

# SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

## ACTIVITIES AND TIPS SHEET

In January, School Board Recognition Month provides an opportunity to build community awareness and understanding about the crucial role an elected board member assumes in representative democracy.

There are several ways a district can celebrate School Board Recognition Month, including reaching out to community members to get them involved, planning presentations that highlight district achievements, and inviting students and staff to prepare gifts!

## Get your community involved!

### Community Organizations:

Chamber of Commerce

City Government

Civic and Business Clubs

Faith Organizations

Local Non-Profits

PTA

### Plan a special reception at the January board meeting.

- Invite students, parents, community members, local media and other stakeholders.
- Provide local restaurants and grocery stores the chance to sponsor food and beverages for the event.
- Hang invitation flyers in high-traffic areas of your community, inviting residents to attend.
- Place messages on school marquees, promote the event at all extracurricular events and post on social media advertising the event.
- Present board members with gifts from students or staff.
- Emphasize the great work the board has accomplished.

**For School Board Recognition Month Resources, visit [ossba.org/recognition](https://ossba.org/recognition)**

# Get your community involved!

## Help grow understanding of the board's role and responsibility in your community.

School Board Recognition Month is a perfect time to foster strong partnerships with your school board and community and grow an understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

- Arrange speaking engagements at local service or civic clubs to explain the school board's role and how public education is governed.
- Publish a brochure with photographs of your board members and outline their background, years of service and other pertinent information. Distribute the brochure at civic meetings and events.
- Use social media to share information on your school board members and any district accomplishments.
- Ask local civic and business clubs to host a lunch or breakfast for board members where they can discuss recent district accomplishments.
- Seek endorsement and recognition of the school board from the chamber of commerce. The chamber is a leader in economic development and knows the value of a strong education system in attracting new industry and providing educated, skilled employees.
- Invite legislators to attend the reception and say a few words in appreciation.
- Send a letter to stakeholders inviting them to participate in School Board Recognition Month. [See OSSBA's Sample Letter to Community Partners.](#)

## Prepare gifts and presentations!

### Class Activities:

Draw "Thank You" Cards

Hold a Mock School Board Meeting

Film a "Thank You" Video

- Prepare a certificate of appreciation. [See OSSBA Recognition Certificate Request Form.](#)
- Present board members with a free pass to school activities occurring in January.
- Hang "School Board Recognition Month" banners and/or posters in school buildings.
- Display student "thank you" cards for the board members in the board room.
- Showcase new educational programs or accomplishments at the January board meeting.
- Involve students and staff in preparing a gift.
- Give special recognition to school board members with lengthy service records.

# Prepare gifts and presentations!

- Ask students to color and decorate “School Board Recognition Month” posters.
- Ask staff to say a few words of appreciation during the January board meeting.
- Have students prepare presentations that showcase the accomplishments and positive things they’ve seen in their schools.
- Decorate entrances to school buildings.
- 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.
- Plan for a school board commendation at a staff and administrator meeting.
- Help teach students about the roles and responsibilities of a board member by holding a mock school board member election and meeting. Invite board members.
- Ask student athletic team captains to invite board members to “toss the first ball” or “blow the first whistle” at a home sporting event or to kick off a competitive academic event.
- Ask each school in your district to be responsible for doing something special for one of your board members.
- See if any community business partners will provide discounts or gift cards.

## Invite local media stations!

### Reporters can help showcase the great things board members do for your district.

- Invite local media to any School Board Recognition Month events your district has planned. This is the time to showcase the positive impact board members have had on your district and students.
- Send a press release for School Board Recognition Month. [See OSSBA Sample News Release.](#)
- Send a Letter to the Editor. [See OSSBA Sample Letter to the Editor.](#)
- Ask a student or the school website designer to create a School Board Recognition Month ad for your district’s webpage. You can also use graphics OSSBA created for School Board Recognition Month. [See OSSBA School Board Recognition Month graphics.](#)
- Encourage your local media to interview school board members.
- Be sure to emphasize the roles and responsibilities of the board, including any major decisions your board has faced, important actions they’ve taken and the tremendous amount of time each board member devotes to public education.
- Schools with access to a district cable TV channel can use their time to conduct interviews with board members and have informal talks on board service.