

Illinois School Board Members Facts and Figures



Nearly 6,000 men and women serve on local public school boards in Illinois, governing the education of approximately two million students across 850 school districts. Local boards belonging to the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) are responsible for updating records of individual board members within the IASB membership database. IASB surveys individual board members and collects demographics through its biennial member survey. In its 2020 survey 996 school board members responded, with representation from each of IASB's 21 regional divisions. The following school board member facts and figures is compiled from IASB membership data and member survey responses.

Illinois School Board Members

Gender♦	Male	Female
All members	49%	48%

Racial/Ethnic Background♦	No.	%
Caucasian	853	86.1%
African American	55	5.6%
Hispanic	18	1.8%
Native American	3	0.3%
Multi-racial/Other	16	1.6%

Age♦	No.	%
18 to 29 years	4	0.4%
30 to 39 years	76	7.6%
40 to 49 years	301	30.2%
50 to 59 years	285	28.6%
60 to 69 years	229	23.0%
70 years or older	101	10.1%

Highest Level of Education♦	No.	%
Advanced degree	366	36.9%
Four-year degree	324	32.6%
Some college	247	24.9%
High school grad	56	5.6%

Children in School♦	No.	%
Yes, in public schools	250	47.4%
Yes, in private schools	12	2.3%
Children are home-schooled	2	0.4%
No children school age	194	36.8%
College/University	137	26.0%
Early Education	28	5.3%

Length of Service*	No.	%
Under 5 years	3,413	59%
5-9 years	1,244	21%
10-14 years	712	12%
15-19 years	213	4%
20+ years	233	4%
Total	5,815	100%

School Board Members*

	2015	2017	2019	2021
IASB member districts	847	844	846	848
Total board members	5,922	5,882	5,908	5,838
New members	1,310	1,149	1,061	1,125

Data Sources:

♦ School Board Member Survey, IASB 2020

* IASB Membership Data