

Office of the Maricopa County  
**School Superintendent**

**Maricopa County School District Governing Board Vacancy Appointment Process for  
School Governing Board Members by**

**Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools Steve Watson**

Arizona Revised Statute § 15-302 gives authority to County School Superintendents to appoint individuals to local school districts governing boards when a vacancy arises.

According to statute, the County School Superintendent shall:

*Appoint governing board members of school districts to fill all vacancies, but the term of the appointment shall be until the next regular election for governing board members, at which time a successor shall be elected to serve the unexpired portion of the term. Within thirty days after notification of a vacancy, the school district governing board may submit up to three names to the county school superintendent for consideration of an appointment to fill the vacancy. The county school superintendent is not required to appoint a governing board member from the list of names submitted by the governing board. The county school superintendent, if the county school superintendent deems it in the best interest of the community, may call a special election to fill the vacancies. If an election is called, the newly elected member shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired portion of the term.*

Although the district submits up to three names to the county school superintendent, the Office of Superintendent requests the names of all applicants who applied. The Office of Superintendent may also accept letters of interest from individuals who do not apply through the district office.

All applicants are thoroughly reviewed and are likely to be interviewed by the Superintendent and staff.

Shortly after all interviews are conducted, Superintendent Watson announces the appointment to fill the vacancy.

Finally, Superintendent Watson will administer the oath of office to the appointed governing board member.

For more information about this process, please contact Shane Wikfors at (602) 506-4383 or [shane.wikfors@maricopa.gov](mailto:shane.wikfors@maricopa.gov).

*(Updated March 21, 2019)*

**Accommodations and modifications to the appointment process may be made, on a case-by-case basis, as the Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools deems necessary.**