Note: In addition to the Education Code, the Election Code, and other applicable laws, the district remains subject to Art. 2783d, Tex. Rev. Civ. Stat.

Eligibility

To be eligible to be a candidate for, or elected or appointed to, the office of school board member, a person must:

1. Be a United States citizen.

2. Be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the term to be filled at the election or on the date of appointment, as applicable.

3. Have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

4. Have not been finally convicted of a felony from which the person has not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities [but see Ineligibility below].

5. Have resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the territory from which the office is elected for six months immediately preceding the following date:

   a. For an independent candidate, the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot.
   
   b. For a write-in candidate, the date of the election at which the candidate's name is written in.
   
   c. For an appointee to an office, the date the appointment is made.

6. Be registered to vote in the territory from which the office is elected on the date described at item 5, above.

   Election Code 1.020, 141.001(a); Education Code 11.065(b); Gov't Code 601.009; Tex. Const. Art. XVI, Sec. 14

Qualified Voter

A person may not be elected trustee of the district unless the person is a qualified voter. Education Code 11.061(b)

“Qualified voter” means a person who:

1. Is 18 years of age or older;

2. Is a United States citizen;
3. Has not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote;

4. Has not been finally convicted of a felony or, if so convicted, has fully discharged the person's sentence, including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or completed a period of probation ordered by any court; or been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disability to vote;

5. Is a resident of this state; and

6. Is a registered voter.


In the Election Code, “residence” means domicile, that is, one’s home and fixed place of habitation to which one intends to return after any temporary absence. A person may not establish residence for the purpose of influencing the outcome of a certain election. A person does not lose the person’s residence by leaving to go to another place for temporary purposes only. A person does not acquire a residence in a place to which the person has come for temporary purposes only and without the intention of making that place the person's home. A person may not establish a residence at any place the person has not inhabited. A person may not designate a previous residence as a home and fixed place of habitation unless the person inhabits the place at the time of designation and intends to remain. _Election Code 1.015_

**Note:** The issue of whether a candidate has satisfied residency requirements should be judicially determined. _State v. Fischer, 769 S.W.2d 619 (Tex. App.—Corpus Christi 1989, writ dism’d w.o.j.)_

**Intent to Return**

For purposes of satisfying the continuous residency requirement, a person who claims an intent to return to a residence after a temporary absence may establish that intent only in accordance with Election Code 141.001(a-1), which does not apply to a person displaced from the person’s residence due to a declared local, state, or national disaster. _Election Code 141.001(a-1)–(a-2)_

**Single-Member Districts**

All persons elected shall reside and have their permanent place of residence within the trustee district from which elected. Residence
within the trustee district from which a person seeks to be a candidate at the time of filing for office shall be a prerequisite to filing.


Redistricting

The board of a district that adopts a redistricting plan under Education Code 11.052 may provide for the trustees in office when the plan is adopted or the district is redistricted to serve for the remainder of their terms in accordance with Education Code 11.053.

The trustee district and any at-large positions shall be filled as the staggered terms of trustees then in office expire. Not later than the 90th day before the date of the first election from trustee districts and after each redistricting, the board shall determine the order in which the positions will be filled.


Ineligibility

A person is ineligible to serve as a member of the board of a district if the person has been convicted of a felony or an offense under Penal Code 43.021 (solicitation of prostitution). Education Code 11.066