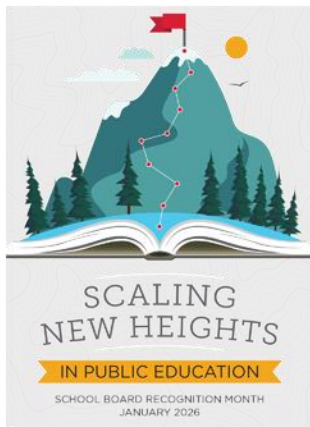


2026 School Board Recognition Month Kit

A resource kit to help recognize the contributions to public education by the members of Ohio boards of education.

Ohio School Boards Association

www.ohioschoolboards.org/SBRM



USING THIS TOOLKIT

This School Board Recognition Month Tool Kit is designed to help you recognize the valuable contributions of your school board members. This web-based resource can be used in two ways: either download the entire resource kit or download files you wish to customize yourself by visiting www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm.

The kit contains:

Ideas for honoring your school board members

These are ideas for administrators, staff, students, parents, community groups, service clubs and businesses. Adapt the activities to your needs.

Sample news release

Personalized this news release to send your community newspapers. If your county has only one newspaper, considering coordinating with the other districts in the county to submit one news release honoring all board of education members in the area.

School Board Recognition Month sample proclamation

Use this sample language when asking your township, village, city or county's elected officials to proclaim January School Board Recognition Month in your community.

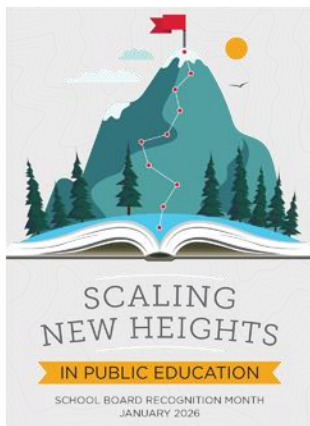
Sample messaging for school marquees and social media

Place appreciation messages on school marquees and in social media posts.

Art

The School Board Recognition Month art is saved in two formats: jpeg and pdf. Other file formats can be provided upon request. All art, including graphics for social media, is available at www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm.

Please contact **Angela Penquite** at apenquite@ohioschoolboards.org or (614) 540-4000 if you have questions.



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 for artwork, a sample news release, downloadable logos for your website and other resources.

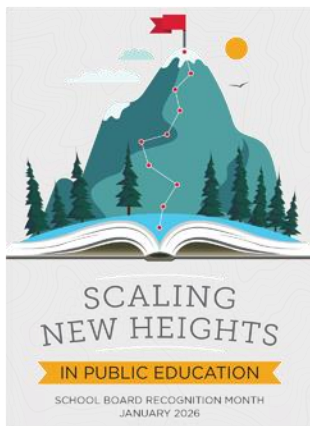
The theme for 2026 is Scaling to New Heights in Public Education, and we hope these ideas will blast off and turn into star-worthy board recognition campaigns in your district!

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.)
- 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.)
- Ask your PTA or students to place a thank-you ad in the local newspaper.
- Download the SBRM logo use it on school or district websites and more. (Available at www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm.)
- Get T-shirts, tote bags and sweatshirts featuring the theme at [OSBA's Swag Shop](http://OSBA'sSwagShop).



IDEAS TO HONOR YOUR SCHOOL BOARD

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.)
- 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.)
- Invite your community members to share their appreciation for board members through social media and email.

Get media coverage

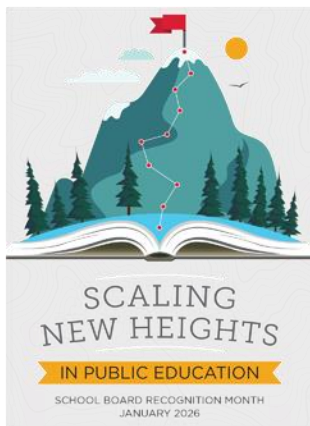
- Send a press release about SBRM. (Customizable Microsoft Word document available at www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm.)
- Invite students to write about the important role of school boards that can be given to members and published in local newspapers.
- Schools with access to a district cable TV channel 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

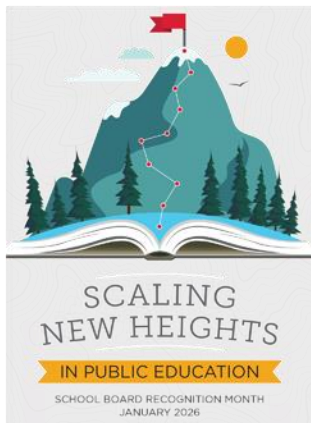
- Have students create thank-you notes using colorful construction paper.
- Invite members of the schools' student council or other student groups to record videos honoring school board members.
- Invite board members to athletic events to blow the whistle to start the game.



IDEAS TO HONOR YOUR SCHOOL BOARD

- Ask each school in your district to be responsible for doing something special for one of your board members.
- 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.
- Read how other Ohio school districts recognized their school board members last year at www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm-recap.

Don't forget to complete the online form at <https://osba.link/sbrm-submission> 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.



SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE

Prepare this release on district letterhead and submit it to local media. Complete or remove the italicized sections before submitting it to local media. You also can post this and OSBA artwork on your website with photos of the board.

District contact: (name, title, phone number, email address)

For release: January 2026

Board members honored during School Board Recognition Month

(City name, Ohio) – January is School Board Recognition Month, and (school district's name) is celebrating its board members for their dedication and commitment to the district and its students.

"School board members play a vital role in shaping the future of education in our community," said (Superintendent Name), superintendent of (school district's name). "Their decisions impact every student, every classroom, and every family. We are grateful for their vision and service."

(Feel free to personalize with a different quote from your superintendent.)

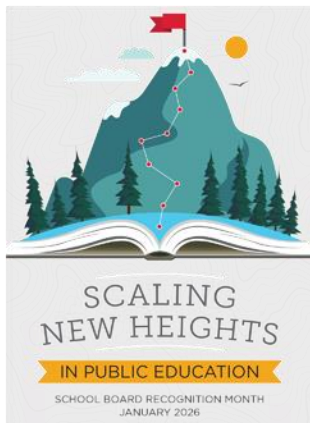
School board members serve as a critical link between the community and the classroom. They are elected to establish policies that provide the framework for public education. The (school district's name) board is responsible for an annual budget of \$_____million, _____students, _____employees and _____schools.

(Summarize major district achievements and honors accomplished recently under the board's leadership. Add details about specific activities planned in January for recognition month.)

Throughout January, the district will host activities to honor board members, including: *(Insert planned events, e.g., recognition at board meetings, social media spotlights, community thank-you campaign.)*

"School board members give our community a voice in education decision-making," (superintendent's last name) said. "While January is a special time to recognize their contribution, their commitment lasts all year. Please join us in thanking our board members for their service."

Board members serving (district name) are: *(List name, years on board, occupation and personal quote from each board member on why he or she serves.)*



SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

Ask your mayor, city council, or county official to proclaim January 2026 as School Board Recognition Month in your community. Publicize this action with a news release, on your website and in your district's newsletter.

WHEREAS, our community values a quality education as a vital step along the pathway to success for our children; and

WHEREAS, *(insert school board members' first and last names)* contribute greatly to this community through their service on the *(district name)* Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, these local decision-makers set the policies and procedures to govern all aspects of school district operation; and

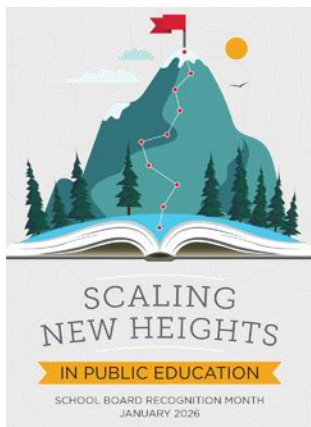
WHEREAS, the school board keeps attention focused on progress toward the school district's goals and maintains a two-way communications loop with all segments of the community; and

WHEREAS, these school board members are serving our community with integrity, honor and a commitment to our children's futures;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____, do hereby declare my appreciation to the members of the _____ School Board and proclaim the month of January 2026, as

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH in _____. I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the dedication and hard work of local school board members and in working with them to mold an education system that meets the needs of both today's and tomorrow's children.

IN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION WHEREOF, I hereby affix my signature this _____ day of _____, 2026.



SAMPLE MARQUEE AND SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES

Marquee messaging

2026 School Board Recognition Month
Thank you, school board!

School boards: Guiding our district to new heights!

Scaling new heights in public education: Thank a school board member today!

Serving our kids and community
Thank a board member

We appreciate our school board members!

_____ School Board
Working to make a difference!

Elected to serve our students!
Thank you, school board

Strong schools = strong communities
Thank your school board

Social media messaging

Tag OSBA at OHSchoolBoards and use the hashtag #SchoolBoardMonth

Twitter

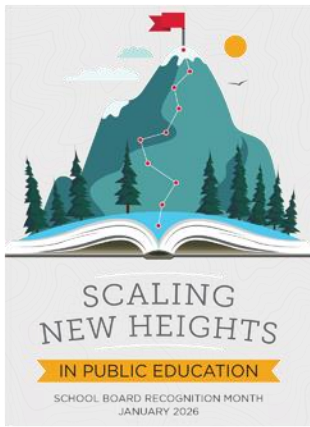
January is School Board Recognition Month. _____ (school district name) board members are guiding our students, schools and communities to new heights.

It's School Board Recognition Month. _____ (school district name) thanks our school board for their hard work and leadership! (post with a photo of the school board)

Take time to thank our school board members. It's School Board Recognition Month! (post with a photo of the school board)

Facebook, Instagram, etc. (longer message)

Please join _____ (school district name) in thanking our superhero board of education for their service. January is School Board Recognition Month, and we are celebrating all month long. Help us thank these education leaders for preparing today's students to become tomorrow's leaders.



SAMPLE MARQUEE AND SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES

As part of School Board Recognition Month, we are highlighting our school board members for their commitment to our students and community. Thank you to the dedicated leaders who are scaling new heights in public education! They play a crucial role in the education of our children. Please join us in saying “thank you” this month.

(School district name) students benefit every day from the leadership and vision of our school board. January is School Board Recognition Month, so take time to thank these dedicated school leaders.

School board members devote hours of their time each week to provide leadership for our school district. January is School Board Recognition Month, so take time to thank a school board member today!