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# SSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

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An overview for  
Board of Education candidates

[www.ssdmo.org](http://www.ssdmo.org)

12110 Clayton Road, Town & Country, MO 63131 • 314/989.8100 • 314/989.8552 TTY

## **Who makes up the SSD Board of Education?**

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The 22 school districts in St. Louis County are divided into seven subdistricts based on student population. Each of the seven SSD Board members represents a different subdistrict (see map on back).

## **What are the duties of the Board of Education?**

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The key responsibilities of the Board are to review and approve the District's annual budget; review and approve the District's long-range plan; hire and evaluate SSD's superintendent; serve as a liaison with subdistricts; and evaluate and set District policy.

## **What is the time commitment required to serve on the Board?**

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Regularly scheduled public Board of Education meetings are held in the evening on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the District's Central Office, 12110 Clayton Road in Town and Country. At least one of the meetings is typically preceded by a closed executive session meeting and/or other special meeting. Including time to attend meetings and to review documents in preparation for the meetings, Board members on average devote 15-20 hours per month to District matters. In addition, Board members may volunteer for or be appointed to serve on Board subcommittees and may serve as the Board's representative at other meetings or functions. Board members expected to attend District or school events, such as award banquets and graduations.

## **Who is eligible to file for election to the SSD Board?**

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Applicants for the SSD Board of Education must be citizens of the United States, must have resided in Missouri for at least one year, be at least 24 years old, be a registered voter of the District, and be a resident of the subdistrict in which the application is filed. In addition, successful candidates are expected to complete 16 hours of Board training held by the Missouri School Boards Association in the first year of office.

## **Who elects the SSD Board members?**

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With the passage of Proposition S in 1998, SSD Board of Education members are elected by SSD's Governing Council, not by popular vote. The Governing Council, which is comprised of one Board of Education member from each of the 22 school districts in St. Louis County, interviews candidates who have applied for open seats on the Board. The Governing Council then holds an election among its members to determine who will hold SSD Board seats.

## Overview of SSD

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Special School District of St. Louis County, the largest specialized education provider in the state, equips and empowers students of all learning abilities to excel to their greatest potential. This is realized through an inclusive, collaborative approach, supported by our comprehensive resources and deep expertise – all of which is centered on each student's unique needs.



SSD has its own tax base which supports our provision of both special education and career and technical education to students in all 22 school districts in St. Louis County. For the 2021-22 school year, the District's total operating revenue was \$491 million, with expenditures of approximately \$490 million.

Through special education, SSD serves more than 24,000 students from ages 3 to 21 with disabilities that include learning disabilities, emotional disorders, autism, and hearing impairments. Nearly 90% of SSD's special education students attend the same school as their peers without disabilities. This means that SSD staff work in 269 schools in the county, bringing necessary special education services to the students, rather than the reverse. The result is an inclusive educational environment in which students of all abilities benefit from interaction with one another.

Career and technical education is offered through two technical high schools serving an average of 1,500 students each year. Students can participate in 29 different programs, such as cosmetology, welding, firefighting, health sciences, and veterinary assistance. They earn high school and college credit, gain industry recognized credentials, and network with regional employers.

With a geographic reach of more than 520 square miles, Special School District impacts the lives of more students than any other local school district.

### A few facts about SSD:

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- Over **1,700** teacher assistants/aides and registered behavior technicians are employed by SSD. These individuals support nearly **2,800** certified staff members in our classrooms.
- SSD bus drivers cover **14,921** miles each day ensuring students are safely transported to and from school.
- SSD is the **tenth** largest employer in St. Louis County.
- Approximately **90** percent of career and technical high school graduates are employed, pursuing post-secondary education, or are enlisted in the military.
- Of SSD's professional staff, **81%** hold an advanced degree.
- **One in six** students in St. Louis County receives services from Special School District.

# Election Information

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The SSD Board of Education is seeking applicants for three (3) open seats on the Board representing:

- Subdistrict 1, which includes Hazelwood, Maplewood-Richmond Heights, and Jennings school districts
- Subdistrict 2, which includes Affton, Bayless, Hancock Place, and Mehlville school districts
- Subdistrict 7, which includes Clayton and Rockwood school districts

Filing opens at 8 AM on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, and closes at 5 PM on Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022. The District office will be closed and no filings will be accepted after Noon on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022, through Monday, Dec. 26, 2022, for winter break. Filing on Dec. 27 will be by appointment only, from 3-5 PM.

Candidates must pick up and return the application to the SSD Central Office (12110 Clayton Road, Town & Country, MO, 63131) in person. Packets and forms will not be mailed. Candidates returning completed applications must show proof of identity.

The Governing Council will interview selected candidates at an open meeting on March 6, 2023. Following the interviews, the Governing Council will take a vote to fill the vacancies.

For more information, call the Superintendent's Office at 314.989.8419.

## Map of School Districts

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