

*Provisions Governing Membership*  
on **Local  
Boards  
of Education**

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## FOREWORD

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**F**OR A NUMBER of years, particularly since the early 1940's, there has been a growing movement emphasizing the importance of local boards of education, how they function, and how their effectiveness may be improved. Evidences of this movement are found within a variety of sources: In the increasing amount of research dealing with school boards and their work; in surveys of local school systems; in the numerous articles appearing in magazines for school administrators; in the yearbooks and other publications of the American Association of School Administrators; in the growing number of handbooks and similar publications prepared especially for school board members; and, by no means last, in the rapid growth of the National School Boards Association, along with the activities of its affiliated State associations which have been organized in all except a few States.

This bulletin constitutes another addition to the literature in school administration dealing with boards of education. Its purpose is to provide information concerning the statutory provisions in the 48 States governing school board size, selection of the membership, and related factors.

In preparation of the bulletin the help of personnel in State departments of education was sought in checking and interpreting the school statutes involved, and in every instance this assistance was given. To all those who assisted the Office of Education expresses appreciation.

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## INTRODUCTION

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**I**N THE UNITED STATES public education is a State function. The responsibility of the States for guaranteeing the establishment and maintenance of a system of public schools is firmly embedded in their constitutions and is likewise reinforced both by long experience and by court decisions.

Although public education is a function of the States, a large measure of local control over the schools is everywhere regarded as essential. Consequently, responsibility for the actual operation of the schools is delegated locally, and for exercise of this delegated responsibility local school districts have been created. Each such district has a governing body, most commonly termed the board of education, which by State statute is clothed with administrative powers.

Being created by State law and likewise obtaining their powers from the same source, local boards of education are agencies of the State. At the same time, a local board of education is the instrument by means of which local control in operating the schools is maintained.

Within the framework of State laws and regulations, a local school board is responsible to the citizens of the school district it serves for the operation and management of the schools in the district. Although State laws and regulations vary among the States, in all of them local boards of education, through the expressed will of the people, are largely responsible for the quality of the school programs provided.

This study deals with the legal provisions governing membership on local boards of education. The information herein presented was obtained from the State school statutes in the 48 States. The statutory provisions applicable to districts governed by charter or similar special legislation have not been included. Neither have the provisions relating to county boards of education which function in an intermediate capacity between the State department of education and local district boards been included.

The Appendix, beginning on page 38, contains a summarized presentation in outline form of the basic data for each State.

## Size of School Boards

THE PROVISIONS in State school laws regulating the size of local boards of education vary greatly. There are significant differences not only among States but also within most of them.

### STATUTORY PATTERNS GOVERNING SIZE

Viewed in the aggregate, the statutes governing the size of local boards fall into rather distinct patterns. These patterns have been used as the basis of classifying the information on board size in the 48 States, as shown in Table 1, and are as follows:

1. *Uniform Size Without Exception.*—In 4 States (Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, and West Virginia) all local district boards are uniform in size in each State, consisting of 5 members.

2. *Uniform Size Except Where Special Legislation<sup>1</sup> Specifies Otherwise.*—In four additional States (Alabama, Georgia, Rhode Island, and Tennessee) all boards, except those where special legislation provides otherwise, are of uniform size, in Alabama and Georgia consisting of 5 members, in Rhode Island 8, and in Tennessee 7. However, each of these States has some districts operating under special legislation where board size differs from the general State pattern.

The eight States named above are the only ones where all school districts operating under the general school statutes<sup>2</sup> have a uniform number of board members. In each of the other 40 States the general statutes, as defined below, either specifically designate or permit varying sizes, the number of different sizes designated or permitted ranging from 2 to 9.

3. *Board Size Varies, With the Exact Number of Members Prescribed.*—In 28 of the States having boards of more than one size, the exact number of members for all boards covered by the general statutes is prescribed—as 3, 5, 7, or 9 members, depending upon specified conditions. In some of the States only one size is prescribed for a given

<sup>1</sup> As used in this study the term "special legislation" refers only to laws enacted separately for, and applicable specifically to, one particular school district, such as districts governed under special charter. As already mentioned, boards functioning under the provisions of such special legislation have not been included in this study.

<sup>2</sup> The term "general school statutes," as used in this study, includes laws which are applicable to boards of all districts of a given type or class in a State as well as legislation applying to all districts in a State without regard to their type or class.

type or class of district. In other States provision is made for different sizes in districts of the same type or class, depending upon certain conditions stipulated in the law.

In addition to these 28 States where the exact number of members is prescribed for all boards functioning under the general statutes, there the 8 other States (Arkansas, Connecticut, Indiana, Maine, New York, Ohio, Vermont, and Wyoming) where exact sizes are prescribed for boards of some districts but not for others.

*4. Board Size Varies, With Any Number Within a Prescribed Range Being Permitted.*—In each of the eight States named in the preceding paragraph, the statutes permit any number of members within a prescribed range for boards in at least one designated type or class of district.

In all Massachusetts districts where the general statutes apply, any number of members within a stated range, 8 to 9 members, is permitted.

*5. Board Size Varies, But Neither Exact Numbers Nor a Prescribed Range Is Stated Numerically.*—There are three States (Louisiana, North Carolina, and Virginia) where the size of boards is not directly prescribed numerically but for all districts is dependent upon conditions specified in the laws. Thus, in Louisiana, the size of school boards depends upon the number of police jurors in each school district; in North Carolina the statutes provide that the number of board members shall be the number appointed by the General Assembly; and in Virginia the size depends upon the number of magisterial districts in county unit districts and wards in city districts. (Information from other sources indicates that the range in number of members on boards of education in Louisiana is 5-19, in North Carolina 3-7, and in Virginia 3-10.)

North Dakota has a provision comparable to those in Louisiana and Virginia which, however, applies only to one type of district, and affects relatively few boards.

### SIMILARITIES AND VARIATIONS IN SIZE

As shown in Table 1, the number of members on local district boards varies widely, ranging from 1 to 19. Within these variations, however, there are a number of similarities in practice concerning which certain generalizations can be drawn:

In 36 States all boards (except those where special legislation applies) fall within a range of 3 to 9 members. In 28 of these 36 States all fall within a range of 3 to 7 members.

As shown earlier, there are 8 States where all boards within the State, except for those affected by special legislation, are uniform in size. But among the 40 States where provision is made for more than one size, there are at least four (Maine, Ohio, Oregon, and Utah)

where all but a very small number of boards are uniform in size within the State; thus, both Oregon and Utah have but one local district board which varies from the State pattern. Moreover, there are at least 11 other States (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, and Washington) where either all or a great majority of the larger districts within the State have boards of uniform size.

Thus, in at least 23 of the 48 States, either all boards covered by the general statutes, or the great majority of all except those in the smaller districts, do not vary in size within the State, although the number of members varies somewhat from State to State.

Carrying the generalization stated above a step further, in 15 of the 23 States either all boards, or the great majority of all except those in the smaller districts, consist of 5 members.

Table 1.—Size of local district boards of education in the 48 States as provided by the general statutes

State	Board size where the number of members is uniform in all districts		Board size where the number of members varies among districts		
	Without exception	Except where special legislation specifies otherwise	With exact numbers specified	With any number within a range permitted	With number not stated but dependent upon specified conditions
1	2	3	4	5	6
Alabama.....		5			
Arizona.....			2, 5		
Arkansas.....			1, 3	5 to 8	
California.....			2, 5, 7		
Colorado.....			2, 5, 7		
Connecticut.....					
Delaware.....			2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12	15 to 9	
Florida.....	5		4, 6, 7		
Georgia.....		5			
Idaho.....			2, 5, 6		
Illinois.....					
Indiana.....			2, 7		
Iowa.....			1, 2, 5	13 to 7	
Kansas.....			2, 5, 7		
Kentucky.....	5		2, 5, 6, 12		
Louisiana.....					
Maine.....					(7)
Maryland.....			2, 6, 7	13 to 9	
Massachusetts.....				8 to 9	
Michigan.....			2, 5, 7, 9		
Minnesota.....			2, 5, 6		
Mississippi.....	5				
Missouri.....			2, 6, 12		
Montana.....			2, 5, 7		
Nebraska.....			2, 5, 6, 9, 12		
Nevada.....			5, 7		
New Hampshire.....			2, 5, 6, 7, 9		
New Jersey.....			2, 5, 7, 9		
New Mexico.....			2, 5		
New York.....			1, 2, 5, 7, 9	13 to 9	

Table 1.—Size of local district boards of education in the 48 States as provided by the general statutes—Continued

State	Board size where the number of members is uniform in all districts		Board size where the number of members varies among districts		
	Without exception	Except where special legislation specifies otherwise	With exact numbers specified	With any number within a range permitted	With number not stated but dependent upon specified conditions
1	2	3	4	5	6
North Carolina.....					(1)
North Dakota.....			3, 5		(14)
Ohio.....			5	" 2 to 7	
Oklahoma.....			3, 5		
Oregon.....			" 5, 7		
Pennsylvania.....			5, 7, 9, 15		
Rhode Island.....		3			
South Carolina.....			" 3, 5, 7		
South Dakota.....			3, 5, 7		
Tennessee.....		7			
Texas.....			3, 5, 7		
Utah.....			" 5, 12		
Vermont.....			3	" 3 to 11	
Virginia.....					(15)
Washington.....			3, 5		
West Virginia.....	5				
Wisconsin.....			3, 5, 7, 9		
Wyoming.....			3, 5	" 5 to 9	

<sup>1</sup> Only three districts have 3-member boards.  
<sup>2</sup> Applies only to reorganized districts.  
<sup>3</sup> The number of members in divided townships depends upon the number of subdistricts—one member from each subdistrict, plus one<sup>4</sup> at large if the number of subdistricts is even.  
<sup>4</sup> The largest city has a 12-member board.  
<sup>5</sup> The number of members depends upon the number of police jurors; this results in boards ranging in size from 5 to 12.  
<sup>6</sup> The general statutes designate certain counties by name, and specify the size of school boards in these counties; all other county boards, according to the general statutes, consist of 3 members. However, special legislation provides for some 5-member boards, and the City of Baltimore has a 9-member board.  
<sup>7</sup> Regional boards normally consist of 9 members; however, if a regional district is composed of more than 9 preexisting districts, each such preexisting district is entitled to one member.  
<sup>8</sup> Applies to only one type of district.  
<sup>9</sup> The statutes provide that county boards shall consist of the number of members appointed by the General Assembly; county boards range in size from 3 to 7, and city boards from 3 to 12.  
<sup>10</sup> Boards in cities of 50,000-150,000 population consist of not less than 3 nor more than 7 members elected at large, and not more than 3 members elected by subdistricts. However, reports indicate that none of these cities are using the subdistrict plan.  
<sup>11</sup> The largest city has a 7-member board; all other districts have 5-member boards.  
<sup>12</sup> According to the general statutes, County Unit boards consist of 7 members, Consolidated district boards 5 members, and other boards 3 members. However, special legislation affecting each of the 46 counties and some or all of the districts in each county has been passed. In many cases, board size is specified in the special legislation; thus, the number of members on county boards ranges from 3 to 17, and on other boards from 3 to 9.  
<sup>13</sup> Applies only to separately organized High School districts.  
<sup>14</sup> In independent districts, board size depends upon the number of wards.  
<sup>15</sup> The size of boards depends upon the number of magisterial districts in county districts, and upon the number of wards in city districts; thus, the range is from 3 to 10 members.

In 34 States the statutes either prescribe or permit 3-member boards in some districts. Indiana has a number of township school districts with the township trustee functioning as a school board ex officio, and in New York State a few common school districts have 1-member boards, but boards consisting of fewer than 3 members are rare. This is not true, however, of 3-member boards, for most school districts in the Nation are quite small, and the great majority of small districts have 3-member boards.

The relationship between size of board and size of district is, generally speaking, not nearly as close in the case of very large districts as it is in the case of very small districts. However, there are some notable exceptions: for example, in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, and Utah, the largest city district in each has the largest board in the State; in Pennsylvania the two largest districts have the largest boards in the State.

In 27 States all boards covered by the general statutes must consist of an odd number of members. Although the statutes in each of the other 21 States either prescribe or permit an even number of board members for some districts, in no State do the general statutes require an even number of members for all boards. However, in Delaware the predominant pattern is even-numbered boards; and in Kansas and Missouri all except the smaller districts have boards with an even number of members. For the Nation as a whole, the great majority of local district school boards consist of an odd number of members.

### FACTORS UPON WHICH VARIATIONS IN SIZE ARE BASED

The factors upon which variations in board size are based in the 40 States having boards of more than one size are classified in Table 2. In some of these States only one factor is involved, while in others variations in board size depend upon several factors.

*Type of District.*—In 9 States all variations in board size are dependent upon type of district. (The basis of classifying school districts varies greatly among the States and does not fall within the scope of this study.) However, in most of these States, boards of the same size are specified for more than one type of district. For example, the Michigan statutes provide for 5 types of districts but only 4 different board sizes.

In 25 additional States variations are dependent upon type of district or upon other factors discussed below.

*Specified Conditions Within a District.*—Conditions within a given type of district determine board size in some or all districts in 20 States.

In 3 of these States (Louisiana, Nevada, and Virginia), conditions within districts account for all variations in board size. The provisions affecting size in Louisiana and Virginia have already been noted. In Nevada, districts having more than 1,000 pupils are governed by 7-member boards, and those with fewer than 1,000 pupils by 5-member boards.

In the remaining 17 States in this category conditions within a given type of district account for variations in size of boards in only certain

types of districts. These conditions vary both among and within this group of States, but include:

1. *Population.*—Pupil or total population is the most common determinant of board size in those districts where conditions within a given type of district affect size of boards. For instance, the general statutes in Illinois specify 7-member boards for all districts except common school districts containing less than 1,000 population which have 3-member boards. It should be added that in some States population (total, school-age, or pupil enrollment) is used as a basis for classifying school districts and this, in turn, affects school board size. Pennsylvania is an outstanding example of this.

2. *Number of Subdivisions Within Districts.*—Another condition, although less frequent than population, is the number of subdivisions of various types within a given school district. To illustrate: In Iowa the size of boards in divided townships depends upon the number of divisions within the township; in New Jersey, board size in regional districts containing more than nine preexisting school districts is determined by the number of such preexisting districts; in North Dakota, as mentioned earlier, the number of wards in a city district determines the size of the city school board.

3. *Other Conditions Within Districts.*—Various other conditions are prescribed in some States. The scope of the school program may affect the number of board members in some districts. For example, town district boards in New Hampshire normally consist of 3 members, but if such a district maintains a high school it may vote to increase the number to 6 or 9. In Minnesota the number of schools in certain township districts determines the size of the school board. In North Dakota, board size in common districts is dependent upon the date of organization of the school district. In South Dakota the size of county boards depends upon whether the county is organized or unorganized. In Wisconsin any common school district which is coterminous with a town may have 3 or 5 members on its board of education.

*Local Option.*—Some or all districts in a number of States have a choice within stated limits in determining school board size. In most cases the option is exercised through a vote of the people, but in some cases the school board makes the decision.

In 8 States (Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York) an option concerning size of board is permitted in all districts covered by the general statutes. The limits on the choice of size vary; in Connecticut and New York size depends upon the type of district, but the same limits apply to all districts in Massachusetts.

In 17 other States an option is provided by statute for certain types of districts only. In some of these States only one type of district is covered by the optional feature while in others two or more types are included. For example, an option is provided for separately organized high school districts in Maine, Montana, and Vermont. In contrast, all except separately organized high school districts have an option in New Jersey and Wyoming.

Table 2.—Factors on which variations in school board size in 40 States are based

State	Variation in number of members dependent upon:			
	Different types or classes of districts	Specified conditions within one or more types of districts	Exercise of local option which is permitted within specified size limits	
			In some but not all types of districts	In all districts
1	2	3	4	5
Arizona.....	X		X	
Arkansas.....	X		X	
California.....	X		X <sup>1</sup>	
Colorado.....	X	X	X	
Connecticut.....	X			X
Delaware.....	X			
Idaho.....	X			
Illinois.....	X	X <sup>1</sup>		
Indiana.....	X	X	X	
Iowa.....	X	X		
Kansas.....	X	X	X	
Louisiana.....		X		
Maine.....	X		X	
Maryland <sup>1</sup> .....				
Massachusetts.....				X
Michigan.....	X			
Minnesota.....	X	X	X	
Missouri.....	X	X		
Montana.....	X		X <sup>1</sup>	
Nebraska.....	X	X	X	
Nevada.....		X <sup>1</sup>		
New Hampshire.....	X	X	X	
New Jersey.....	X	X <sup>1</sup>	X	
New Mexico.....	X			
New York.....	X			X
North Carolina <sup>1</sup> .....				
North Dakota.....	X	X	X	
Ohio.....	X	X	X	
Oklahoma.....	X			
Oregon.....	X	X		
Pennsylvania.....	X			
South Carolina.....	X			
South Dakota.....	X	X		
Texas.....	X			
Utah.....	X	X		
Vermont.....	X		X	
Virginia.....		X		
Washington.....	X			
Wisconsin.....	X	X	X	
Wyoming.....	X	X	X	

<sup>1</sup> Unified districts (administrative units operating both elementary and secondary schools) may have either 5- or 7-member boards, depending on local option.

<sup>2</sup> Common districts having less than 1,000 population are served by 3-member boards; all other districts have 7-member boards.

<sup>3</sup> The general statutes designate certain counties by name, and specify the size of school boards in these counties; all other county boards, according to the general statutes, consist of 3 members. However, special legislation provides for some 5-member boards, and the City of Baltimore has a 9-member board.

<sup>4</sup> Applies only to separately organized High School districts.

<sup>5</sup> County units having less than 1,000 pupils are governed by 5-member boards; all other county units have 7-member boards.

<sup>6</sup> Regional boards normally consist of 9 members; however, if it is composed of more than 9 preexisting districts, each such district is entitled to one member.

<sup>7</sup> The statutes provide that county boards shall consist of the number of members appointed by the General Assembly; county boards range in size from 3 to 7, and city boards from 3 to 12.

<sup>8</sup> Boards in cities of 50,000-150,000 population consist of not less than 3 nor more than 7 members elected at large, and not more than 2 members elected by subdistricts. However, reports indicate that none of the cities are using the subdistrict plan.

## *Term of Office*

**L**OCAL SCHOOL BOARD members are selected to serve for a specified length of term in practically all districts in the United States. Exceptions to this almost universal practice are found in Virginia where the members of a few boards serve at the pleasure of the appointing agency. Other exceptions probably are the result of special legislation; for instance, members of a few city boards in Alabama may hold office for life.

### LENGTH OF TERM

Almost universally, there are no general statutory limitations on the number of terms a member may serve. In Indiana, however, the same person is not permitted to serve as township trustee more than 8 years out of each 12.

Most school board members in the United States are selected for terms of from 3 to 6 years. (Table 3.) Such terms are provided for all members in 41 States, and for most of the members in 5 of the remaining 7 States, according to the general statutes.

Although Table 3 indicates that the length of term ranges from 1 to 7 years, the number of board members selected for terms of 1, 2, or 7 years is quite small when compared to the total number in the Nation.

In 20 States only one length of term is prescribed for all local district boards covered by the general statutes. In these 20 States the length of term varies from 2 to 7 years. Most of these States have more than one type of school district.

Each of the other 28 States prescribe two or more lengths of term. In many instances the same length of term is prescribed for more than one type of district.

### FREQUENCY OF SELECTION

Almost universally, all regular school board selections in districts where the general statutes apply are made either annually or biennially, (Table 3). One exception might be noted in Indiana: the township trustee, who is a regular township official, but who functions in an ex officio capacity as a school board, is selected every 4 years.

One or more board members are selected each year in a majority of the school districts in the United States. Provision is made for annual selections in all districts in 19 States, and in some districts in 18 additional States. This practice prevails in practically all types of districts and in all sections of the country. However, it is more characteristic of small districts than of any other size.

Table 3.—Length of terms, time interval between selections, and districts selecting one-half or more of their board members at the same time, by State

State	Length of terms (years)	Time interval between selections (years)	Districts selecting one-half or more board members at the same time			
			All	Many	Few	None
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Alabama.....	1.6	1.2				X
Arizona.....	2.5	1				X
Arkansas.....	2.5	1				X
California.....	2.4	1				X
Colorado.....	2.6	1.2				X
Connecticut.....	2 & 4.6	1.2			X	
Delaware.....	4	1				X
Florida.....	4	2	X			
Georgia.....	3	1				X
Idaho.....	3	1				X
Illinois.....	3	1				X
Indiana.....	2 & 4	1.2 & 4		X		
Iowa.....	1.2 & 6	1.2			X	
Kansas.....	2.4	1.2			X	
Kentucky.....	4	2	X			
Louisiana.....	4.6	2				X
Maine.....	2	1				X
Maryland.....	6	2				X
Massachusetts.....	3	1				X
Michigan.....	2.4 & 6	1.2				X
Minnesota.....	2.4	1.2			X	
Mississippi.....	4.6	1.2				X
Missouri.....	2.6	1.2				X
Montana.....	2.2	1			X	
Nebraska.....	2.4 & 6	1.2			X	
Nevada.....	4	2	X			
New Hampshire.....	2.5	1				X
New Jersey.....	2.5	1				X
New Mexico.....	2.4 & 6	1.2				X
New York.....	1.2 & 5.7	1.2			X	
North Carolina.....	2	2	X			
North Dakota.....	3	1				X
Ohio.....	4	2	X			
Oklahoma.....	2.5	1				X
Oregon.....	4.5	1.2			X	
Pennsylvania.....	6	2				X
Rhode Island.....	2.4	1.2			X	
South Carolina.....	2.4	1.2			X	
South Dakota.....	2.4 & 6	1.2			X	
Tennessee.....	7	1				X
Texas.....	2.4	1.2			X	
Utah.....	4	2	X			
Vermont.....	2	1				X
Virginia.....	2.4	1				X
Washington.....	4.6	2		X		
West Virginia.....	6	2				X
Wisconsin.....	2	1				X
Wyoming.....	3	1				X

The members of 3 boards serve at the pleasure of the appointing agency.

In 11 States all regular board changes occur biennially. In the 18 States which have both annual and biennial selections, the latter are found principally in larger districts.

The term of office is 2, 4, or 6 years in all districts in which biennial selections are made. The length of term varies within and among States where changes occur annually.

### OVERLAPPING TERMS

With the exception of a few boards in Iowa, New York, and North Carolina (and also Indiana's township trustees), provision is made for some type of overlapping of terms on virtually all of the school boards in the United States.

However, even though there is a certain amount of overlapping, a considerable number of districts select one-half or more of their board members at the same time (Table 3). All districts do so in six States—Florida, Kentucky, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, and Utah. In all of these States, except North Carolina, the term of office is 4 years and selections are made biennially. Under these conditions it is readily apparent that if there is an even number of board members, one-half are selected at the same time, and that if the number is odd, more than one-half are selected one year and less than one-half two years later.

In 14 other States one-half or more of the board members are selected at the same time in some districts. In all except two of these States (Indiana and Washington) this practice is confined to relatively few districts.

A majority change in board membership, as a result of filling regular vacancies, is not possible in any of the districts covered by the general statutes in the remaining 28 States. These States are located in all parts of the country, and include all types of districts.

*Patterns of Overlapping.*—The degree to which board members' terms overlap determines the extent to which the composition of a board may be changed at any given time. The degree of overlapping depends upon three factors: (1) Number of members, (2) length of term, and (3) frequency of selection. The various patterns of overlapping prescribed for school boards of specified sizes are shown in Table 4. From this table certain generalizations can be made:

*Patterns of Overlapping Where Less Than Half the Membership of a Board Is Chosen at the Same Time, Except in Filling Unexpired Terms.*—By comparing columns 1 and 4 in Table 4 it can be seen that the length of term (column 2), and the time interval between selections (column 3), can be so arranged that less than half the membership of any of the different-sized boards shown will be chosen at the same time.

*Patterns of Overlapping Where Half the Membership Is Chosen at the Same Time.*—There are only three types of situations where this holds true: (1) On 6-member boards when 3 members are chosen each year for 2-year terms; (2) on 6-member boards when 3 members are chosen every other year for 4-year terms; and (3) on 12-member boards when 6 members are chosen every other year for 4-year terms.

*Patterns of Overlapping Where More Than Half the Membership Is Chosen at the Same Time.*—There are only three types of situations where this holds true: (1) On 3-member boards where the members are chosen biennially for 4-year terms; (2) on 5-member boards where the members are chosen biennially for 4-year terms; and (3) on 7-member boards where the members are chosen biennially for 4-year terms. In each of these situations, a majority of the membership is chosen one year and a minority two years later.

Table 4.—*Patterns of overlapping terms on school boards of specified sizes in the United States*

Number of members on board	Length of terms (years)	Time interval between selections (years)	Number of members selected at one time
1	2	3	4
3.....	3	1	1-1-1
3.....	4	2	2-1
4.....	4	1	1-1-1-1
5.....	3	1	2-2-1
5.....	4	2	3-2
5.....	5	1	1-1-1-1-1
5.....	6	2	2-2-1
6.....	3	1	2-2
6.....	3	1	2-2-2
6.....	4	2	3-3
6.....	6	2	2-2-2
7.....	3	1	3-2-2
7.....	4	1	2-2-2-1
7.....	4	2	4-3
7.....	6	3	3-2-2
7.....	7	1	1-1-1-1-1-1-1
8.....	4	1	2-2-2-2
9.....	3	1	3-3-3
9.....	4	1	2-2-2-2
9.....	6	2	3-3-3
11.....	3	1	4-4-3
11.....	5	1	2-2-2-2-2
11.....	6	2	4-4-3
12.....	3	1	4-4-4
12.....	4	2	6-6
12.....	6	2	4-4-4
15.....	6	2	5-5-5

## *Methods of Selection*

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### ELECTION BY POPULAR VOTE

**T**HE MOST COMMON method of selecting local school board members is by popular election. This method is used either exclusively or in certain districts in 42 States (Table 5). In 33 of these States all school board members covered by the general statutes are elected by popular vote. In the other nine States most boards are chosen by this method.

In comparing the widespread use of this method with the number of districts in the 48 States, it can be reliably estimated that more than 95 percent of all local school boards are elected by popular vote.

### SELECTION BY APPOINTMENT

School board members are appointed in some or all districts in 15 States. In six of these States (Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia) all district boards are appointed, excepting those where special legislation provides otherwise. Under such special legislation, a number of Georgia's and South Carolina's boards are elected by popular vote, as well as several in North Carolina and Tennessee, and one in Maryland. In each of these States the predominant type of local district is the county unit.

In the other nine States only a small number of boards are appointed. In most of them this method is used only in some of the city districts, in some cases five or fewer. In Delaware, the appointive method is restricted to districts in one of the three counties. In New Jersey most districts are permitted to decide the method of selection; as a result, about 15 percent have appointed boards.

Table 5.—Method of selection of school board members, by State

State	All elected	All appointed	Elected in some districts; appointed <sup>1</sup> in others
1	2	3	4
Alabama.....			X
Arizona.....	X		
Arkansas.....	X		
California.....	X		
Colorado.....	X		
Connecticut.....	X		
Delaware.....			X
Florida.....	X		
Georgia.....		X	
Idaho.....	X		
Illinois.....	X		
Indiana.....			X
Iowa.....	X		
Kansas.....	X		
Kentucky.....	X		
Louisiana.....	X		
Maine.....	X		
Maryland.....		X	
Massachusetts.....	X		
Michigan.....	X		
Minnesota.....	X		
Mississippi.....			<sup>1</sup> X
Missouri.....	X		
Montana.....			<sup>1</sup> X
Nebraska.....	X		
Nevada.....	X		
New Hampshire.....	X		
New Jersey.....			<sup>1</sup> X
New Mexico.....	X		
New York.....			<sup>1</sup> X
North Carolina.....		X	
North Dakota.....	X		
Ohio.....	X		
Oklahoma.....	X		
Oregon.....	X		
Pennsylvania.....			<sup>1</sup> X
Rhode Island.....	X		
South Carolina.....		X	
South Dakota.....	X		
Tennessee.....		X	
Texas.....	X		
Utah.....	X		
Vermont.....	X		
Virginia.....		X	
Washington.....	X		
West Virginia.....	X		
Wisconsin.....			<sup>1</sup> X
Wyoming.....	X		

<sup>1</sup> Community school board members are elected by and from the boards of the participating town districts.

<sup>2</sup> Board members are elected in a large majority of the districts.

<sup>3</sup> Board members are elected in all except four districts.

<sup>4</sup> Board members are elected except in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

<sup>5</sup> The rural members on the boards of a few districts in Mississippi are elected and the urban members appointed.

### PERSON OR AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING APPOINTMENTS

Practices vary considerably concerning the placing of responsibility for appointment of board members. The person or agency responsible in the 15 States is shown in Table 6.

Where the city districts have appointed boards, most appointments are made by the mayor or city council. However, in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh the judge of the court of common pleas is designated as the official responsible for appointing board members.

Methods of selection vary among the States where appointed boards are most common: In Georgia members are selected by the grand jury, in Maryland by the governor, in North Carolina by the legislature, in Tennessee by the county court, and in Virginia by a trustee electoral board, city council, or county board of supervisors.

In most States where the appointive method is used, the officials responsible for making appointments are themselves elected by popular vote. There are two notable exceptions to this: In Georgia the members of the grand jury are selected by lottery from a box containing the names of all eligible persons; in Virginia the trustee electoral board is appointed by the circuit judge who is, himself, selected by a joint vote of the State Legislature.

Table 6.—*Person or agency responsible for appointing school board members in the 15 States which provide for appointments in some or all school districts*

State	Appointments are made by—
Alabama.....	City council or city commission.
Delaware.....	County resident judge.
Georgia.....	Grand jury.
Indiana.....	Mayor, town board, or city council.
Maryland.....	Governor (in Baltimore, by the mayor).
Mississippi.....	Governing authority of the municipality.
Montana.....	County commissioners.
New Jersey.....	Mayor.
New York.....	Mayor.
North Carolina.....	General Assembly.
Pennsylvania.....	Judge of the court of common pleas.
South Carolina.....	Governor or county board of education.
Tennessee.....	County court.
Virginia.....	Trustee electoral board, county supervisors, or city council.
Wisconsin.....	Mayor or city council.

## *Qualifications for Membership*

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**T**HE GENERAL LAWS of all the States, except Rhode Island, specify the qualifications required for membership on local boards of education (Table 7). In most cases, these qualifications are the same for all members within a given State, but in a few instances the requirements depend upon the type of district.

In two States qualifications are prescribed, but only in general terms. Maryland's statutes state that board members are to be chosen "solely because of their character and fitness," and North Carolina's state, "No person shall be eligible as a member of a county or city board of education who is not proven to be a man of intelligence, of good moral character, of good business qualifications, and known to be in favor of public education."

### **QUALIFIED VOTER**

The most common qualification specified is that board members must be qualified voters. This requirement is prescribed in the statutes of 45 States—all except Maryland, North Carolina, and Rhode Island. It is applicable to all board members in each of these 45 States, except for boards of city districts in Alabama and independent districts in Texas. Moreover, it is the only qualification required for all boards in 26 States, and for all except one board (Portland) in Oregon.

It should be pointed out, however, that the requirements for voting vary from State to State.

### **ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

In addition to being a qualified voter, all or at least some board members in 21 States must meet other qualifications.

*Age.*—All States specify a minimum voting age. However, a higher minimum age is provided for school board members in some cases. Thus, the minimum age is 30 in Wilmington, Del., in some city districts in Indiana, and in all except common districts in Missouri. In Kentucky, board members must be at least 24 years of age.

*Length of Residence in State.*—In some States a longer residence requirement is required for board membership than for qualifying to

vote. For example, Kentucky and New Jersey require 3 years residence in the State to qualify for board membership.

*Length of Residence in District.*—In some States a minimum length of residence in the district is also prescribed which is longer than that required of voters. For example, a 3-year minimum within the district is prescribed for all districts in New Jersey, for city districts in New York, and for a few city districts in Indiana.

*Education.*—References to the educational qualifications of board members are found in the statutes of 11 States. Kentucky requires a minimum of an eighth grade education or its equivalent. The language used in the other States include such expressions as "fair elementary education," "able to read and write," and "practical education."

*Character.*—Maryland's and North Carolina's provisions concerning character qualifications have already been mentioned. Pennsylvania's statutes contain a similar provision regarding character which is applicable to all local boards; and Georgia, likewise, has a similar provision for all boards where special legislation does not apply.

*Taxpayer.*—In Georgia all members of all district boards covered by the general statutes must be freeholders. Missouri's statutes specify that all board members must be taxpayers, and in Michigan board members in all districts except those above 125,000 in total population must own property assessed for school taxes or be the spouse of such owner.

*Taxpayer or Parent.*—In Arizona all board members must be taxpayers or have a child in school. In Idaho, all members must be taxpayers or be the parent of a child under 21 years of age. In Nebraska board members of the largest city district must be taxpayers; in all other districts they must be taxpayers or have a child in school.

In New York, board members of all except city districts must meet one of the following qualifications: (1) Owns, hires, or leases property; (2) is parent of child who attended school at least 8 weeks the preceding year; or (3) has, residing with him, a child attending school in the district.

Table 7.—Qualifications prescribed for school board members, by State

State	All members must be qualified voters	Additional requirements in some or all districts:					
		Age	Length of residence	Education	Character	Taxpayer	Taxpayer or parent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Alabama.....	X			X	X		
Arizona.....	X			X			X
Arkansas.....	X						
California.....	X						
Colorado.....	X						
Connecticut.....	X						
Delaware.....	X	X	X				
Florida.....	X						
Georgia.....	X			X	X	X	
Idaho.....	X						X
Illinois.....	X		X	X			
Indiana.....	X	X	X				
Iowa.....	X						
Kansas.....	X						
Kentucky.....	X	X	X	X			
Louisiana.....	X			X			
Maine.....	X						
Maryland.....	X		X				
Massachusetts.....	X			X			
Michigan.....	X					X	
Minnesota.....	X						
Mississippi.....	X						
Missouri.....	X	X	X			X	
Montana.....	X						
Nebraska.....	X						X
Nevada.....	X						
New Hampshire.....	X						
New Jersey.....	X		X	X			
New Mexico.....	X						
New York.....	X		X	X			X
North Carolina.....	X				X		
North Dakota.....	X						
Ohio.....	X						
Oklahoma.....	X						
Oregon.....	X		X				
Pennsylvania.....	X				X		
Rhode Island.....	X						
South Carolina.....	X						
South Dakota.....	X						
Tennessee.....	X			X			
Texas.....	X		X	X	X		
Utah.....	X						
Vermont.....	X						
Virginia.....	X						
Washington.....	X						
West Virginia.....	X						
Wisconsin.....	X						
Wyoming.....	X						

1 City board members are chosen "solely because of their character and fitness."  
 2 County board members are chosen "solely because of their character and fitness."  
 3 The law does not specify that board members must be qualified voters.  
 4 No qualifications are specified.  
 5 In independent districts, the only requirement is that a member must have been a resident of the district for 6 months when elected.  
 6 Applies to all board members covered by the general statutes.

# *Nominating Procedures for Elected Boards*

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**N**OMINATIONS for membership on elected boards are made in a number of ways. The laws of some States prescribe that all candidates are to be nominated in the same manner; in other States the method varies with the type of district; in still other States local districts have one or more options concerning the method of nominating candidates for school board membership.

Table 8 presents the various methods of nominating candidates in the 42 States having elected boards in some or all districts. In 19 States only one method is specified, in 17 States two methods, and in 6 States three or more methods.

## **PETITION**

The most common method of nominating candidates for membership on elected boards is by a petition of qualified voters. Petitions are used in 29 States, although other methods are also used in some districts in 19 of these States.

The number of signatures required on a petition is usually relatively small. For example, Alabama specifies 25 signers, Arkansas 20, California 3-10, Delaware 15. On the other hand, 5,000 to 10,000 signers are necessary to place a name on the ballot in Detroit, Mich.

In some cases the statutes require a percentage of the qualified electors in the district or a percentage of those voting in a previous election. For example, in some Illinois districts the number is 10 percent, of the total electorate or 50, whichever is less, while in Ohio, one percent of those voting in the last governor's election is required.

## **PRIMARY ELECTION**

In 10 States all or some board member candidates are nominated in primary elections. In 4 of these States (Florida, Louisiana, Nevada, and Pennsylvania) all candidates are nominated through primaries. In 6 States (Alabama, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, and Texas) members in some districts are, or may be, nominated by primary elections.

These primary elections are the regular city, county, or State primaries. Candidates for other public offices are also nominated at the same time.

### INDIVIDUAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In contrast to nomination by petition or by primary election, any qualified person may announce his candidacy for membership on a school board in some or in all districts in 17 States. In 3 of these States (Oklahoma, Washington, and West Virginia) this method of nomination is used in all districts. In the other 14 States it is used only in certain districts.

In some of these 14 States an option is provided concerning the method of nomination in certain types of districts. The statutes, in such cases, specify that a candidate may be nominated either by individual announcement or by petition.

### ANNUAL SCHOOL OR OTHER MEETING

A less common procedure is nomination at an annual school, town, or other meeting. In Vermont, board members of all districts, except those where special legislation applies, are nominated in town meetings. In 9 other States, board members in certain types of districts, most of which are quite small, are nominated at the annual school meeting or at a similar meeting in the district.

In most of the States where this method is used, nomination of candidates and election of members take place at the same meeting.

### OTHER METHODS OF NOMINATION

The major political parties select, or may select, the candidates in some or all districts in 5 States (Alabama, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Missouri, and Rhode Island). In some cases the candidates are chosen by the party committee members, and in other cases at a party caucus or convention. In Connecticut all candidates are selected by the major political parties; however, no political party may nominate candidates for more than a bare majority of the positions to be filled.

In 6 States (Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Mississippi) the statutes do not prescribe how candidates shall be nominated in specified types of small districts.

Table 8.—Nominating procedures for membership on elected school boards in the 42 States having elected boards

State	Candidates are nominated in some or all districts by—				
	Petition	Primary election	Individual announcement	Annual school or other meeting	Other
1	2	3	4	5	6
Alabama.....	X	X			Party caucus, convention, or other assembly.
Arizona.....	X				(1).
Arkansas.....	X				
California.....	X		X		
Colorado.....	X		X		(1).
Connecticut.....					Major political parties.
Delaware.....	X				
Florida.....		X			
Idaho.....	X		X		
Illinois.....	X			X	
Indiana.....	X	X			
Iowa.....	X				(1).
Kansas.....		X		X	
Kentucky.....	X				
Louisiana.....		X			
Maine.....			X	X	
Massachusetts.....	X	X			Party caucus or convention.
Michigan.....	X				(1).
Minnesota.....	X		X		(1).
Mississippi.....	X				
Missouri.....	X		X		Political party committee.
Montana.....	X			X	
Nebraska.....	X	X	X	X	
Nevada.....		X			
New Hampshire.....	X		X		
New Jersey.....	X				
New Mexico <sup>1</sup> .....	X				
New York.....	X			X	
North Dakota.....	X		X		
Ohio.....	X				
Oklahoma.....			X		
Oregon.....	X		X	X	
Pennsylvania.....		X			
Rhode Island.....	X				Party caucus or convention.
South Dakota.....	X		X		
Texas.....	X	X	X		
Utah.....	X		X		
Vermont.....				X	
Washington.....			X		
West Virginia.....			X		
Wisconsin.....			X	X	
Wyoming.....	X			X	

<sup>1</sup> Advance nomination not required in some districts.

<sup>2</sup> According to a 1943 State attorney general's opinion, there were no statutory provisions regarding nomination of board members in certain types of districts.

## *Types of Elections*

AS INDICATED earlier, all school boards in 33 States, except where special legislation provides otherwise, are selected by popular vote, and in 9 additional States the general statutes provide for popular election in some but not all districts, making a total of 42 States where this method of selection is used either exclusively or in part. This section is concerned with the popular vote provisions of these 42 States.

### PARTISAN AND NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS

A large majority of the school boards elected by popular vote are chosen on a nonpartisan basis. In 32 States all popularly elected boards are selected on a nonpartisan basis, while in only 6 States are they elected on a partisan basis. In 4 States some boards are elected on a partisan and others on a nonpartisan basis (Table 9).

### NONPARTISAN ELECTION METHODS

There are three procedures prescribed for electing board members by popular vote on a nonpartisan basis:

1. *Separate Nonpartisan Elections.*—Most school boards in the United States are elected to office in separate elections—that is, in elections held especially for selection of board members but not for selection of other local or State officials. However, in a number of States other school matters requiring approval by the electorate may be brought to a vote at the same time school board members are elected. All such separate elections are nonpartisan in nature.

In 17 States the statutes specify that all school board elections are to be held separately. In 2 others separate elections are almost universally used: in Oregon, in all except one district (the largest); and in Texas, in all except a very few districts (Table 10).

Separate elections are also prescribed for boards of certain districts, most of which are small, in nine other States.

The most common time prescribed for holding separate elections for board members is during the spring. In a few States, however, they are held in the early autumn months.

Table 9.—*Partisan or nonpartisan election of school board members in the 42 States having elected boards*

State	All members are elected on a		Members in some districts are elected on a partisan basis, in others, on a nonpartisan basis
	Partisan basis	Nonpartisan basis	
	2	3	4
Alabama	X		
Arizona		X	
Arkansas		X	
California		X	
Colorado		X	
Connecticut			
Delaware	X		
Florida	X	X	
Idaho		X	
Illinois		X	
Indiana			
Iowa			X <sup>1</sup>
Kansas		X	
Kentucky		X	
Louisiana	X	X	
Maine			
Massachusetts		X	
Michigan			X
Minnesota		X	
Mississippi		X	
Missouri			
Montana		X	
Nebraska		X	
Nevada		X	
New Hampshire		X	
New Jersey			
New Mexico		X	
New York			X
North Dakota		X	
Ohio		X	
Oklahoma			
Oregon		X	
Pennsylvania		X	
Rhode Island	X		
South Dakota	X		
Texas		X	
Utah			X <sup>1</sup>
Vermont		X	
Washington		X	
West Virginia		X	
Wisconsin		X	
Wyoming		X	

<sup>1</sup> The township trustee is elected on a partisan basis; in all other districts the elections are nonpartisan.

<sup>2</sup> Most of the elections are nonpartisan.

**2. Nonpartisan Combined Elections.**—In six States some boards are chosen in combined elections, such as municipal elections, in which all other officials to be chosen are elected on a nonpartisan basis. This method is prescribed far less frequently than the separate elections mentioned above, being confined principally to some of the city school districts.

**3. Nonpartisan Ballots in Combined Partisan Elections.**—In four States (Kentucky, Nevada, Utah, and West Virginia) all local boards

are elected in a partisan election (municipal, or statewide primary or general elections) but on separate nonpartisan ballots. West Virginia's boards are elected in the State primary election, those in Kentucky and Nevada in the State general election as are those in Utah, except for city district boards which are elected in municipal elections.

In nine additional States, boards in some but not all districts are elected in partisan elections but on separate nonpartisan ballots.

### COMBINED PARTISAN ELECTIONS

As indicated earlier, in only six States (Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island) are all elected boards, except those where special legislation specifies otherwise, chosen on a partisan basis. Board members in Alabama and Florida are elected on the regular political party ballots in the State general elections; all those in Louisiana are similarly chosen in the congressional elections. In Connecticut they are elected in the regular town meetings; in Rhode Island in the regular town or city elections; and in Pennsylvania in the municipal elections. It should be recalled that the general statutes in Alabama and Pennsylvania prescribe appointment of a few boards.

Table 10.—Type of school board election in the 42 States having elected boards

State	Regular school board elections are—		
	Held separately	Combined with other elections	Held separately in some districts; combined in others
1	2	3	4
Alabama.....		X	
Arizona.....	X		
Arkansas.....	X		
California.....	X		
Colorado.....	X		
Connecticut.....		X	
Delaware.....	X		
Florida.....		X	
Idaho.....	X		
Illinois.....	X		
Indiana.....		X	
Iowa.....	X		
Kansas.....			X
Kentucky.....		X	
Louisiana.....		X	
Maine.....		X	
Massachusetts.....		X	
Michigan.....			X
Minnesota.....			X
Mississippi.....			X
Missouri.....			X
Montana.....	X		
Nebraska.....			X
Nevada.....		X	
New Hampshire.....	X		
New Jersey.....	X		
New Mexico.....	X		
New York.....	X		
North Dakota.....	X		
Ohio.....		X	
Oklahoma.....	X		
Oregon.....			X
Pennsylvania.....		X	
Rhode Island.....		X	
South Dakota.....			X
Texas.....			X
Utah.....		X	
Vermont.....	X		
Washington.....		X	
West Virginia.....		X	
Wisconsin.....			X
Wyoming.....	X		

<sup>1</sup> Elections are combined in two city districts.

<sup>2</sup> The elections are held separately in a majority of the districts.

## *District at Large or Area Representation*

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**A**LL STATES require local school board members to be residents of the school district they represent. "District at large" and "area representation," as the terms are used here, refer to whether or not there are additional limitations concerning place of residence within the district.

"District at large," in this connection, indicates that members may be chosen from anywhere in the school district. "Area representation" means that board members are not chosen from the district at large but from specified areas within the district, such as wards or trustee zones. The term "representation" as used here refers only to selection procedures; a generally accepted principle is that a board member, regardless of how chosen, represents all the people in the school district.

In districts covered by the general statutes, all board members in 17 States are selected from the district at large. In 5 States, either all members are chosen from specified subdivisions or there is some limitation on the place of residence within the district. In the remaining 26 States some boards are chosen "at large" (in most instances the majority of them), but others are chosen from specified subdivisions of the district (Table 11).

### **DISTRICT AT LARGE**

Board members in most school districts in the United States are chosen from the district at large. As indicated above, this method is used exclusively in 17 States and at least to some degree in 26 others, making a total of 43.

In practically all small districts, board members are chosen from the district at large, but as the size of district increases there is a tendency for this type of representation to be less prevalent. However, even among the larger districts, most board members are chosen at large.

### **AREA REPRESENTATION**

For purposes of analysis, all districts having some type of area representation may be placed in one of two major groups. The first group

is made up of all districts which are divided into a specified number of areas and where one or more members must be chosen from each such area. The second group includes those districts which are not divided into subdivisions with a member to be chosen from each, but where some other kind of statutory limitation is placed on the number of members which may be chosen from a specified subdivision of the district.

*Districts Divided Into Specified Areas.*—In 24 States, all or at least some districts are divided into specified areas, and the statutes provide that one or more board members must reside in each such area. In three of these States (Florida, Louisiana, and Utah) all districts are divided into areas. Practically all districts in Virginia are also subdivided for school board representation.

The areas specified by statute are of two general types: (1) Pre-existing civil or school districts, and (2) trustee zones or areas established for the purpose of selecting school board members. Examples of each type are given below.

Preexisting civil districts, such as wards, commissioners' districts, or magisterial districts, constitute the areas from which board members are selected in a number of States. Thus, in city districts in Utah, either one or two board members, depending upon the size of the city, are chosen from each ward.

In some cases, one or more board members are chosen from each preexisting school district. For example, in New Jersey, board members of a consolidated district (a district formed by combining two or more smaller districts) are selected from the preexisting districts, with the number of members from each prorated on the basis of population.

Among the districts where area representation is prescribed, however, the most common method does not utilize preexisting districts. Members are chosen from areas established specifically for this purpose. Where this method is used, the territory of each school district is divided into a specified number of areas, usually on the basis of population, and one or more members (usually one) are chosen from each such area. The provisions relating to this method of representation in two States are summarized below, for illustrative purposes.

In Florida, each school district is divided into five zones or areas and one board member must be chosen from each such subdivision. In Idaho, where approximately 95 percent of the territory of the State is included in reorganized school districts, each such district is divided into either 3 or 5 zones or areas, depending upon its type, and one board member is chosen from each such subdivision.

*Other Statutory Limitations Relating to Area Representation.*—Various other limitations concerning area representation are prescribed

Table 11.—Area representation prescribed for local school board members, by State

State	Board members of all districts chosen from:		Board members in some districts chosen from the district at large; others from specified subareas.
	District at large	Specified subareas	
1	2	3	4
Alabama.....	X		
Arizona.....			1 X
Arkansas.....	X		
California.....			1 X
Colorado.....			X
Connecticut.....			1 X
Delaware.....	1 X		
Florida.....		X	
Georgia.....		1 X	
Idaho.....			X
Illinois.....			4 X
Indiana.....			4 X
Iowa.....			X
Kansas.....			1 X
Kentucky.....			X
Louisiana.....			X
Maine.....			X
Maryland.....	X		
Massachusetts.....	X		
Michigan.....	X		
Minnesota.....			1 X
Mississippi.....			4 X
Missouri.....	X		
Montana.....	X		
Nebraska.....	X		
Nevada.....		X	
New Hampshire.....			1 X
New Jersey.....			X
New Mexico.....	X		
New York.....	4 X		
North Carolina.....	X		
North Dakota.....			X
Ohio.....	X		
Oklahoma.....			1 X
Oregon.....			X
Pennsylvania.....	X		
Rhode Island.....	X		
South Carolina.....	X		
South Dakota.....			4 X
Tennessee.....	X		
Texas.....			X
Utah.....		X	
Vermont.....			1 X
Virginia.....			1 X
Washington.....			X
West Virginia.....		1 X	
Wisconsin.....			1 X
Wyoming.....			X

1 In a majority of the districts, board members are from the district at large.  
 2 Each of the Elementary districts of a High School district has representation on the High School district board.  
 3 Not more than one member may reside in the same militia district.  
 4 Provision is made for rural and urban representation in a few districts.  
 5 Each preexisting district is entitled to representation on Cooperative school boards; the other members are from the district at large, or as determined at the annual meeting.  
 6 Each borough in New York City has representation on the school board.  
 7 All boards are chosen from specified subdivisions, except in counties having county managers. Only a very few counties have county managers.  
 8 No more than two members may live in the same magisterial district.

in several States. In Georgia, not more than one of the five board members of a county-unit school district where the general statutes apply may be appointed from the same militia district, a civil subdivision of the county. In West Virginia, where all school districts are county units, not more than 2 of the 5 board members may be elected from the same magisterial district, a civil subdivision of the county.

The statutes of several other States provide specifically for rural and urban representation. For example, in Mississippi city districts which include rural territory, at least one board member, but not more than two, must be chosen from the rural area, if it contains a specified percentage of the school population. In community-unit school districts in Illinois, the number of rural members depends upon the number of square miles of territory outside the corporate limits of any city, town, or village within the district, while in community high school districts the basis of prorating members is the percent of taxable property located in the respective areas.

In Nevada, where all districts are county units, some distinctions are made between districts having less than 1,000 pupils and those having 1,000 or more, since the former are governed by 5-member boards and the latter by 7-member boards. In both cases, however, the statutes provide for rural and urban representation. The provisions, with respect to areas from which members are chosen, applying to districts having 1,000 or more pupils are: 3 residents of the county seat, 2 residents of county but not of the county seat, 1 resident of the county but not of any incorporated place, and 1 resident of the county.

### ELECTORATE AREAS PRESCRIBED

In most districts having elected boards, all voters in the district are entitled to participate in the election of all board members. Table 12 shows that in 33 States all elected board members are chosen by the voters of the entire district. It should be noted that in some of these States the statutes provide for some form of area representation. Thus, in Florida board members are elected by the voters of the entire school district even though one board member must be elected from each of the 5 areas or zones of the school district. Likewise, in Nevada and West Virginia all voters in the school district are entitled to vote for all board members. This is also the practice in most other States where other forms of area representation are used.

There are some striking exceptions, however, which are indicated in Table 12. In Utah each board member is elected by the voters of the particular subdivision of the district from which he is chosen; thus, in a district having a 5-member board, a voter can help elect only one of the members. The same procedure is also used in Idaho's

reorganized districts which, as noted earlier, cover most of the State. It is also true, but to a much more limited extent, in seven other States where area representation is prescribed for some districts.

Table 12.—*Electorate areas prescribed for the election of school board members in the 42 States where all or some school boards are chosen by the people*

State	All elected members are chosen by the voters of:		Elected members in some districts are chosen by the voters of the district at large; in others by the voters of specified subareas.
	The district at large	Specified subareas	
1	2	3	4
Alabama.....	X		
Arizona.....	X		
Arkansas.....	X		
California.....	X		
Colorado.....	X		
Connecticut.....			X
Delaware.....	X		
Florida.....	X		
Idaho.....			X
Illinois.....	X		
Indiana.....	X		
Iowa.....			X
Kansas.....	X		
Kentucky.....			X
Louisiana.....	X		
Maine.....	X		
Massachusetts.....	X		
Michigan.....	X		
Minnesota.....	X		
Mississippi.....			X
Missouri.....	X		
Montana.....	X		
Nebraska.....	X		
Nevada.....	X		
New Hampshire.....	X		
New Jersey.....	X		
New Mexico.....	X		
New York.....	X		
North Dakota.....			X
Ohio.....	X		
Oklahoma.....	X		
Oregon.....	X		
Pennsylvania.....	X		
Rhode Island.....	X		
South Dakota.....			X
Texas.....	X		
Utah.....		X	
Vermont.....	X		
Washington.....	X		
West Virginia.....	X		
Wisconsin.....			X
Wyoming.....	X		

<sup>1</sup> Applies to all reorganized districts.

<sup>2</sup> Board members are elected by the voters at large in a majority of the districts.

<sup>3</sup> Rural board members in some districts are elected by the voters residing in the rural territory of the district.

<sup>4</sup> A few districts in South Dakota have boards consisting of some members elected by the voters of the district at large and other members elected by the voters of specified subareas.

## *Filling Interim Vacancies*

**I**NTERIM VACANCIES—those vacancies which are not the result of expiration of terms—in school board membership may be the result of any one of a number of reasons, among which are moving from district, resignation, death, and disqualification by a court or other authority. The methods of filling such vacancies are specified in the laws of the various States and are shown in Table 13.

### **BY THE REMAINING MEMBERS**

The most common method of filling interim school board vacancies is by action of the remaining members. This method is used either exclusively or to some extent in a total of 38 States. These States represent all sections of the country and include practically all types of districts.

In 15 of these 38 States all interim vacancies are filled by the remaining members. In the other 23 States this method is prescribed for certain types of districts only.

In the States having elected boards, the statutes usually prescribe that vacancies on such boards are to be filled by the remaining members. In contrast, this method is seldom prescribed for appointed boards; in Georgia, however, vacancies on appointed boards are filled by the remaining members.

### **BY THE APPOINTING AGENCY**

Except in Georgia and North Carolina, the appointing agency fills vacancies on all appointed boards. In North Carolina, where, as mentioned earlier, members are appointed by the General Assembly, interim vacancies are filled by the county executive committee of the political party of the vacating member.

### **OTHER METHODS**

Various other procedures are used in some States, either for interim vacancies on all boards or those in certain districts.

In nine States vacancies on some boards, commonly those in small districts, are filled by the county superintendent of schools. In Ari-

zona all interim vacancies are filled by the county superintendent. In three other States (Mississippi, New Mexico, and Texas) the county board of education has this responsibility in certain districts.

In Florida and Louisiana, all interim vacancies are filled by the governor, in Nevada by the State superintendent of schools. In Rhode Island, interim vacancies on all boards covered by the general statutes are filled by the town or city council.

Other methods are prescribed in several States for some but not all districts. For instance, some vacancies in Indiana are filled by the county commissioners or the circuit court judge; and in Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Vermont, by special election.

### RELATED STATUTES

In a few cases State laws provide other methods of filling school board vacancies, if such vacancies are not filled in the manner specified within a given period of time. Thus, if vacancies are not filled by the regular method within 90 days in Kentucky, they may be filled by the State board of education; the State Superintendent in West Virginia must fill all vacancies remaining open over 30 days; the county superintendent in New Jersey has authority to fill vacancies on elected boards after 65 days; special elections are called in Oklahoma if vacancies are not filled within 70 days; the county superintendent in Oregon may fill vacancies in second and third class districts if a special election is not called within 30 days; and if vacancies on elected boards in Wisconsin are not filled within 10 days, they are filled by the clerk of the village, town, or city.

Table 13.—Method of filling interim vacancies on local school boards, by State

State	Vacancies are filled in some or all districts by—			
	Remaining members	Appointing agency	County or area school superintendent	Other
1	2	3	4	5
Alabama.....	X	X		
Arizona.....			X	
Arkansas.....	X			
California.....	X		X	
Colorado.....	X		X	
Connecticut.....	X			Town meeting.
Delaware.....	X	X		
Florida.....				Governor.
Georgia.....	X			
Idaho.....	X		X	
Illinois.....	X			
Indiana.....	X	X		County commissioner, circuit court judge.
Iowa.....	X			
Kansas.....	X		X	
Kentucky.....	X			
Louisiana.....				Governor.
Maine.....	X			
Maryland.....		X		
Massachusetts.....	X			
Michigan.....	X			
Minnesota.....	X			
Mississippi.....	X	X		County board of education.
Montana.....		X	X	
Nebraska.....	X			Election.
Nevada.....				State Superintendent.
New Hampshire.....	X			
New Jersey.....	X	X		
New Mexico.....	X			County board of education.
New York.....	X	X		Election.
North Carolina.....				Political party committee.
North Dakota.....	X		X	
Ohio.....	X			
Oklahoma.....	X		X	
Oregon.....	X			Election. <sup>1</sup>
Pennsylvania.....	X	X		
Rhode Island.....				Town or city council.
South Carolina.....		X		
South Dakota.....	X		X	
Tennessee.....		X		
Texas.....	X			County board of education.
Utah.....	X			
Vermont.....	X			
Virginia.....		X		Election.
Washington.....	X		X	
West Virginia.....	X			
Wisconsin.....	X	X		
Wyoming.....	X			
Missouri.....	X			

<sup>1</sup> If the vacancy is not filled within 90 days, it may be filled by the State board of education.<sup>2</sup> Acting jointly with the selectmen or city council.<sup>3</sup> If not filled within 65 days, the county superintendent has the authority to fill the vacancy.<sup>4</sup> If not filled within 70 days, a special election is called.<sup>5</sup> In certain types of districts, if an election is not held within 30 days, the county superintendent may fill the vacancy.<sup>6</sup> If the vacancy is not filled within 10 days, the clerk of the village, town, or city fills it.<sup>7</sup> In St. Louis, vacancies are filled by the mayor. In other districts, if there is more than one vacancy, they are filled by the county superintendent.

## Compensation

NONE of the board members in 22 States receive any compensation for their services. In contrast, all members in 16 States may receive pay, according to the general laws. In the remaining 10 States compensation is allowed in only certain types of districts. This information is presented in Table 14.

Compensation, as used here, does not include allowances for mileage and actual expenses. Also, the fact that compensation is permitted does not mean that all board members are paid; in some cases compensation is optional, but in other cases it is a mandatory requirement.

In several of the States, where compensation is allowed for some but not all boards, there is a general tendency to allow it to those in the larger districts. On the other hand, in a few States only, the boards of the smaller districts may be compensated.

Board members may receive compensation in 4 of the 6 States in which all members are appointed. Maryland does not provide for salaries as such, but the statutes state the amount which is to be paid for expenses.

### AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION

Some States specify the exact amount that may be paid to board members; other States make payment of compensation optional but specify a maximum; and still others specify that the amount is to be determined by each local district but no maximum is prescribed. Members are often paid on the basis of a stated sum per meeting. Sometimes an annual salary is the basis of payment. In either case, the compensation may or may not be supplemented with an allowance for expenses. Table 14 indicates that, in most cases, only a nominal salary is provided for those members receiving pay from a school district.

*Exact Amounts Specified by Law.*<sup>1</sup>—The amount, when no option is given, ranges from \$2.50 per meeting in South Dakota and certain districts in Massachusetts to \$30 per meeting in Louisiana. For in-

<sup>1</sup> It is pointed out that special legislation applying to one or more districts has been passed in a number of States. For instance, some county board members in Florida receive up to \$250-\$300 per month, and certain counties in Georgia provide salaries of \$35-\$35 per month for board members.

stance, \$5 per meeting is allowed in Georgia, \$10 per meeting in Florida, and \$15 per meeting in West Virginia.

*Maximum Amount Specified by Law.*—In some States the same maximum applies to all districts. Thus, board members in North Carolina receive an amount not to exceed \$5 per meeting. In Ohio not more than \$3 per meeting may be paid board members.

In other States the maximum depends upon type or size of district. In these States the maximum salary specified by statute varies among districts within the same State. To illustrate: Members in Los Angeles receive \$30 per meeting, not to exceed \$300 per month, while members of certain other city boards in California receive \$25 per meeting, not to exceed \$100 per month; in Minnesota, members of certain types of districts may receive not more than \$75 per year, while maximum salaries of \$800 to \$1,200 are permitted in one or more other types of districts.

*Amount Determined at Local Level.*—The amount of salary in a number of districts is determined at the local level with no limitation set by State law. In some cases the decision is made by the school board, in others by the county or city authorities, and in still others by the voters of the district. All or some of the districts in the following States are in one of these categories: Michigan, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin. Reports from Rhode Island indicate that members of some boards are allowed no compensation, but that others are paid up to \$1,500 per year.

Indiana's township trustees, although allowed no extra compensation for performing their school functions, are paid annual salaries ranging up to \$5,000.

Table 14.—*Compensation of local school board members, by State*

State	Compensation allowed in:			Amount of compensation
	All districts	Certain districts only	No districts	
1	2	3	4	5
Alabama		X		\$7.50 per meeting.
Arizona			X	
Arkansas			X	
California		X		\$25-\$30 per meeting, not to exceed \$100-\$300 per month.
Colorado			X	
Connecticut			X	
Delaware			X	
Florida	X			\$10 per meeting.
Georgia	X			\$5 per meeting.
Idaho			X	
Illinois			X	
Indiana	X			Determined by local option usually not to exceed \$100-\$600 per year.
Iowa			X	
Kansas		X		
Kentucky		X		\$10 per meeting.
Louisiana	X			\$30 per day.
Maine			X	
Maryland			X	
Massachusetts		X		\$2.50 per day.
Michigan		X		Determined by local option.
Minnesota	X			Maximum varies from \$75-\$1,200 per year.
Mississippi		X		\$10 per meeting.
Missouri			X	
Montana			X	
Nebraska			X	
Nevada			X	
New Hampshire		X		Determined at annual meeting.
New Jersey			X	
New Mexico			X	
New York			X	
North Carolina	X			Not to exceed \$5 per meeting.
North Dakota		X		\$3-\$6 per meeting.
Ohio	X			Not to exceed \$3 per meeting.
Oklahoma			X	
Oregon			X	
Pennsylvania			X	
Rhode Island	X			Determined by local option.
South Carolina	X			
South Dakota	X			\$2.50 per meeting.
Tennessee	X			Not to exceed \$4 per day.
Texas		X		\$5 per day.
Utah	X			Not to exceed \$100-\$150 per year.
Vermont	X			Determined at annual meeting.
Virginia	X			Not to exceed \$240 per year.
Washington			X	
West Virginia	X			\$15 per day, not to exceed 18 days.
Wisconsin	X			Determined at annual meeting, or by city council.
Wyoming			X	

<sup>1</sup> Compensation is allowed in only a few districts.  
<sup>2</sup> No reference to compensation found in the general statutes.

## APPENDIX

### *Alabama*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** County and City  
**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 5<sup>1</sup>  
**TERM OF OFFICE:** In County districts—6 years; <sup>2</sup> in City districts—5 years  
**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping  
**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In County districts—elected by the voters of the district at large; in City districts—appointed by the city council or city commission  
**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** In County districts—any qualified voter of the district who has a fair elementary education, good moral character, good standing in community, known for honesty, business ability, public spirit, and interest in the good of public education; in City districts—chosen solely because of their character and fitness  
**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** From the district at large  
**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In County districts—by party primary, caucus, convention, mass meeting, or other assembly, or by petition of 25 voters; <sup>2</sup> in City districts—none required  
**TYPE OF ELECTION:** General November elections held biennially on a partisan ballot.  
**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In County districts—by the remaining members; in City districts—by the appointing agency  
**COMPENSATION:** In County districts—\$7.50 per meeting; <sup>2</sup> in City districts—none

<sup>1</sup> There are a few city districts which have 7-member boards.

<sup>2</sup> Subject to special legislation; a few board members may hold office for life.

### *Arizona*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Elementary and High School  
**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Elementary districts—3 or 5 members depending upon a vote of the people; in High School districts—5 members  
**TERM OF OFFICE:** On 3-member boards—3 years; on 5-member boards—5 years  
**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping  
**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large  
**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district who is able to read and write, who is either a taxpayer or has a child in school, and who has been a resident of the district for one year  
**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In Elementary districts—members are from the district at large; in High School districts—3 members from elementary district in which school is located, and 2 members from outside such district

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In districts having an ADA of less than 10—no advance nomination required; in other districts—by petition of 10 percent of the qualified voters of the district

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Annual school elections held in October, on a non-partisan ballot

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the county superintendent.

**COMPENSATION:** None

### *Arkansas*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Independent and Countywide<sup>1</sup>

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In three districts—3 members; in 365 districts—5 members; in 55 districts—6 (or more) members<sup>2</sup>

**TERM OF OFFICE:** On 5-member boards—5 years; on all other boards—3 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** From the district at large

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By petition of 20 voters

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Special, held in March, on a nonpartisan ballot. The arrangement of the names of candidates on the ballot is left to local option

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** None

<sup>1</sup> All school districts having less than 350 enumerates were dissolved and combined into what is called a countywide district by legislation enacted in 1948. These are not County Unit districts in the usual meaning of the term.

<sup>2</sup> Countywide districts usually have 5 members on the board of directors, and City districts usually consist of from 6 to 8 members.

### *California*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Elementary, High School, Unified, and Junior College

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Elementary districts—3 members;<sup>1</sup> in High School and Junior College districts—5 members;<sup>2</sup> in Unified districts—5 or 7 members

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 3-4 years<sup>3</sup>

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large<sup>4</sup>

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** No requirements, generally<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> All Union and Joint-Union Elementary districts, and some City Elementary districts have 5 members.

<sup>2</sup> Some City High School and Junior College districts have 7-member boards.

<sup>3</sup> The usual term in Elementary, High School, and Junior College districts, other than in cities, is 3 years; in cities the term is normally 4 years, but some cities provide for either 5- or 6-year terms. In Unified districts the term is 4 years.

<sup>4</sup> The three cities of Alameda, Sacramento, and San Francisco provide for appointment of members by the city council or city commission. In San Francisco only, the appointments are confirmed by a vote of the people. Vacancies are filled by the appointing agency.

<sup>5</sup> A few City, Unified, and Junior College districts require members to live in specified trustee areas within the district.

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By individual announcement, or by petition of 8-10 voters having children in school

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Special nonpartisan election held in May, with the names of candidates listed in alphabetical order except that the names of incumbents are placed first on the ballot

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In Unified and City districts—by the remaining members; in other districts—by the superintendent of schools having jurisdiction

**COMPENSATION:** None\*

\* Members in Los Angeles may receive \$30 per meeting, not to exceed \$300 per month. Members in cities of from 350,000 to 1,900,000 may receive \$25 per meeting, not to exceed \$100 per month.

### Colorado

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** First, Second, and Third Class, County High, Union High, and Junior College

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 3-7. First Class, Junior College, County High, Union High,<sup>1</sup> and all reorganized districts have 5-member boards; other Second and Third Class—3 members<sup>2</sup>.

**TERM OF OFFICE:** On 3-member boards—3 years; on 5- and 7-member boards—6 years.

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large<sup>3</sup>

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Each reorganized school district is divided into 5 director areas and one director is from each area. Directors of other districts are from the district at large<sup>4</sup>

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In First Class and Junior College districts—petition of 50 voters; in Second Class districts—filing a notice of intention; in Third Class districts—no advance nomination required; printed ballots not used

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Special nonpartisan annual or biennial election held in May, with the names listed on the ballot in alphabetical order

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In First Class districts—by the remaining members; in all other districts—by the county superintendent having jurisdiction of the district

**COMPENSATION:** None, except that the secretary may be paid for his services

<sup>1</sup> First class districts having 30,000 or more children may have 7-member boards.

<sup>2</sup> In High School districts the county superintendent is an ex officio member of the board.

<sup>3</sup> Second and Third class districts may vote to have 5-member boards.

<sup>4</sup> High School district board members are from the various districts making up the high school district, and are selected at annual meetings of the various boards.

### Connecticut

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Town and Regional

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Town districts—3 to 12, as determined at town meetings; in Regional districts—5 to 9, as determined by the boards of the participating towns

**TERM OF OFFICE:** In districts having annual elections—2 or 3 years; in districts having biennial elections—4 or 6 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large<sup>1</sup>

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:**<sup>2</sup> In Town districts—members are from the district at large; in Regional districts—at least one member must be from each of the participating towns

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By the major political parties<sup>3</sup>

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Regular town meetings held in October. Elections in some towns are held annually and in others biennially

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In Town districts—by the remaining members; in Regional districts—by action of town meeting in the towns affected.

**COMPENSATION:** None

<sup>1</sup> Subject to special legislation.

<sup>2</sup> No party may nominate and no person may vote for more than approximately one half of the members to be elected. The result is that each major political party is represented.

### *Delaware*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Special, State Board units, and the City of Wilmington

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Wilmington—6 members; in other districts—4 members<sup>1</sup>

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 4 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Dependent upon location of district; some elected by the voters of the district at large, and others appointed by the county resident judge.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** In Wilmington—30 years of age and resident of city for 3 years; in other districts—any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** From the district at large.<sup>2</sup> In Wilmington—no more than 3 can be of the same political party. In Special districts with appointed boards—no more than 2 can be of the same political party

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In districts with elected boards—by petition of 15 voters; in districts with appointed boards—none required

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Special, held in May, on a nonpartisan ballot with the names of candidates arranged in alphabetical order

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** On elected boards—by the remaining members; on appointed boards—by the resident judge

**COMPENSATION:** None

<sup>1</sup> There are four State Board Units organized for High School purposes only which have 7-member boards.

<sup>2</sup> Each of the four High School districts includes the territory of 7 Elementary districts; each such Elementary district is entitled to one board member.

*Florida*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** County Unit  
**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** Five  
**TERM OF OFFICE:** 4 years  
**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping  
**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by voters of the district at large  
**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district  
**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Each district (county) is divided into five board-member-residence areas, and one member must live in each  
**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** Each political party holding a primary nominates one candidate for each vacancy  
**TYPE OF ELECTION:** General November elections  
**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the Governor  
**COMPENSATION:** \$10 per meeting plus expenses, according to the general law. As a result of special legislation, some districts pay up to \$250-\$275 per month

*Georgia*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** County Unit and City Independent<sup>1</sup>  
**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** Five  
**TERM OF OFFICE:** 5 years  
**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping  
**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Appointed by the grand jury<sup>2</sup>  
**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district who is 21 years of age or older, a free-holder, and able to read and write  
**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Not more than one member may reside in the same militia district  
**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** None required  
**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Not applicable  
**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the remaining members  
**COMPENSATION:** \$5 per meeting<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Independent districts, coterminous with the city boundaries, were authorized by city charters prior to the adoption of the new State constitution in 1945. Charter provisions vary from city to city; therefore, the information presented applies only to county unit districts which are not governed by special legislation.

<sup>2</sup> As a result of special legislation, a number of counties now have boards elected by popular vote.

<sup>3</sup> Special legislation in a number of counties provides compensation of \$25-\$35 per month.

*Idaho*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Common, Independent, Independent Class "A," Class A, Class B, and Class C<sup>1</sup>  
**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Common and Class C districts—3 members; in Class A and Class B districts—5 members; in Independent and Independent Class "A" districts—6 members  
**TERM OF OFFICE:** 3 years  
**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

<sup>1</sup> There is also one Rural High School district.

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In Common, Independent, and Independent Class "A" districts—elected by the voters of the district at large; in other districts—elected by the voters of specified subdistricts

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district who is a taxpayer or who is the parent of a child under 21 years of age

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In Class A, Class B, and Class C (re-organized) districts—each district is divided into trustee residence areas and one member must reside in each; in other districts—members are from the district at large

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In Common, Independent, and Independent Class "A" districts—by individual announcement or by petition of one or more voters; in other districts—by petition of 5-10 voters

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Special school elections held in September<sup>1</sup> on a non-partisan ballot with the names of candidates rotated

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In Common districts—by the county superintendent; in other districts—by the remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** None

<sup>1</sup> In Common districts the elections are held in April.

## *Illinois*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Common, Consolidated, Community Consolidated, Community Unit, Community High School, Township High School, Consolidated High School, and Charter.<sup>1</sup> (The following information does not include data on school boards in charter districts<sup>2</sup>)

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Common school districts having less than 1,000 inhabitants—8 members; in all other districts—7 members<sup>3</sup>

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 3 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** In Common and Consolidated districts having less than 1,000 population—able to read and write, and qualified voter; in all other districts—21 years of age, resident of State and of district for one year

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** District at large<sup>4</sup>

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In Common and Consolidated districts—caucus on the day of election; in all other districts—petition of 10 percent or 50 voters, whichever is less

<sup>1</sup> Charter districts were created by special acts of the legislature, and according to a State department of education official, are on the way out. Until recently, Illinois also had Non-High school and Protectorate districts; however, these were abolished by legislation as of June 30, 1954.

<sup>2</sup> Chicago has an 11-member board with following qualifications: 30 years of age, citizen of United States, and resident of city for 5 years; appointed at large for 5-year overlapping terms by the mayor and approved by the city council; vacancies filled by mayor approved by city council; no compensation.

<sup>3</sup> In Charter districts, if the charter makes no provisions for board members, there shall be seven elected as in other districts.

<sup>4</sup> Under certain specified conditions, provision is made for rural and urban or township representation on the boards in Community High School, Community Unit, and Charter districts.

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Special nonpartisan elections held in April; names of candidates arranged on ballot in the order of filing <sup>a</sup>

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** None

<sup>a</sup> Printed ballots are not required for school elections in Common and Consolidated districts having less than 1,000 population.

### *Indiana*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Township, City or Town, Consolidated, County, Joint, and Metropolitan

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Township districts—1 member, the township trustee; <sup>1</sup> in County districts—either the township trustees of the townships in the county or five members; in Joint districts—the respective township trustees with the county superintendent; in Metropolitan districts—five members; in cities and towns under 50,000 population—three members; <sup>2</sup> in cities and towns over 50,000 population—five members. In Consolidated districts—not less than 3 nor more than 7 members as determined by the law establishing the consolidation. The law also specifies the method of selection, terms of office, etc., with the provision that no term shall be longer than 4 years, and that vacancies on appointed boards are to be filled by the appointing agency, and on elected boards by the remaining members

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 2 to 4 years, with 3- and 4-year terms most common

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping except in Township districts

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In Township, Metropolitan, County, and some cities above 50,000—elected by the voters of the district at large; in cities and towns under 50,000, and some cities above 50,000—appointed by the mayor, town board, or city council

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** All board members must be qualified voters. Additional requirements, such as minimum age of 25 and resident of district for 3 to 5 years, are specified for certain districts

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** The members of most boards are from the district at large; however, provision is made in some districts for rural and urban representation. Each Metropolitan district is divided into three trustee areas, and no more than two members may reside in any one such area. In City and Town districts—usually no more than a bare majority of the board members are to be of the same political faith <sup>3</sup>

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** None for appointed members. In Township districts—the township trustee is a regular township officer and has duties other than those pertaining to schools. He is nominated by party primary, convention, or petition of  $\frac{1}{2}$  or 1 percent of those voting in the last election for Secretary of State; in other districts candidates are nominated by petition of from 10 to 200 or more voters, as determined usually by the size of district

<sup>1</sup> Townships of specified sizes may provide for a 5-member board of school trustees: The township trustee, 2 members appointed by the board of the largest town in the township, and 2 appointed by the township advisory board for 4-year overlapping terms, compensation not to exceed \$100 per year.

<sup>2</sup> Cities having a population of from 10,000 to 39,000 may provide for 5-member boards.

<sup>3</sup> In certain cities above 58,000 only one member of the board may be a woman.

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** In Township districts—general elections held every 4 years, on a partisan ballot; in other districts—regular county, city, or town primaries, on a nonpartisan ballot with the names of candidates rotated as many times as there are candidates

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In Township districts—by the county commissioners; in Metropolitan districts—by the judge of the circuit court; in other districts—on elected boards by the remaining members;<sup>4</sup> on appointed boards by the appointing agency

**COMPENSATION:** Township trustees receive no additional salary for their services to the school district, but their salaries as township trustees range from \$950 to \$5,000 or more per year

The general law applying to other districts is that the governing bodies of the civil district may determine the amount of salary for board members. In districts under 50,000 population, a maximum of \$100 to \$125 per year is usually specified; in districts over 50,000 which provide salaries, the range is from \$200 to \$500 per year

<sup>4</sup> In those county districts having elected boards, vacancies are filled by the circuit court judge.

## *Iowa*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Independent, Consolidated, Township, Rural Independent, and Community

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In the larger Independent city districts—7 members; in other Independent and Rural Independent districts with a population in excess of 500, and in Consolidated and Community districts—5 members; in undivided Township and all other Independent and Rural Independent districts—3 members; in divided Township districts the number is determined by the number of subdistricts—one for each subdistrict, plus one at large if the number of subdistricts is even

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 3 years, except in large cities the term is 6 years, and in divided Townships it is 1 year

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping occurs in all except divided township districts

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large, except that subdirectors in divided townships are elected by the voters of the subdistricts

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district  
**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Members are from the district at large, except in divided townships

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By petition of not less than 10 voters,<sup>1</sup> except that no advance nominations are required in Township and Rural Independent districts

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Special nonpartisan school elections held in March with the names of candidates listed on the ballot in alphabetical order. Elections in the larger cities are held biennially

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** None

<sup>1</sup> In Independent city districts which hold biennial elections, the number of petitioners shall not be less than 50.

*Kansas*

- TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Common, City, Rural High, and Community High<sup>1</sup>
- NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Common and Rural High districts—3 members;<sup>2</sup> in City districts—6 members;<sup>3</sup> in Community High districts—6 members plus the county superintendent
- TERM OF OFFICE:** In Common and Rural High districts—3 years; in City and Community High districts—4 years
- OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping
- METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large
- QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district.
- AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** No geographic requirements, generally;<sup>4</sup> the county superintendent is an ex officio member of Community High boards
- PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In Common and Rural High districts—no advance nomination required; in City and Community High districts—nominated at the regular city or county primaries
- TYPE OF ELECTION:** In Common and Rural High—special school meeting held in June; in City districts—regular city nonpartisan elections held in April; in Community High districts—general, on a separate nonpartisan ballot
- METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In Common and Rural High districts—by the county superintendent; in City and Community High districts—by the remaining members
- COMPENSATION:** In Community High districts—\$5 per day; in all other districts—none

<sup>1</sup> There is one County Unit district, which has a 5-member board.

<sup>2</sup> This number may be increased to five by vote of the people.

<sup>3</sup> Cities with more than 175,000 population have 12-member boards.

<sup>4</sup> In some Community High districts members are from specified areas such as wards, townships, or commissioner's districts.

*Kentucky*

- TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** County and Independent
- NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** Five
- TERM OF OFFICE:** 4 years
- OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping
- METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Independent district board members are elected by the voters of the district at large. County board members are elected by the voters residing in specified divisions of the district
- QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** 24 years of age, legal voter, resident of the State for 3 years, of the district for 60 days, and equivalent of eighth grade or higher education
- AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** County members—one from each of five divisions of the district; Independent members—at large
- PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** Petition of 50 voters. (If the district contains a city of the first or second class, 100 signatures are required on the petition)
- TYPE OF ELECTION:** General, on a separate nonpartisan ballot, with the names rotated. (An Independent district embracing a city of the fifth class may hold its elections in May)

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the remaining members. (If the vacancy is not filled within 90 days, the State board of education may fill it)  
**COMPENSATION:** In County districts—\$10 per meeting; in Independent districts—none

### *Louisiana*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Parish and City<sup>1</sup>  
**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Parish districts—5-19, depending upon the number and population of police jury wards in the parish;<sup>2</sup> in city districts—5 members  
**TERM OF OFFICE:** In Parish districts—6 years; in City districts—4 years  
**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping except in one City district  
**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In Parish districts—elected by the voters of specified wards; in City districts—elected by the voters of the district at large  
**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Citizen of State, qualified voter, and able to read and write  
**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In Parish districts—one member from each police jury ward,<sup>3</sup> with the additional provision that if a ward has more than 50,000 population, it is entitled to one additional member for each additional 10,000,<sup>3</sup> in City districts—members are from the district at large  
**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In Parish districts—by party primary;<sup>2</sup> in City districts—as outlined in charter  
**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Regular congressional elections held in April,<sup>2</sup> with the names of candidates listed on the partisan ballot in alphabetical order  
**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the governor, except in one City district vacancies are filled by election  
**COMPENSATION:** In Parish districts—\$30.00 per day, plus expenses;<sup>2</sup> in City districts—none

<sup>1</sup> There are three City districts resulting from special legislation or charter provisions.

<sup>2</sup> Four Parish boards are governed by the provisions of special legislation.

<sup>3</sup> A city does not have representation on the Parish School board if the city is an Independent School district.

### *Maine*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Town, City,<sup>1</sup> and Community School  
**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Town districts—3 members;<sup>2</sup> in Community School districts—as determined by trustees of town, not to exceed 9  
**TERM OF OFFICE:** 3 years  
**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

<sup>1</sup> There are approximately eight City districts in Maine; the city charters outline the provisions for school boards and these provisions vary from city to city. For instance:

Augusta: Nine members, from wards, elected at annual meeting in June, nonpartisan, 3-year terms, overlapping vacancy filled by election, no compensation;

Bangor: Five members, appointed by city council, 3-year terms, overlapping, vacancy filled by city council, no compensation;

Portland: Seven members, elected by and from district at large, 3-year terms, overlapping, regular city elections, nominated by petition of 200-500 voters, nonpartisan, with names rotated if more than 4 candidates or listed alphabetically if less than 4 candidates, vacancy filled by election, no compensation.

<sup>2</sup> Subject to special legislation.

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In Community School districts—elected by and from the boards of the participating towns; in Town districts—elected by the voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In Town districts—members are from the district at large; in Community School districts—members of the individual town boards are selected; in City districts—members are from wards

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In Town and Community School districts—no advance nomination required; in City districts—by individual announcement

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** In Town districts—at the annual town meeting held in March; in City districts—as outlined in charter

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** Remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** None, usually

### *Maryland*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** County unit and Baltimore City

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Baltimore City—9 members; in County units—8 members in 9 counties; 5 in 8; 6 in 5; and 7 in 3

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 6 years<sup>1</sup>

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping in all except one county

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In Baltimore City—appointed by mayor, confirmed by city council; in County units—appointed by the governor<sup>2</sup>

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** In Baltimore City—citizen of State for 5 years and of city for 1 year; in County units—members are appointed "solely because of their character and fitness"

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** From the district at large<sup>3</sup>

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** Not applicable

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Not applicable

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the appointing agency<sup>4</sup>

**COMPENSATION:** None<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Special legislation provides for 5-year terms in two districts, and 4-year terms in one district.

<sup>2</sup> In one county (Montgomery) members are elected on a nonpartisan ballot at the general elections. Candidates are nominated by petition of from 200 to 500 voters.

<sup>3</sup> Special legislation provides for subdistrict representation in 2 counties. Also, in 3 counties two of the members must be women, and in one county at least 2 shall not be of the same political party as the governor.

<sup>4</sup> In Montgomery County, vacancies are filled by the remaining members.

<sup>5</sup> Although no salary is paid, a specified sum is paid for expenses—this amount is usually \$100 per year, but in some cases has been increased to \$200 or \$300.

### *Massachusetts*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Town, City, and Regional<sup>1</sup>

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 3-9, determined by vote of the people

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 3 years<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Regional districts are formed by two or more towns. The agreement, voted upon by the respective towns, sets forth the number, composition, method of selection, and terms of office of the members of the regional district school committee. The individual districts retain their identity.

<sup>2</sup> A few districts provide for 2- or 4-year terms.

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any registered voter of the district who is able to read and write

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Members are from the district at large; in some districts the mayor is an ex officio member

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By caucus or convention of political parties, or by petition of 1 percent of those voting in the last governor's election, but in no case less than 20<sup>2</sup>

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Regular town or city annual elections

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By joint action of the remaining members and the selectmen or city council

**COMPENSATION:** None<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> A town may vote to have the candidates nominated at a primary election, in which case the names are arranged on the primary by lot.

<sup>4</sup> Towns belonging to a superintendency union may pay the members \$2.50 per day.

### *Michigan*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Primary, First, Second, Third, and Fourth Class

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Primary districts—3 members; in First and Third Class districts—7 members; in Second Class districts—9 members; in Fourth Class districts—5 members

**TERM OF OFFICE:** In Third Class districts—4 or 6 years; in districts containing a city which holds biennial elections—6 years; in all other districts—3 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** In First and Second Class districts—any qualified voter of the district; in other districts—any qualified voter of the district who owns property assessed for school taxes, or who is the spouse of such owner

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** From the district at large

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In Primary districts—no advance nomination required; in other districts—by petition of voters; the number of signatures required in each type of district being: First Class—5,000 to 10,000, Second Class<sup>1</sup>—100, Third Class—50, and Fourth Class—25

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** In Primary and Fourth Class districts—special, held in June or July, with the names of candidates in Fourth Class districts listed in alphabetical order. The names are rotated in all other districts. In Third Class districts—special, held in June, or at the regular State spring elections, in Second Class districts—regular city elections; in First Class districts—regular State spring elections

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** In First and Second Class districts—none; in other districts—as determined by voters, the range being from \$125 to \$200 per year

<sup>1</sup> Second Class districts may elect to have nominations made through city primaries, in which case a petition of 100 voters is required to place the name of a candidate on the primary ballot.

*Minnesota*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Common, Special, Independent, Consolidated, Ten-or-more Township, County, Unorganized Territory, Joint, and Associated

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 3-6<sup>1</sup>

**TERM OF OFFICE:** In Special districts—as outlined in charter; in County districts, and in Ten-or-more Township districts having more than 80 schools—4 years; in all other districts—3 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large<sup>2</sup>

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In County districts—one from each commissioner's district; in other districts—from the district at large

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By individual announcement or by petition of five voters<sup>3</sup>

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** In County and Ten-or-more Township districts—regular State elections; in other districts—special, held in May or June.<sup>4</sup> Non-partisan ballots with the names of candidates rotated on the ballot as many times as there are candidates

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the remaining members<sup>5</sup>

**COMPENSATION:** In County districts—\$15.00 per meeting not to exceed \$300 per year; <sup>6</sup> in Ten-or-more Township districts—from \$200 to \$800 per year depending upon the number of schools; in Independent districts—as fixed by the board, not to exceed \$5.00 per diem or \$75 per year; in Unorganized Territory—a percentage of expenditures ranging from ½ to 1 percent, not to exceed \$400 for chairman, \$800 for treasurer, and \$1,200 for clerk; in Common districts—as determined at the annual school meeting; in Special districts—as outlined in charter

<sup>1</sup> Common district boards have 3 members; Ten-or-more Township districts have 3- or 5-member boards, depending upon the number of schools or vote of people; County districts have 5-member boards; all other districts, except Special, have 6-member boards.

<sup>2</sup> In Special districts—as outlined in charter.

<sup>3</sup> In a Common district having only one school no advance nomination is required.

<sup>4</sup> The Clerk may receive not more than \$720 per year; the treasurer not more than \$600.

*Mississippi*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Countywide, Consolidated, and Municipal Separate<sup>1</sup>

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** Five

**TERM OF OFFICE:** In Countywide districts—6 years; in other districts—5 years<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> If a Municipal Separate district has added territory which contains 25 percent or more of the total children in the district it is called a Special Municipal Separate School district, and such a district may adopt one of several provisions relating to board membership:

- (1) If a majority of the children live in the municipality the regular provisions apply.
- (2) If a majority of the children live in the outside territory the five board members are elected by the voters of the county at large and one member must live in each of the supervisory districts, nominated by a petition of 100 voters, elected at the general elections for terms of 6 years; the board of supervisors and the governing authority of the municipality may agree to appoint the members, in which case they may be appointed by the board of supervisors, or by the municipality, or by both on a proportionate basis for 5-year overlapping terms.

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In Countywide districts—one member elected by the voters of each supervisory district; in Consolidated districts—elected by the voters of the district at large  
In Municipal Separate districts<sup>1</sup>—appointed by the governing authority of the municipality, except:

- (1) Members outside the territory of the municipality are elected by the voters of such outside territory;
- (2) If such a district includes an entire county having less than 15,000 population, one member is elected by the voters of each supervisory district

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In Countywide districts one board member must reside in each of the supervisory districts; in Consolidated districts members are from the district at large, except that if such a district lies in two counties, each county is entitled to proportionate representation on the board; in Municipal Separate districts members are from the district at large, except that if such a district includes territory outside the city provision is made for both rural and urban representation

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In Countywide districts—by petition of 50 voters residing in the candidate's supervisory district; in Consolidated districts—no advance nomination required; in Municipal Separate districts<sup>1</sup>—no official nomination required for appointed members; those members which are elected are nominated by petition of 50 voters residing in the candidate's subdistrict

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** In Countywide districts—general election on a separate nonpartisan ballot with the names listed in alphabetical order; in all other districts which have elected boards—special school elections held in March

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In Countywide districts—by the remaining members; in Consolidated districts—by the county board of education; in Municipal Separate districts—by the governing authority of the municipality<sup>1</sup>

**COMPENSATION:** In Countywide districts—\$10 per meeting not to exceed 60 meetings per year; in other districts—none

## *Missouri*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Common, Consolidated, Town, and City

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Common districts—3 members; in other districts—6 members<sup>1</sup>

**TERM OF OFFICE:** In 3 city districts—6 years; in other districts—3 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** In Common districts—qualified voter, resident of State for 1 year, and taxpayer; in other districts—same, except that a member must be 30 years of age<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> a resident of the city for 3 years.

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Members are from the district at large

<sup>1</sup> St. Louis has a 12-member board.

<sup>2</sup> In St. Louis, it is not required that a member be a taxpayer, but he must have been

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** No advance nomination required except that in cities of 75,000 to 500,000, nominations may be made by the party committee members elect

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Special held in April, or in conjunction with municipal elections, on a nonpartisan ballot

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the remaining members<sup>2</sup>

**COMPENSATION:** None

<sup>2</sup> Vacancies in St. Louis are filled by the mayor until the next regular election. In other districts, if there is more than one vacancy, they are filled by the county superintendent

### Montana

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** High School, First, Second, and Third Class

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In First Class districts—7 members; in Second Class districts—5 members; in Third Class districts—3 members; in High School districts—3 to 7 members<sup>1</sup>

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 3 years<sup>1</sup>

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In County High School districts—appointed by the county commissioners; in other districts—elected by the voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Members are from the district at large

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In First Class districts—by public meeting, attended by at least 20 qualified voters; in other districts—by petition of 5 voters

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Special school elections held in April, on a nonpartisan ballot, with the names of candidates arranged in alphabetical order

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In County High School districts—by the appointing agency; in other districts—by the county superintendent, and in First- and Second-Class districts confirmed by the remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** None

<sup>1</sup> There are two types of High School districts—District High Schools and County High Schools. District High Schools are governed by the board of the elementary district in which the school is located, plus additional members, if desired, not to exceed 2 in Third Class districts and 4 in First- and Second-Class districts; such additional members are elected by and from the membership of the boards of districts included in the High School district. County High School districts are governed by 7-member boards appointed for 2-year terms.

### Nebraska

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Class I, II, III, IV, V, and VI, based on population and scope of program

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Class I districts—3 members;<sup>1</sup> in Class V districts—12 members; in other districts—6 members<sup>2</sup>

**TERM OF OFFICE:** In Class IV districts—6 years; in Class V districts—5 years; in other districts—3 years<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> If the district has 150 or more children, it may vote to have a 6-member board.

<sup>2</sup> A Class III district containing a city of 5,000 to 40,000 may vote to have a 9-member board. Class VI districts which were formerly County High school districts have four elected members, plus the county superintendent.

<sup>3</sup> The term is 4 years in Class VI districts which were former County High School districts.

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping  
**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district who is a taxpayer or who has one or more children in school<sup>4</sup>

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Members are from the district at large

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In Class I districts—if less than 150 pupils, no advance nomination required; if more than 150, by petition of 25 voters; in Class II districts—if the district contains no incorporated village no advance nomination required, if incorporated village, by caucus of voters; in class III districts—if the district contains a city, nominated by individual announcement, if no city, by caucus of voters; in class IV districts—by primary election (nominated for primary by individual announcement); in class V districts—by regular primary; in Class VI districts—by regular primary or by petition of 50 voters

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** In Class I and Class II districts not having an incorporated village—annual school meetings held in June; in Class II districts having an incorporated village—regular village elections; in Class III districts—if the district contains a city, regular city elections on a nonpartisan ballot with the names rotated; if no city, elected at primary on nonpartisan ballot; in Class IV districts—regular city elections held in May biennially, on a nonpartisan ballot with the names rotated; in Class V and Class VI districts—general elections held in November, on a separate nonpartisan ballot with the names rotated

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By remaining members<sup>5</sup>

**COMPENSATION:** None

<sup>4</sup> In Class V districts board members must be property taxpayers.

<sup>5</sup> In Class I, II, and VI, vacancies may be filled by a special election.

## *Nevada*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** County unit

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In districts having 1,000 or more pupils—7 members; in districts having less than 1,000 pupils—5 members

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 4 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:**<sup>1</sup> In districts having more than 1,000 pupils: 3 residents of county seat; 2 residents of county but not of county seat; 1 resident of county but not of any incorporated place; 1 resident of county. In districts having less than 1,000 pupils: urban and rural representation based on proportionate population

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By primary election (nominated for primary by individual announcement or by petition of 10 voters)

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** General elections held in November, on a separate nonpartisan ballot, with the names of candidates arranged in alphabetical order

<sup>1</sup> The voters by election may change the representation and the method of electing school trustees.

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**COMPENSATION:** None

### *New Hampshire*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Town, City,<sup>1</sup> and Cooperative  
**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 3-9, as determined by vote of the district<sup>2</sup>  
**TERM OF OFFICE:** In Town districts and 7- and 9-member cooperative districts—3 years; in Cooperative districts having 5-member boards—5 years  
**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping  
**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large<sup>3</sup>  
**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district  
**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In Town districts—from the district at large; in Cooperative districts—one member from each preexisting district and the others at large or as determined at the annual meeting; in City districts—some at large, others from wards or other specified subdistricts  
**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By individual announcement, or by petition of not less than five voters  
**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Special, held in March or April, on a nonpartisan ballot with the names of candidates arranged in alphabetical order  
**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By remaining members  
**COMPENSATION:** In Cooperative districts—as voted at the annual meetings, usually either no compensation or a very nominal amount; in other districts—none

<sup>1</sup> The city charter usually specifies the composition, etc., of the school board.

<sup>2</sup> Normally town districts have 3-member boards, but if a district maintains a high school it may vote to increase the number of members to 6 or 9; Cooperative boards consist of 5, 7, or 9 members.

<sup>3</sup> In some districts a majority vote is required for election, while in other a plurality elects.

### *New Jersey*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Municipal, Consolidated, and Regional  
**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** (Any district, other than Regional, may elect to be governed by the provisions of either Chapter 6 or Chapter 7 of the School Code; approximately 85 percent of the districts are governed by the provisions of Chapter 7)  
 In districts electing Chapter 7—9 members;<sup>1</sup> in districts electing Chapter 6—5 members,<sup>2</sup> in Regional districts—9 members.<sup>3</sup>  
**TERM OF OFFICE:** On 5-member boards—5 years; in all other districts—3 years  
**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping  
**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In districts electing Chapter 6—appointed by the Mayor; in other districts—elected by the voters of the district at large<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A district by election may reduce the number to 7, 5, or 3.

<sup>2</sup> Cities above 150,000 have 9-member boards, and cities above 45,000 may elect to have 9.

<sup>3</sup> If there are more than nine preexisting districts, the Regional district board consists of one member from each such district.

<sup>4</sup> In cities above 10,000 population, the members either may be elected or appointed.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any person who can read and write and who has been a resident of the State and of the district for 3 years

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In Regional and Consolidated districts—members are from the preexisting districts prorated on the basis of population; in other districts—members are from the district at large

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By petition of 10 voters (No nomination required for appointed members)

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Special, at the annual school meeting held in February, on a nonpartisan ballot with the arrangement of candidates' names determined by lot

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** On appointed boards—by the appointing agency; on elected boards—by the remaining members (if not so filled in 60 days, the county superintendent has the authority to fill the vacancy)

**COMPENSATION:** None

### *New Mexico*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Municipal, Rural,<sup>1</sup> Independent Rural, County Unit, and Union High

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Rural districts—3 members; in other districts—5 members

**TERM OF OFFICE:** In Rural districts—3 years; in County Units—4 years; in other districts—5 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large<sup>2</sup>

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** District at large

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In County Unit districts—by filing a declaration of candidacy supported by a petition of 25 voters; in Rural districts—no provision in the State laws; in Independent Rural and Municipal districts—according to the State Attorney General's opinion, No. 4220, January 1943, there are no statutory provisions relating to these nominations

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Separate annual or biennial elections held in February

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In Rural districts—by the county board of education; in other districts—by the remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** None

<sup>1</sup> The rural territory of each county, not included in some other type of district, is divided into what are called Rural School districts; incorporated villages with an ADA of less than 100 also fall into this category. Usually each of these districts encompasses the area of one attendance unit, but in some cases two or more attendance units are included. Although each such district has its own board of directors, the county board of education legally controls the schools in these districts. There is, however, one bona fide County Unit district which includes all the territory of an entire county.

The county board of education consists of four appointed members, plus the county superintendent. Appointments are made by a board made up of the State superintendent, the chairman of the county commissioners, and the district judge. Appointments are for 4-year terms under following conditions: One appointed each year; one member from each commissioner's district and one at large; any qualified elector; not more than three belonging to the same political party; vacancies filled by the appointing agency; \$5.00 per meeting not to exceed \$150 per year.

<sup>2</sup> Members of Union High boards are selected by and from the membership of the individual boards.

*New York*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Common, Union Free, Central, Central High, and City

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Common districts—3 members;<sup>1</sup> in Union Free districts—3 to 9 members as determined at the annual meeting; in Central districts—5, 7, or 9 members as determined by the voters at the annual school meeting; in Central High districts—each preexisting Common district must have at least 1 representative and each Union Free at least 2, with a minimum total of 5; in City districts under 125,000—5, 7, or 9, as determined by the voters or city charter; in City districts over 125,000—3, 5, 7, or 9, as determined by the voters or city charter

**TERM OF OFFICE:** In Common, Union Free, and Central districts having 7 or 9 members—3 years;<sup>1</sup> in other Central districts and in City districts under 125,000—5 years; in other City districts—4 to 7 years; in Central High districts—the term for which each representative is elected in his basic district

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In 4 City districts (New York, Buffalo, Yonkers and Albany)—appointed by the mayor; in other districts—elected by the voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district who: In City districts—has resided in the city for 3 years; in other districts—is able to read and write, and who meets one of the following conditions:

- (1) Owns, hires, or leases property;
- (2) Is parent of child who attended school at least 8 weeks the preceding year;
- (3) Has residing with him a child who attends school in the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In New York City—each of the five boroughs has representation on the board; in other districts—members are from the district at large. No more than one member of a family may be a member of the same board

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In Common districts—no advance nomination required; in City districts with appointed boards—no nomination required; in other districts—by petition of voters ranging in number from 25 to 100

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** In two City districts—regular municipal elections; in other districts—special school meeting or election held in May. Nonpartisan ballots with the names of candidates arranged in alphabetical order

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In Common districts—by special or regular school election; in city districts above 125,000—by the mayor; in other districts—by the remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** None

<sup>1</sup> A Common district may have a 1-member board, in which case the term of office is 1 year.

*North Carolina*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** County Unit and City

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In County districts—3-7 members, with 5 as the median number; in City districts—3-12, with 5 and 7 the most common

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 2-6 years

- OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** In approximately 40 percent of the districts—no overlapping; in the remaining districts—overlapping<sup>1</sup>
- METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In County districts—appointed by the General assembly;<sup>2</sup> in City districts—either elected by voters at large, or appointed by the city council, mayor, alderman, county board of education, or some other appointing agency
- QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** "No person shall be eligible as a member of a county or city board of education who is not known to be a man of intelligence, of good moral character, of good business qualifications, and known to be in favor of public education"
- AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Members are generally from the district at large; however, the members of 11 boards are from specified wards or subdistricts
- PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By individual announcement, primary election, political caucus, convention, or nominated by executive committee of the major political party
- TYPE OF ELECTION:** In City districts—as prescribed in charter
- METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In County districts—usually by action of the executive committee of the political party of the retiring member; in City districts—either by action of city council or by the remaining members
- COMPENSATION:** As fixed by the board not to exceed \$5.00 per meeting, plus 7 cents per mile

<sup>1</sup> Four City districts report perpetuating boards.

<sup>2</sup> One county elects by popular vote the members of the board of education; a number of other counties nominate board members by elections.

### *North Dakota*

- TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Common, Special, and Independent
- NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Common districts organized before 1947—3 members; in reorganized Common districts—3 or 5 members as proposed by committee; in Special districts—5 members; in Independent districts—5 to 9 members depending upon the number of wards
- TERM OF OFFICE:** 3 years
- OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping
- METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In Common districts organized before 1947—elected by the voters of the district at large; in Common reorganized districts—either elected by the voters at large or by the voters of specified subdistricts; in Special districts—elected by the voters of the district at large; in Independent districts—either elected at large or by wards
- QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district
- AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In Common districts organized before 1947 and in Special districts—members are from the district at large;<sup>1</sup> in reorganized Common and in Independent districts—members of some boards are from the district at large and others are from specified subdistricts such as wards or trustee zones
- PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In Common and Special districts—by individual announcement; in Independent districts—by petition of voters, the number depending to some extent on the population of the district

<sup>1</sup> In Special districts containing 6 square miles or more of rural area, at least 2 of the 5 members must be selected from the rural area.

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Special, held in June in Common and Special districts and in April in Independent districts; on a nonpartisan ballot, with no requirements as to the arrangement of candidates' names on ballot

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In Common districts—by the county superintendent; in other districts—by the remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** In Common districts—\$3 to \$6 per meeting depending upon the number of schools in the district; in Special districts—\$3 per meeting not to exceed one meeting per month; in Independent districts—none

### *Ohio*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** City, Exempted Village, and Local

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In City districts—ranges from 2 to 7,<sup>1</sup> depending upon vote of people and size of city; in Exempted and Local districts—5 members

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 4 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** All members are from district at large

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** Petition of 1 percent of those voting in the district in the last governor's election

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Biennial elections held in odd years; combined with other city and township elections, on a separate nonpartisan ballot with the names rotated on the ballots as many times as there are candidates

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** As voted by the board, not to exceed \$3.00 per meeting for not more than 12 meetings

<sup>1</sup> Cities of 50,000–150,000 population have from 2 to 7 members at large, plus not more than 2 from subdistricts. Reports indicate that none of these cities are using the sub-district plan; and that all boards consist of more than 2 members.

### *Oklahoma*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Independent, Dependent High School, and Dependent

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Independent and Dependent High School districts—5 members; in Dependent districts—3 members

**TERM OF OFFICE:** In Independent and Dependent High School districts—5 years; in Dependent districts—3 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Members are from the district at large except: if an Independent district contains a city having 4 or more wards and outlying territory, not more than 1 member shall be a resident of the same ward, or if the city has less than 4 wards or only 4 wards and no outlying territory, at least 1 member must come from each ward

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** Filing individual announcement

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Special school elections held in March; no requirements as to the arrangement of names on the ballot

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In Independent districts—by the remaining members; in Dependent High School and Dependent districts—by the county superintendent. If vacancies are not filled within 70 days a special election is called

**COMPENSATION:** None

### *Oregon*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** First, Second, and Third Class, Union High, County High, and County Unit<sup>1</sup>

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In cities having 100,000 or more population—7 members; in all other districts—5 members

**TERM OF OFFICE:** In cities above 100,000—4 years; in all other districts—5 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district. (Members of boards in cities above 100,000 must have been a resident of the city when elected for 1 year instead of 6 months)

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In First, Second, and Third Class districts—members are from the district at large; in other districts—members either are from each of the preexisting districts or from each of five established trustee zones

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In Second and Third Class districts—no advance nomination required; in County High School districts—by individual announcement; in other districts—by petition of voters, the number depending to some extent on the population of the district

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** In cities above 100,000—at the time of the State primary elections, on a nonpartisan ballot, biennially; in other districts—special annual school meeting or elections, on a nonpartisan ballot

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In Second and Third Class districts—by special election. (If such an election is not held within 30 days the county superintendent may fill the vacancy.) In other districts—by the remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** None

<sup>1</sup> Non-High School districts were abolished by legislative action effective in 1958.

### *Pennsylvania*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** First Class, First Class A, Second Class, Third Class and Fourth Class<sup>1</sup>

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In First Class and First Class A districts—15 members; in Second Class districts—9 members; in Third Class districts—7 members; in Fourth Class districts—5 members

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 6 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

<sup>1</sup> Union and Independent districts, for classification purposes, fall in one of the categories listed. In addition, joint schools may be established by two or more school districts. These schools are supervised and directed: (1) Jointly by the boards of the individual districts, or (2) by a joint school committee made up of one or more members of each individual board.

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**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In First Class and First Class A districts—appointed by the judge of the court of common pleas; in other districts—elected by the voters of the district at large<sup>1</sup>

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district who is of good moral character

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Members are from the district at large<sup>2</sup>

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By regular municipal primary. Candidates nominated for primary by petition of 2 percent of those voting in last election, or by petition of 10 party members

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Regular municipal elections held in November of odd-numbered years; partisan ballot with names arranged in alphabetical order

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** On appointed boards—by the appointing agency; on elected boards—by the remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** None

<sup>1</sup> Independent district board members are appointed by the court which established the district.

<sup>2</sup> In Union and merged districts each former district elects one member; the other members, if any, are elected at large.

### *Rhode Island*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Town and city

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** Three<sup>1</sup>

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 3 years or 4 years<sup>1</sup>

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large<sup>1</sup>

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** None specified

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Members are from the district at large<sup>1</sup>

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By party caucus or convention, or by partisan petition of 50 voters<sup>1</sup>

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Regular town or city elections held either annually or biennially

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the town or city council

**COMPENSATION:** As determined by local districts; the range is from nothing to \$1,500 per year

<sup>1</sup> Subject to special legislation. The number of members ranges from 3 to 7; the term of office is 3, 4, or 6 years. In a few cases, members are from subdistricts and may be elected by the voters of such subdistricts. Also, a few districts have nonpartisan elections with the names of candidates arranged on the ballot by lot.

### *South Carolina*

(Note.—Most of the school districts in South Carolina are governed by special legislation. The information presented below is based on the general statutes, and does not include special legislation provisions.)

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** School districts, Consolidated districts, and County units

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In School districts—3 members; in Consolidated districts—5 members; in County units—7 members

**TERM OF OFFICE:** In County units—4 years; in other districts—3 years

- OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** In County units—concurrent; in other districts—overlapping
- METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In County units—appointed by governor upon the recommendation of the senator and at least one-half of the House members of the county; in other districts—appointed by the county board of education
- QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified elector and taxpayer
- AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** District at large. (In some County units, the county superintendent is the seventh member of the board)
- PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In County units candidates are nominated by the senator and at least one-half of the House members of the county; in other districts—none specified
- TYPE OF ELECTION:** Not applicable
- METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the appointing agency
- COMPENSATION:** No reference found in the general statutes

### *South Dakota*

- TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Common, Independent, County Common, and County Independent
- NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Common districts—3 members; in Independent and County Common districts—5 members; in County Independent districts—7 members<sup>1</sup>
- TERM OF OFFICE:** In Common districts—3 years; in Independent districts—5 years; in County Independent—4 years; <sup>2</sup> in County Common—6 years
- OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping
- METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large<sup>3</sup>
- QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district
- AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In Common and County Common districts—from the district at large; in Independent districts—no more than 3 members of the board shall be resident electors in the incorporated municipal area if at least 40 percent of the population of the district lives outside the incorporated area of the district, and no more than 4 members shall be resident electors of the incorporated area if at least 20 percent of the population lives outside the incorporated area; in County Independent districts—in counties having 3 commissioner districts, 2 members must be residents of and elected by the residents of each commissioner district; the seventh member is elected at large. In counties<sup>4</sup> having 5 commissioner districts, 1 member must be a resident of and elected by the county commissioner district; the other 2 members are elected at large. If the county is an unorganized county, all members are elected at large
- PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In Common and County Common districts—by individual announcement; in Independent and County Independent districts—by petition of 20 voters
- TYPE OF ELECTION:** In Common and Independent districts—special annual school elections held in June, on a nonpartisan ballot with the names arranged in the order of filing; in County Common and County Independent districts—regular general elections on a separate nonpartisan ballot with the names arranged in the order of filing

<sup>1</sup> If the county is unorganized, the board consists of five members elected at large.

<sup>2</sup> If the county is unorganized, the term is 6 years.

<sup>3</sup> In County Independent districts, certain members are elected by and from commissioner districts. (See Area or Other Representation.)

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In Common and County Common—by the county superintendent; in Independent and County Independent—by the remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** \$2.50 per meeting, plus mileage

### *Tennessee*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** County Unit, City, and Special

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 5-7<sup>1</sup>

**TERM OF OFFICE:** In County Unit districts—7 years; <sup>2</sup> in City and Special districts—2-5 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping <sup>3</sup>

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In County districts—appointed by the county court; <sup>4</sup> in City and Special districts—as outlined in charter or special legislation

**QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district who is a citizen of recognized integrity, intelligence, and ability to administer the duties of the office, with a practical education

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Members are generally from the district at large

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** None required

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Not applicable

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In County districts—by the county court; in City and Special districts—as outlined in charter or special legislation

**COMPENSATION:** In County districts—as fixed by the county court, not to exceed \$4.00 per day. Private acts in a number of counties have increased this amount; in City and Special districts—none, usually

<sup>1</sup> County boards usually consist of seven members.

<sup>2</sup> Subject to special legislation; a number of counties provide for 2-year terms.

<sup>3</sup> In some of the districts which provide for 2-year terms, there is no overlapping.

<sup>4</sup> Subject to special legislation; board members in some counties are elected by the voters of the district at large.

### *Texas*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Common, Rural High, Independent, and County Unit

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Common districts—3 members; in County Unit districts—5 members; in Rural High and Independent districts—7 members

**TERM OF OFFICE:** In County Unit districts—4 years; in other districts—3 years<sup>1</sup>

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** In Common and Rural High districts—any qualified voter of the district who is able to read and write; in Independent districts—resident of the district for 6 months; in County Unit districts—good moral character, fair elementary education, good standing in community, known for honesty and business ability, public spirit, and interest in the promotion of public education

<sup>1</sup> A few Independent districts provide for 5-year terms.

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In Common and Independent districts—no requirements; in Rural High districts—members are from specified trustee areas, usually; in County Unit districts—one member from any former Independent district and other members from the remaining territory.<sup>1</sup>

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In County Unit districts—by primary elections; in other districts—by individual announcement or by petition of five voters

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** In County Unit districts—general; in other districts—special nonpartisan elections held in April with the names of candidates arranged in the order of filing

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In Common and Rural High districts—by the county board of education; in other districts—by the remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** In County Unit districts—\$5.00 per day; in other districts—none

<sup>1</sup> Some county units provide for 1 member at large and 1 from each of the 4 commissioner's districts.

### *Utah*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** County Unit and City

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In County Unit districts—5 members; in City districts—First Class cities; 12 members, and Second Class cities, 5 members

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 4 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of specified sub-districts

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Each county is divided into five precincts; one board member lives in each. City board members are from wards; 2 from each ward in First Class cities, and 1 from each ward in Second Class cities

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By individual announcement or by petition of five voters

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Regular general, or municipal, elections held in November, on a separate nonpartisan ballot with the names arranged in alphabetical order

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By remaining members

**COMPENSATION:** As determined by each board, not to exceed \$150 per year in county districts and \$100 per year in city districts, plus expenses

### *Vermont*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Town or City, Incorporated, and Union High

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Union High districts—8 to 11 as determined by the member districts; in other districts—3 members<sup>1</sup>

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 3 years<sup>1</sup>

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large

<sup>1</sup> The charters of Incorporated and City-districts may provide otherwise.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district  
**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In Union High districts—each member district is entitled to at least one board member; in other districts—  
 from the district at large

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** Advance nominations are not generally required

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Annual school meeting held in March unless voted otherwise

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In Union High districts—by the remaining members; in other districts—by a special election

**COMPENSATION:** As determined at the annual school meeting

### *Virginia*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** County and City

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 3-10, usually determined by the number of magisterial districts in counties or wards in cities<sup>1</sup>

**TERM OF OFFICE:** In County districts—4 years;<sup>1</sup> in City districts—3 years<sup>1</sup>

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping<sup>1</sup>

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In County districts—appointed by the school trustee electoral board;<sup>1</sup> in City districts—unless the charter provides otherwise, appointed by the city council

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district  
**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Each magisterial district or ward is entitled to one member, generally

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** None required

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Not applicable

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the appointing agency

**COMPENSATION:** In County districts—determined by each board, generally not to exceed \$240 per year. Special provisions are made for certain counties to pay members from \$240 to \$1,200 per year; in City districts—usually, none; cities of certain size may pay a per diem of \$10 per meeting, not to exceed 24 meetings per year; also, city charters may specify the compensation of city board members

<sup>1</sup> Certain towns are allowed an additional member on the county board. There are three counties which have the county manager type of government; the boards in these counties consist of from 3 to 7 members as determined by the board of county supervisors, appointed by that board, and holding office at the pleasure of the board. Also, in Arlington at the present time the board members are elected, but when the present terms expire, the general law will apply.

<sup>2</sup> Subject to charter provisions.

### *Washington*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** First Class, Second Class, and Third Class

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In First and Second Class districts—5 members;  
 In Third Class districts—3 members

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 4 years, except that in three cities the term is 6 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** Members are from the district at large except that in First and Second Class districts which do not contain a city of 7,000 or more, five Director districts are established and one member must reside in each such district

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By individual announcement

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** School elections held biennially in March; in First and Second Class districts they are held in conjunction with the regular municipal elections biennially; nonpartisan ballot with the names arranged in alphabetical order

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** In First Class districts—by the remaining members; in Second Class districts—by the county superintendent together with the remaining members; in Third Class districts—by the county superintendent

**COMPENSATION:** None

### *West Virginia*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** County Unit

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** Five

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 8 years

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district

**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** No more than two members may live in the same magisterial district

**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** By individual announcement

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** On the day fixed for the regular primary, but on a separate nonpartisan ballot with the names rotated

**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the remaining members<sup>1</sup>

**COMPENSATION:** \$15.00 per day for a maximum of 18 days

<sup>1</sup> If the vacancy is not filled within 80 days, the State school superintendent shall fill the vacancy.

### *Wisconsin*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Common, City, and Union High

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In Common and Union High districts—3 members;<sup>1</sup> in City districts—5-7 members.<sup>2</sup>

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 3 years<sup>3</sup>

**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping

**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** In Common and Union High—elected by the voters of the district at large; in City districts—appointed in some cities by the mayor or city council, and elected in others; if elected, in some cases by the voters at large, and in other cases by the voters of wards

<sup>1</sup> Any such district with a population of 500 or more may vote to have a 5-member board; if it operates a 12-grade program it may have 3, 5, or 7 members; if it operates a 12-grade program and contains a city of the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th class it may have 3, 5, 7, or 9 members; any school district coterminous with a town may have 3 or 5 members.

<sup>2</sup> Milwaukee has a 15-member board.

<sup>3</sup> In Milwaukee the terms is 6 years.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district  
**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In some cities, members are from wards; in all other districts, members are from the district at large  
**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In City districts with elected boards—by individual announcement; in other districts—no advance nomination required  
**TYPE OF ELECTION:** In City districts—regular spring city elections, non-partisan, with names arranged on ballot, alphabetically; in other districts—special nonpartisan school meeting  
**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** On elected boards—by the remaining members; \* on appointed boards—by the appointing agency  
**COMPENSATION:** In City districts—as fixed by the governing body of the city; † in other districts—as fixed at the annual meeting not to exceed \$100 per year for districts having four teachers or less ‡

\* If not filled by the remaining members in 10 days, vacancies are filled by the clerk of the village, town, or city.

† In Milwaukee members receive \$600 per year.

‡ The limitation does not apply in districts having more than four teachers. In districts which do not operate schools, members are paid an amount not to exceed \$20 per year and clerks \$25 per year.

### *Wyoming*

**TYPES OR CLASSES OF DISTRICTS:** Common, First Class, High School, and Reorganized  
**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** In First Class and Common districts—3 members; † in Reorganized districts—5-9, as determined in the reorganization proposal; in High School districts—3 members  
**TERM OF OFFICE:** 3 years  
**OVERLAPPING OR CONCURRENT TERMS:** Overlapping  
**METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS:** Elected by the voters of the district at large  
**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Any qualified voter of the district  
**AREA OR OTHER REPRESENTATION:** In Reorganized districts—members are from specified trustee areas; in other districts members are from the district at large  
**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES:** In Common and Reorganized districts—no advance nomination required; in other districts—by petition of voters  
**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Special school meeting or election held in June, on non-partisan ballots with the names of candidates arranged in alphabetical order  
**METHOD OF FILLING VACANCY:** By the remaining members  
**COMPENSATION:** None

† A district which has an enrollment of 1,000 or more may vote to increase the number to 6.

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