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

- **Subdistrict 4**, which includes the Ferguson-Florissant, Pattonville and Riverview Gardens school districts (one-year term).
- **Subdistrict 5**, which includes Brentwood, Kirkwood, Lindbergh, Maplewood-Richmond Heights, Valley Park and Webster Groves school districts (three-year term).
- **Subdistrict 6**, which includes Clayton, Normandy, Ritenour and University City school districts (three-year term).

Filing opens at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020, and closes at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021.

The candidate must pick up and return the application to the SSD administrative offices at 12110 Clayton Road in Town and Country in person. Packets and forms will not be mailed. Those candidates returning completed applications must show proof of identification.

The Governing Council will interview selected candidates at an open meeting on March 1, 2021. 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 served by SSD

**SSD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

An overview for Board of Education candidates

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?

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?

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?

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 administrative offices, 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 also have the opportunity to attend District or school events, such as award banquets and graduations.

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

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?

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

Special School District of St. Louis County (SSD) has two distinct functions – it provides special education services for all St. Louis County students with disabilities, and it provides technical education for area high school students.

The District is unique in the fact that it has its own tax base. This means that SSD is able to provide special education or technical education services to students in the 22 school districts in St. Louis County that are paid for with the tax dollars that SSD collects. For the 2018–2019 school year, the District’s total operating revenue was $468 million, with expenditures of about $446 million.

SSD serves more than 23,000 students from ages 3 to 21 with virtually every kind of disability – from learning disabilities to emotional disorders to autism to hearing impairments. The District also operates two technical high schools that provide a wide range of career and technical education programs to more than 1,500 area high school students.

As for placement, the vast majority of SSD’s special education students – some 97 percent – attend the same neighborhood school that their peers without disabilities attend. This means that SSD staff work in more than 265 schools in the county’s 22 school districts to bring the 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. Students with the most significant needs attend one of SSD’s five special education schools.

With a geographic reach of more than 510 square miles, Special School District impacts the lives of more students over a wider area than any other local school district.

A few facts about SSD:

- **One in 6** public school students in St. Louis County receive special education services or technical education from SSD.
- **Ninety-seven percent** of the students who receive special education services from SSD attend a school in their local school district.
- **SSD staff provides special education services to students in 265 public schools in 22 school districts in St. Louis County.**
- **For the 2019–2020 school year, SSD serves 23,255 special education students in St. Louis County, and provides technical education to 1,563 St. Louis County students at two technical high schools.**
- **For the 2018–2019 school year, the District’s total operating revenue was $468 million, with expenditures of about $446 million.**