

Making a Difference for Kids

Running for Election as a School Board Trustee: A Guide for Candidates and Communities



School board trustees play a vital role in shaping the future of Ontario's publicly funded education system. As locally elected representatives, trustees provide governance, establish strategic direction, and advocate for student achievement and well-being. This guide provides an overview of the trustee role and what prospective candidates should know before deciding to run.

Why Does it Matter?

- Trustees are the democratic voice of the community.
- They help shape the future of public education.
- They promote student achievement and well-being.
- They oversee responsible stewardship of public resources.
- They represent the interests of all students in their district—not individual schools.



2026 | **Ontario Municipal
& School Board
Elections**



**Ontario Public School
Boards' Association**

What do Trustees do?



Set strategic direction



Approve budgets



Establish board policies



Hire and evaluate the
Director of Education/CEO



Monitor student achievement
and well-being



Engage with communities



Advocate for all students



Ensure effective stewardship
of public resources

Who Can Run?

A candidate must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be a Canadian citizen
- Reside within the school board jurisdiction
- Be a supporter of the school system
- Not be legally prohibited from voting
- Not be disqualified under legislation



Time Commitment

Trustees typically spend approximately 15 hours per week on the role, although commitments vary by school board.

Trustees also receive an honorarium established under provincial regulation.



What You'll Need

Trustee candidates do not need to have a background in education. However, the following skills and experience would be assets for potential trustee candidates:

- Willingness to learn**
- Collaboration**
- Communication skills**
- Strategic thinking**
- Understanding of governance**
- Commitment to public service**
- Openness to diverse perspectives**



Key Dates – 2026 School Board Elections

Nomination and Campaign Period Begins	May 1, 2026
Nomination Day (Last Day to be Nominated)	August 21, 2026
Final Day for Withdrawal of Candidacy	August 21, 2026
Voting Day	October 26, 2026
School Board Term of Office Begins	November 15, 2026
Campaign Period Ends	December 31, 2026
Financial Filing Deadline	March 30, 2027
School Board Term of Office Ends	November 14, 2030



Where to Learn More

[OPSBA](#)

[Ministry of Education](#)

[Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing: Candidates' Guide](#)

[Municipal Elections Act](#)

[Education Act](#)

www.opsba.org

