

Survey of the State School Boards Associations on Term Limits for Local Board Members

October 2006

National School Boards Association

34 Responding State Associations

State	Does your state impose term limits on local school board service?	If your state does impose term limits on local school board service, please describe the state laws/regulations limiting the number of terms.
Arizona	No	
Arkansas	No	
California	No	
Colorado	Yes	
Connecticut	No	
Delaware	No	
Georgia	No	
Illinois	No	
Indiana	No	
Iowa	No	
Kansas	No	
Maryland	Yes	Members of appointed school boards may serve two terms (appointed by governor); elected school boards in Maryland are not subject to term limits.
Massachusetts	No	Some localities impose term limits per their municipal charters.
Michigan	No	
Minnesota	No	
Missouri	No	
Montana	No	
Nebraska	No	
New Jersey	No	
New Mexico	No	
New York	No	
North Carolina	No	
Ohio	No	
Oklahoma	No	
Oregon	No	
Pennsylvania	No	
South Carolina	No	
South Dakota	No	
Tennessee	No	
Texas	No	
Utah	No	
Vermont	No	
Wisconsin	No	
Wyoming	No	
	Yes=2; No=32	

State	Please describe the advantages and/or disadvantages of having term limits in your state.
Arizona	
Arkansas	
California	
Colorado	
Connecticut	
Delaware	
Georgia	
Illinois	
Indiana	In Indiana, term limits are a local school board decision. A few have them, but it is not a statutory requirement.
Iowa	
Kansas	
Maryland	For my part, the advantages, if any, are not significant.
Massachusetts	Sometimes people have to go, and there's no other way to get rid of them. On the other hand, there are many good people who must leave their post because of term limits, and this undermines the public's right to impose term limits via the election process.
Michigan	Not having term limits is trusting voters to make up their minds as to who will provide the most effective leadership at the local level. Having term limits would assure fresh viewpoints from time to time.
Minnesota	
Missouri	Advantage of no term limits is that it allows experienced members to keep serving during a time when the average tenure of board members is declining.
Montana	
Nebraska	
New Jersey	Term limits would provide for new blood on school boards. But, you would lose the institutional knowledge with the turnover of positions.
New Mexico	
New York	
North Carolina	
Ohio	
Oklahoma	I really do not see any advantages for term limits. Experience is important in boardsmanship, and to artificially terminate board service is overall detrimental. On occasion, term limits will eliminate a poor board member, but the disadvantages outweigh the advantages.
Oregon	Frequently we hear from local school board members that they just begin to be productive as a board member after about two or three years. One person told us recently that having term limits is like hiring a new teacher and then requiring them to leave the district about the time they are the most productive in their career.
Pennsylvania	
South Carolina	
South Dakota	
Tennessee	
Texas	
Utah	Most school board members really become effective after their first term of office and rarely serve for more than 2-3 terms. (Utah)
Vermont	
Wisconsin	
Wyoming	Continued service is an advantage.