academic achievement. They look at achievement gaps in student learning and identify strategic plans to address student needs and provide public school choice options. They must make hard decisions on student safety and wellness, budgets, and policies.

School board members contribute their time and talents to their communities and offer a vision and voice of advocacy for public school students. School boards in Alaska serve as an important function in the education system—they communicate the needs of Alaska’s students and schools, serve as bridges between the school district and the public, and uphold the mission of advancing public education for the prosperity of Alaska’s youth. Alaska school board members also serve a crucial function in communicating the needs of students and schools to public policy makers, and in turn, the expectations of the public to employees in the district.

School board members work on strategic plans with their educational staff and communities, including tribes, businesses, and other state education entities. They offer perspectives to the Legislature from their communities on the effects of proposed and enacted legislative policy on students and families under their responsibility to deliver a quality education. They work with statewide and national school board associations to stay informed on current nationwide issues and educational reforms.

School board members are to be commended on working closely with the Association of Alaska School Boards, the Alaska Counsel of School Administrators, and other educational entities to collaborate and align policy between all levels of educational groups that deal with education issues. Their community engagement efforts are vital, as working with families and communities is thought to be the biggest factor in positive student achievement outcomes.

The members of the Thirty-Third Alaska State Legislature honor local school boards across the state. Members also encourage all Alaskans to recognize the hard work and dedication of school board members, and to join them in creating and supporting an education system that meets the individual needs of Alaska’s students.



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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

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