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## **Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker**

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The National School Boards Association represents the 97,000 school board members who govern America's 15,350 public school systems. The mission of NSBA and of America's school board members is to ensure that every child in the nation's public elementary and secondary schools is accorded a full opportunity to achieve excellence. The ultimate role of the local school board is to help preserve our nation's liberty, prepare our young people to participate in national economic prosperity, and enrich the lives of our people.

In promoting equity and excellence, NSBA focuses on the national and federal issues that affect public school governance and administration. NSBA converts advocacy into action by asserting strong leadership among other national groups and opinion molders and in Congress to develop programs and policies that support collaborative integration of resources and services for children.

The local school board is the fundamental unit of American representative government charged with, and accountable to the people for, setting policy for public elementary and secondary schools on behalf of the citizens in each community.

Local school board members provide leadership in shaping the future of public education at the national and state levels through NSBA and their state school boards associations. NSBA accomplishes its goals through several key activities:

- Advocating principles to Congress and the President that shape the federal and national roles in elementary and secondary education in light of the United States' abiding interest in obtaining the best and most inclusive public school system in the world;
- Providing services to help state school boards associations and local school boards acquire the knowledge, skills, and inspiration to fulfill their calling as the policy leaders of our nation's public schools in their local communities;
- Participating in nationwide forums to ensure that the local school board voice is heard on major national issues;
- Advancing the local school board perspective before the courts;
- Collaborating with others to advance common interests and goals; and
- Increasing public awareness and interest in education issues.

Through these activities, NSBA solidifies the close, dynamic relationship between sound school governance and successful local schools. Better public understanding of the role of the school board as the leadership voice of the community in the schools leads to better education for America's children, which in turn promises a better future for our nation.



E. Harold Fisher, President

William M. Sout, President-Elect

Thomas A. Shannon, Executive Director

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# Vision, Structure, Accountability & Advocacy

Hallmarks of Effective  
School Boards



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TO HELP  
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SERIES**

**A SERVICE  
OF NSBA'S  
AFFILIATE  
PROGRAM**

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LEADERSHIP FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION