

# 2024

## SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

SASKATCHEWAN  
School Boards  
ASSOCIATION



## RUNNING FOR ELECTION TO A PUBLIC OR SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD

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Elections will be held **Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024** for all boards of education. This “Resource Package” is intended to help answer questions you may have about running for your board of education.

### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

The first matter to consider is whether a candidate is qualified to run for a board of education. The required qualifications for a candidate are as follows:

- The candidate must be a Canadian citizen on the day they are nominated, and maintain their Canadian citizenship thereafter;
- The candidate must be at least 18 years of age on the day of the election;
- The candidate must have lived in the school division for at least three consecutive months immediately preceding the date they submit their nomination paper; and,
- The candidate must have lived in Saskatchewan for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding the date they submit their nomination paper.

*(Local Government Election Act, 2015 - section 45)*

### “CHECKLIST” FOR CANDIDATES

If you decide to run, on or before **October 9, 2024**, you must:

- Ensure you meet the required qualifications (listed on this page).
- Get a nomination form from your returning officer. (Please contact your local school division to obtain contact information for the returning officer.)
- Complete the nomination form, including signatures obtained from ten electors in the subdivision or at large area.
- Submit the nomination form to the returning officer before 4 p.m. on **October 9, 2024**.
- Submit a current criminal record check to the returning officer appointed for the board election together with your nomination paper if a current criminal record check is required by board resolution. (Ensure adequate time for criminal record check completion prior to the nomination date.)
- If you are seeking election to the board of education that is situated substantially within a municipality with a population of 20,000 or more, you are required to provide a \$100.00 deposit with your nomination form.

*(Local Government Election Act, 2015 - section 67 and 68)*

# RUNNING FOR ELECTION TO THE CONSEIL SCOLAIRE FRANSAKOIS (CSF)

The CSF's election will be held **Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024**. This "Resource Package" is intended to help answer questions you may have about running for the CSF.

## REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

1. The candidate is a minority language adult, which requires that the candidate is:
  - a) a Canadian citizen on the day they submit their nomination paper;
  - b) at least 18 years of age on the day of the election, and,
  - c) one of the following applies:
    - i. the candidate's first language learned and still understood is French;
    - ii. the candidate received their primary school instruction in Canada in French, other than French immersion; or
    - iii. the candidate has a child who has received or is receiving primary or secondary school instruction in Canada in French, other than through a French immersion program.
  - d) The candidate is a resident of Saskatchewan whose current period of residency in Saskatchewan has been for not less than six consecutive months immediately preceding the date they submit their nomination paper, and,
  - e) One of the following applies:
    - i. the candidate has a child enrolled in a fransaskois school in a francophone education area conducting an election;
    - ii. the candidate has a child who is receiving a home-based education program that is registered with the conseil scolaire; or,
    - iii. the candidate or their child is receiving a minority language instruction program which is registered pursuant to Section 181 of *The Education Act, 1995* and who is assigned to a francophone education area for voting purposes.

- OR -

1. The candidate is a minority language adult, which requires that the candidate is:
  - a) a Canadian citizen on the date they submit their nomination paper;
  - b) at least 18 years of age on the day of the election;
  - c) a resident in the particular francophone education area; and,
  - d) one of the following applies:
    - i. their first language learned and still understood is French;
    - ii. they received their primary school instruction in Canada in French, other than French immersion; or,
    - iii. the candidate has a child who has received or is receiving primary or secondary school instruction in Canada in French, other than through a French immersion program.

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## “CHECKLIST” FOR CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR ELECTION TO THE CONSEIL SCOLAIRE FRANSASKOIS (CSF)

If you decide to run, you must do so on or before **October 9, 2024**:

- Ensure you meet the required qualifications.
- Get a nomination form from your returning officer. (Please contact your local school division to obtain contact information for the returning officer.)
- Complete the nomination form, including signatures obtained from at least five voters in the francophone area.
- Submit a current criminal record check to the returning officer appointed for the CSF election together with your nomination paper, if a current criminal record check is required by CSF resolution. (Ensure adequate time for criminal record check completion prior to the nomination date.)
- Submit the nomination form to the returning officer before 4 p.m. on **October 9, 2024**.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR CANDIDATES

### Q. What is a Board of Education?

A. The province of Saskatchewan has 18 public and 8 separate school divisions and one conseil scolaire fransaskois (CSF). Boards of education and the CSF are local governments and have legislative authority to govern the education services provided to their students. Boards and the CSF must consider various issues in making decisions, but in the end, their decisions are based on the best interests of all students. Boards of education and the CSF have an obligation to provide educational services and operate schools. They offer Grades 1 to 12 and many offer pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, as well. They involve their communities by informing, listening and considering their communities' values when making decisions. (*The Education Act, 1995* – sections 85, 86, 87 and 88)

### Q. What is a “Trustee”?

A. An elected individual member of a board of education or the CSF is defined as a “trustee” in *The Education Act, 1995*. A trustee, acting individually, has no authority to make decisions. A trustee works as part of a team being the board of education. Only the board or the CSF in public session has the power to make decisions that affect schools.

### Q. How do I know if I’m eligible to run for a board of education or the conseil scolaire fransaskois (CSF)?

A. The required qualifications for candidates for public and separate boards of education and the CSF are referenced above in this “Resource Package”.

### Q. Can I live in one school division and run in another?

A. No. The candidate must live in the same school division in which they will stand for election. (*Local Government Election Act, 2015* – section 45(c)(i))

### Q. Can I live in one sub-division and run in another?

A. Yes. However, while a candidate does not have to live in the sub-division in which they are running, all of their nominators must be from that sub-division. (*Local Government Election Act, 2015* – subsections 45(c)(i) and 67(3)(e)(f))

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**Q. Can I be a candidate if I work for the school division or the CSF in which I want to run?**

A. Yes, but you must be placed on a leave of absence immediately upon your nomination. If elected, you will be deemed to have resigned from your employment on the day before the day you are declared elected. (*Local Government Election Act, 2015* – subsections 43(3) and (4); *Education Act, 1995* – subsections 65(3)(4))

**Q. Can I be a candidate if I work for another school division?**

A. Yes. There is no conflict of interest if your employer is different.

**Q. Can I run for public school trustee if I am Roman Catholic?**

A. It depends. You can run as a candidate for the public school board if you meet all of the qualifications referenced in this document. However, if you reside in an area where there is also a Roman Catholic Separate School Division and you are going to vote in the election for the separate school board, you will then be an “elector” in the separate school division and can no longer qualify to run in the public school election. You can qualify as an elector in only one school division. (*Local Government Election Act, 2015* – sections 36 and 45)

**Q. Can a non-Roman Catholic run for the Roman Catholic school board?**

A. No. Only “electors” in the Roman Catholic Separate School Division can be candidates for election to the Roman Catholic Separate School Board. To qualify as an elector in that separate school division, the individual must declare that he or she is a member of the minority religious faith that established the separate school division. (*Local Government Election Act, 2015* – sections 36 and 45)

**Q. I pay taxes to the Roman Catholic school division in my area. Can I run as a candidate in the public school board election?**

A. Yes. The issue of which school division you pay your taxes to is not related to your eligibility to vote or run as a candidate. To qualify to run for the public school board, you must meet certain criteria referenced in this document. (*Local Government Election Act, 2015* – sections 36 and 45)

**Q. My children attend school in a different school division than the one in which I want to run. Can I run for election in a different school division?**


A. Yes. The school(s) your children attend is not related to your eligibility to run as a candidate for public or separate school divisions. To qualify to run for one of these school boards, you must meet certain criteria referenced in this document. (*Local Government Election Act, 2015* – sections 36 and 45)

**Q. Can I run for the board of education and for another office (for example, city council or the provincial legislature)?**

A. Yes, but you cannot be nominated for more than one sub-division within a school division. (*Local Government Election Act, 2015* – subsections 70(1)(c) and (3))

**Q. Can a candidate who is running for the board arrange a public forum of candidates? Or should it be set up by another person who is not a candidate?**

A. Yes, candidates can arrange public forums, but it is preferable that a public forum be established by an independent third party or body. Candidates are not required to attend public forums.



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**Q. How do I get nominated to run for the board or the CSF?**

A. Interested candidates must complete a nomination form. These forms can be obtained from the returning officer for your school division or the CSF. (Please contact your local school division to obtain contact information for the returning officer.) Candidates have until **October 9, 2024**, at 4 p.m. to submit the nomination form to the returning officer. If there are fewer candidates than vacancies, the returning officer will hold a call for further nominations. If you are running for a public or separate board of education, you are required to include on your nomination form the signatures obtained from 10 electors in the sub-division or at-large area in which you plan to run. If you are running for the CSF, you are required to include on your nomination form the signatures obtained from at least 5 voters of the francophone education area for which the nomination is made. When you pick up your nomination form, discuss with the returning officer exactly what is needed for your nomination. (*Local Government Election Act, 2015* – sections 67 and 78; *Conseil scolaire fransaskois Election Regulations*, section 20)

**Q. If I am successful, what will be the responsibilities of the board or the CSF?**

A. The key work of boards of education and the CSF includes planning and developing policy to achieve positive results for their students. *The Education Act, 1995* prescribes the authority of boards of education and the CSF. (*The Education Act, 1995* – sections 85, 86, 87, and 88)

**Q. What will be my term of office?**

A. Trustees serve four-year terms, so successful candidates elected on **November 13, 2024** will serve until **November of 2028**. (*The Local Government Election Act, 2015* – section 10)

**Q. How much time will I have to devote to being a trustee?**

A. People often suggest that being a trustee involves “one meeting per month.” Don’t believe it! Trustees spend an average of 6-10 hours per week on board - or CSF - related business. In addition to regular board meetings, trustees participate in committee meetings, planning meetings and Saskatchewan School Boards Association events. If a candidate is successful in the November election, there will be organizational meetings held by the new boards. The SSBA Fall Assembly and AGM is **December 1-3, 2024**, in Regina.

**Q. Is there compensation for being a board member?**

A. Yes. Rates are set by each individual board. (*The School Division Administration Regulations*, sections 22 to 25)



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