



2019 State Legislative Priority – School Board Term Limits

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TALKING POINTS

47 states presently have no statewide policy limiting school board service.

12 year limit of board service is more consistent with best practices.

No rationale for targeting term limits to school board members without applying to other local officers (county or municipal governance boards).

New members have steep learning curve, especially in districts with multiple schools and complex needs or services, and educational changes take place over years.

Recurrent loss of experienced board members, but does not prevent entry of “career politicians” who are termed out of other service.

Recurrent retirements reduce institutional knowledge at board level and increase board reliance on staff.

Major policy changes in times of progress may undermine support and stability of long-term policies that are working.

Examples of systemic educational change at M-DCPS that could be undermined by a change in School Board leadership:

- ✓ District/School Turnaround efforts
- ✓ Strategic alignment with local industries to create graduates needed in today’s local communities
- ✓ Gradual growth of districtwide school choice options
- ✓ Districtwide strategic school quality improvements
- ✓ Strategic reduction of truancy and increased attendance rates
- ✓ Annual budgeting for the aforementioned strategic reforms

Evidence shows that incumbency rates are higher under term limits (“declining challenger entry in response to predictable incumbent retirement cycles”). School board incumbency rates are also lower than incumbency advantages for those holding state or federal offices.

Term limits make local areas more vulnerable to outside interests, as evident by major outside funding for Idaho term limit campaign (adopted, but later repealed).