



Issue Brief – Elected Superintendents

Background

Each year since the passage of the Education Improvement Act in 1992, legislation has been introduced in the General Assembly to allow local legislative bodies to revert to the process of electing school superintendents. The reasons the General Assembly moved from elected to appointed superintendents over 20 years ago, however, remain the same reasons they should reject amending the law today:

- **Availability:** Appointments provide a broader pool of qualified leaders. The school board is not limited to a small number of candidates in the county or district who choose to run for office.
- **Quality:** The appointment of the superintendent allows the selection to be based on professional qualifications and leadership skills rather than political savvy.
- **Accountability:** The appointed superintendent is accountable to the board of education and may be replaced at any time if he or she is not achieving the standards and goals established by the local board and the state.
- **Cooperation:** The appointed superintendent eliminates any question of divided control of the school system or separate agendas. Since an appointed superintendent must answer to an elected school board, he or she works together with the board to meet common goals and carry out established policies.

TSBA Position - OPPOSE

TSBA encourages the General Assembly to place the interests of students above any other by recognizing the value of appointed superintendents and rejecting any attempt to revert to elected superintendents.