



## 2018-2019 Florida School Board Fast Facts

- Florida school board members are “constitutional officers” because the office of a school board member is established in the state constitution (rather than in state law, as is the case in most other states). Article IX, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution provides that the school board shall operate, control, and supervise all free public schools within the school district.
- Florida has the 3rd<sup>th</sup> largest public school system in the country, serving more than 2,835,000 students in the 2018-2019 school year. In comparison to the states with larger student enrollments, in 2016 (the most recent comparative statistics), California served more than 6,309,000 students, Texas served more than 5,360,000 students, and Florida served more than 2,816,000 students.
- There are 67 school districts in Florida which match, geographically, with Florida’s 67 counties. In comparison, in 2016, California had 945 school districts and Texas had about 1,000 school districts.
- Each Florida school district has an elected school board that consists of 5 to 9 members. Fifty-eights school boards have 5 members, 6 school boards have 7 members, 1 school board has 8 members, and 2 school boards have 9 members, for a total of 358 elected school board members in Florida. In comparison, in 2016, California has more than 5,000 school board members and Texas has more than 7,300 school board members.
- School boards have a massive direct effect on local economies throughout the state through employment and payroll. In every county in Florida, the district school board is one of the top ten largest employers and is the largest employer in 46 counties and the second largest in 15 counties.
- All Florida school board elections are non-partisan. In 43 school districts, school board members are elected by a district-wide vote of electors (at-large election). In 21 school districts, school board members are elected by a vote of the electors within their residence area (single member district election). In 4 school districts, some school board members are elected by a vote of the electors within their residence area and others are elected by a district-wide vote (combination of single member district and at-large election).
- Each school district has one superintendent. Of the 67 superintendents in Florida, 26 are appointed by their school board and 41 are elected by their community. Unless otherwise stipulated in local ordinances, superintendent elections are partisan.
- All Florida school board members are bound by ethical standards and requirements set forth in the Florida Constitution and in the statutory Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees. Under these provisions, school board members must file a full and public disclosure of their financial interests and campaign finances, must comply with constitutional “Sunshine Law” provisions, including those relating to public meetings and public records, and must undergo 4 hours of ethics training each year.