



(Place text on district/COE letterhead)

This article can be adapted for use in your district/COE newsletter or for your local newspaper. Localize this article by adding information about your school board members, details of how they will be honored throughout the month or ways your board has improved education for the students in your district or county.

School Board Members Recognized for Valuable Role in Local Government

School board members are ordinary people who have an extraordinary dedication to our public schools. What better time to thank our board members for the countless hours they dedicate to our [Number of students in district] students than this January during School Board Recognition Month.

Too often we forget the personal sacrifices our board members routinely make, along with the valuable role they play in the local governance of our public schools. It's one of the most important elected positions, yet, it can be a thankless job. What would our schools look like if local education issues weren't in the hands of local officials who know our community best?

This month we can make sure that the hard work our school board members have put in over the past years is recognized and rewarded. January is a time to show our appreciation and better understand how our board members work together to provide leadership for our schools.

The [District/COE] board works closely with parents, education professionals and community members to drive a vision that leads our students to success. The board formulates goals, defines results and sets the course of the educational program for our schoolchildren. School boards are also responsible for assuring the public that education funding is allocated to appropriate programs and resources. Our schools continue to feel the burden of California's budget crises, which have cut education by an average of \$2,100 per student. With these draconian cuts, our school board is responsible for making tough decisions on complex education issues that affect our community as a whole. It is a challenging position to hold during these difficult economic times.

This January, take a moment to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance for our local public schools. Make a special effort to tell each school board member that his or her hard work has been noticed and is very much appreciated.