



# IDEAS TO HONOR YOUR SCHOOL BOARD

Let your board members know how much their work for your students is appreciated during School Board Recognition Month (SBRM) in January. Visit [www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm) for artwork, a sample news release, downloadable logos for your website and other resources.

The theme for 2024 is Launching Our Next Generation, and we hope these ideas will blast off and turn into star-worthy board recognition campaigns in your district!

## **Plan a board member recognition event**

- Plan a special reception at your January board meeting. Invite community members, students, parents, the media, city council members and more to submit videos thanking board members for their service.
- Send student thank-you cards, artwork and any other tokens of appreciation to board members. OSBA will send districts personalized certificates in December that can be used during recognition celebrations.
- Feature student entertainment at the event.
- Ask staff to record a few words on behalf of their teams, including teachers, school administrative assistants, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, etc.
- Give special recognition to school board members with extensive service records.
- Ask local businesses to post notices of School Board Recognition Month in their business or on social media.

## **Promote school board appreciation in the community**

- Encourage your city council, chamber of commerce or PTA to pass a local SBRM proclamation. (A sample is available at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm).)
- Ask your community's civic and business clubs (Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis or chamber of commerce) to host your board at a breakfast or lunch.
- Publish information on board members, including their background, years of service, etc. This information can be distributed in a variety of formats, like a brochure, webpage, blog and communicated at civic meetings.
- Place appreciation messages on school marquees. (Available at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm).)
- Ask your PTA or students to place a thank-you ad in the local newspaper.
- Download the SBRM logo and print it on shirts, use it on school or district websites and more. (Available at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm).)



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## **Promote SBRM using your district's digital assets**

- Place an SBRM logo in staff email signatures during the month of January. Link the logo to your district or board of education webpage. (Available at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm).)
- Use your district's blog, newsletter or website to post information about SBRM, board member profiles and more.
- Post video interviews with board members in which they talk about the role of the board.
- Watch OSBA's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts for updates. Feel free to like, retweet and share posts.
- Share SBRM graphics on your social media accounts. Be sure to use #SchoolBoardMonth on Twitter and Instagram. (Available at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm).)
- Invite your community members to share their appreciation for board members through social media and email.

## **Get media coverage**

- Send a press release about SBRM. (Customizable Microsoft Word document available at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm).)
- Invite students to write about the important role of school boards that can be given to members and published in local newspapers.
- Schools with access to a district cable TV channel can use their time to conduct interviews with school board members and have informal talks on board service. Use students as interviewers and technical help.

## **Educate students, community on what a school board does**

- Hold mock school board meetings and elections in high school and invite your board members to attend.
- Work with high school government teachers who are interested in discussing the role of local government – and public school leadership, in particular – with their students.
- Include information about what a board does on your district/school cable TV channel or podcast or in school newspapers. Encourage students to interview board members.
- Ask schools to “adopt a board member” and sponsor events for the adoptee throughout the month or year.

## **Other creative ideas and student projects**

- Have students create thank-you notes using colorful construction paper.
- Invite members of the schools' student council or other student groups to record videos honoring school board members.
- Invite board members to athletic events to blow the whistle to start the game.
- Ask each school in your district to be responsible for doing something special for one of your board members.



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- Donate a book or set of books to the school library, dedicated to the board, and include board members' names and dates of service on a recognition label within each book.

Don't forget to complete the online form at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm) to share your great ideas and help us continue to improve this campaign. District recognition events will be shared in the OSBA Journal magazine and on the association's website.