

Press Kit

Media Contact

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About School Board Partners

School Board Partners (SBP) is an entrepreneurial organization focused on transforming education in America by empowering elected school board leaders with the knowledge, skills and mindset to change education systems. Central to its efforts, SBP works to ensure that newly elected school board members – many of whom are serving as elected-officials for the first time – have support and tools they need to design policies that reflect the needs of their districts and students.

SBP’s competitive, one-year fellowship program provides school board members with connection, mentorship, and policy support to help support student outcomes. During the program and beyond, SBP fellows and alumni are trained in the following six high-impact areas that result in better schools for students: hiring, anti-racist policymaking, representing the community, developing goals, school performance frameworks, and budget and resource management.

Since 2020, SBP has launched five cohorts supporting over 200 school board members, 77% of whom are leaders of color. These leaders represent 28 states and 65 school districts, impacting over six million students. 50 fellows have served in school board leadership roles and 40 policies have been passed. SBP remains committed to equitable student outcomes and supporting our elected school board leaders in creating and promoting policy that helps students to succeed.

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School Board Partners Leadership

Ethan Ashley, Co-CEO and Co-Founder of SBP



Ethan Ashley, Co-CEO and Co-Founder of SBP is available for briefings and background, as well as on-the-record statements and live on-air appearances.

Ethan also serves as an **elected Orleans Parish School Board member** and is a strong advocate for equity, business development, youth justice, civil rights, and servant leadership.

Ethan has deep knowledge on:

- **Racial equity** and how coaching, training, and supporting school board members to lead with anti-racist frameworks can lead to equitable student outcomes
- Education policy concerns including, solutions for dismantling the **school-to-prison pipeline**, **student mental health**, and job training education
- Serving as an **elected school board member** of a large school system, and can offer keen insight into school board politics internally and externally, and how they interact with the larger political landscape
- The experience of **Black and brown leaders** across a variety of sectors including entrepreneurship and education
- The need for strong **charter school governance and accountability**
- **Civic Engagement** at the local and state level, disenfranchisement and the threat to democracy ahead of the upcoming election season



Carrie Douglass, Co-CEO and Co-Founder of SBP



Carrie Douglass, Co-CEO and Co-Founder of SBP is also available for briefings, background, as well as on-the-record statements and live on-air appearances.

Carrie is a **twice-elected school board member and past board chair**. She has worked as a teacher, school leader, district administrator, nonprofit leader and small business owner.

Carrie has deep knowledge on:

- Serving as an **elected school board member** of a large school system, including during the pandemic
- **School board governance**, accountability and management – including board member retention, recruitment, and support
- **Entrepreneurship** in education and at the local level
- Teaching and learning and an **educator’s perspective** on equity
- **Racial equity** and how coaching, training, and supporting school board members to lead with anti-racist frameworks can lead to equitable student outcomes



Empowered Governance

School Board Partners has worked closely with over 150 school board members from more than 65 cities across the country over the past 5 years to collect and distill feedback that has helped inform our newly launched Empowered Governance model. Empowered Governance is a new, policy-centered governance model that offers a more accountable, power-balanced, and equity-focused approach to the work of school boards.

Empowered Governance guides school boards on how to maximize their impact by clearly curating how best to spend their time and what policies to advance, and is grounded in four core principles: **policy-centered, measurable accountability, balance of power, and equity focused.**

Empowered Governance is more than a conceptual framework or a set of guiding principles; this model equips school board members with powerful, easily applied model policies and tools to hit the ground running and accelerate their work.



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“Empty Seats at Powerful Tables: The State of School Boards in America.”

School Board Partners’ report, “[Empty Seats at Powerful Tables: The State of School Boards in America](#)”, was released in 2022 and featured in POLITICO’s Weekly Education newsletter.

This first of its kind research offers much-needed diverse insight into the current status of school boards across the country—and a transformative path forward.

- The report found only **38% of school board members** surveyed are planning to run for reelection.
- This “**Great Resignation**” means that an unprecedented amount of seats will be up for election on school boards around the country.
- It also found that school boards are disproportionately white, female, and older. Leadership, especially, is overwhelmingly white.
- The report proposes a 3–part strategic framework: **People, Power, and Professionalism** to recruit, train, and retain members for school boards that are diverse and representative of the communities they serve, committed to equity, and supported in doing the work of righting historical and ongoing injustices.



Our Collective Power

Our Collective Power, School Board Partners' annual national summit, brings together elected school board members from across the country. It is designed as a learning community convening where attendees have access to the valuable knowledge, practical tools, and personal networks needed to drive change in the districts they represent.



Press Coverage and Appearances

- [Education Week - How to Recruit and Retain School Board Members of Color](#)
- [USA Today - The 'Great Resignation' hits school boards. Only 38% of members want to run for reelection](#)
- [Education Week - Nearly Two-Thirds of School Board Members Set to Step Down, Survey Finds](#)
- [The Cost of Extremism Podcast - The School Board Culture War](#)
- [\(Op-Ed\) Hechinger Report - Why school boards can and must be leaders in tackling climate change](#)
- [\(Op-Ed\) Newsweek - Want to Fight Racism? Start With Fixing School Boards](#)
- [\(Op-Ed\) Education Week - The Big Problem With Who Runs for School Boards—and How to Fix It](#)
- [POLITICO - Weekly Education newsletter 10.17.22](#)



Social Media

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