

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCIES
(Application for a Vacated Board Position—Urban Districts)

The board of education is required by law to fill vacancies on the board created when a board member leaves office prior to the end of an elected term. The board is responsible for appointing an eligible person to fill the vacancy until the next April election, at which time a candidate will be elected to fill the remainder of the term, if any, or the new term. This application will serve as written notice that you are eligible and wish to be considered for the current board vacancy. If selected, your service will begin immediately after you are sworn in and will continue until the person elected in the April 7, 2026 election is sworn in. You are also welcome to sign up to be a candidate in the April election when candidate filing begins in December.

The board requires all individuals who wish to be appointed to the board to meet the eligibility requirements for school board candidates under Missouri law. Therefore, to be eligible for appointment to the board you must:

1. Be a citizen of the United States of America. Mo. Const. art. VII, § 8.
2. Be a voter of the St. Joseph School District. § 162.471, RSMo.
3. Have resided in Missouri for a minimum of one year immediately preceding your appointment, if selected. Mo. Const. art. VII, § 8; § 162.471, RSMo.
4. Be at least 24 years of age. § 162.471, RSMo.
5. Not be delinquent in the payment of any state income taxes, personal property taxes, municipal taxes or real property taxes on your place of residence as listed on this form. If an applicant is a past or present corporate officer of any fee office, that office cannot be delinquent in the payment of any taxes owed the state. § 115.306, RSMo.
6. Not have been found guilty of nor pled guilty to a felony under the federal laws of the United States of America or to a felony under Missouri law or an offense committed in another state that would be considered a felony in Missouri. § 115.306, RSMo.
7. Not be registered or required to be registered as a sex offender under § 162.014, RSMo.
8. Have filed, or the treasurer of any existing candidate committee has filed, all required campaign disclosure reports with the Missouri Ethics Commission, when applicable, for all previous elections in which you were a candidate. § 130.071, RSMo.

FILE: BBE-AF1
Critical

Upon completion and submission of this application, you will be provided:

1. A copy of the board policy for filling board vacancies (BBE).
2. Notice of your potential obligation to file a personal financial disclosure statement with the Missouri Ethics Commission within 30 days of your appointment to the position (BBE-AF2).
3. A summary of the laws the Missouri Ethics Commission enforces.
4. A copy of the board conflict of interest policy (BBFA).
5. A copy of the board ethics policy (BBF).

Please complete the following. Attach additional sheets if necessary. All information provided will be subject to public disclosure under the Missouri Sunshine Law.

Name: JAMES E. YOUNG



How long have you lived in the district? I grew up in St. Joseph. I have lived here for 8 years this time.

Why do you want to serve on the board of education? I think education is vital to our community in every possible way. I also think that this is a very critical time for our schools.

Please describe your current and past involvement with the district or any of its schools (for example, PTO activities, committees, booster clubs, etc.): I attended school in STSD from K-12. I have been a para professional, ISS teacher, Social Studies Teacher and an ELA teacher.

Please describe your current and past involvement with any nonschool-related civic, nonprofit or community organizations: I have volunteered at churches, a pregnancy resources center, a local food pantry.

Please list skills you have that you believe would be an asset to the district's leadership team:

I am calm, an avid reader/learner, familiar with pedagogical styles

In one or two sentences, describe your vision for this district:

I want to see a school district that provides a safe, caring environment that allows students to discover their strengths and gifts and develops those gifts; and prepares them to succeed and continue to learn!

In one or two sentences, explain the proper role of the board of education:

The board should formulate policy and systems that allows faculty and staff to perform their roles well.

The board meets 2 time(s) per month on 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.

In addition to board meetings, you will be expected to allocate time to adequately prepare for meetings, perform committee work and complete training sessions both in and occasionally outside the district. Your estimated weekly time commitment is about 4 hours per week.

All newly elected or appointed board members are required to complete an 18.5-hour training program within one year of their election or appointment. If you run for and are elected to the board at the next election, you will also need to complete one hour of refresher training during each subsequent year you serve as a board member.

Are you aware of any conflicts that would regularly interfere with your ability to commit to this amount of time? Yes No

Are you aware of any conflicts of interest you may have in serving on the board? Yes No

A conflict of interest might be having ownership in a business that does business with the district, having a relative employed by the district, or serving on another board of directors or in another elected office. A conflict of interest does not necessarily disqualify you from board service, but may require certain procedures and disclosures to be used. If you have possible conflicts, please describe them: N/A

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Critical

I (the Applicant) swear that the information I have provided on this form is true and accurate, that I am legally eligible to be appointed to the office of director of this school district, and that I am legally able to hold office if appointed to the position.

James E Young
Applicant's Signature

05/09/2025
Date

Implemented: December 11, 2017

Revised: August 28, 2023

St. Joseph School District, St. Joseph, Missouri

To the Saint Joseph School District Board of Education

May 12, 2025

Dear Madam President and honored Board members,

I am writing to you to express my interest in the currently open Board position and to explain why I think that I am a good candidate for this position.

For a bit of background, I moved to Saint Joseph with my parents when I was 5. I attended Hall School from kindergarten to the fourth grade. During the fourth grade, we moved to a new home, and I attended Skaith School to finish out fourth grade. I went there until I completed sixth grade, then to Truman Middle School for seventh and eighth grades. I attended High School at Central ultimately graduating in 1984.

During my school years, I was a safety patrol member, a member of the Math Enrichment club at Truman, a member of the German club all four years at Central as well as a member of the Forum Club for my last two years there. I was a member of the Brain Bowl (a predecessor to Academic Bowl) as well.

After graduation, I joined the United States Army. After serving for four years in the Army, I returned home to Saint Joseph. I attended Missouri Western State College, graduating in 1996 with a degree in History and Political Science. It was during college that I met my wife and was married. I also served in the Air National Guard during this time. I went to Texas Tech University briefly for graduate school. Returning again to Saint Joseph. After suffering an injury and being on disability, we moved to Platte City. During our time there, I attained my Master of Divinity from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

I began my journey as an educator at Platte County High School. I was at first a substitute teacher, then as a paraprofessional. While working as a para with Special Education, I received my alternative certification as Social Studies teacher from ABCTE. The opportunity to own our own home brought us back to Saint Joseph in 2017. I was hired as a para at Benton High School over the summer of 2017, but before the school year had even started that had changed into a job as a Social Studies teacher. I taught at Benton for two years, then I was again a para at Lafayette High School. Partially through the year, I became the ISS teacher at Lafayette. After nearly three years as the ISS teacher, I took a position at Central High School as ESOL Teacher (now ELD). My wife's health at the time led me to take early retirement after only a year there. I am currently an assistant coach for the boys' soccer team at Benton.

I think that my experiences make me a well-qualified candidate for the School Board. I have been at all three high schools. I have taught or engaged with students from all walks of life and at all levels of academic ability. My military experience translated well into the academic setting given the wide variety and vigorous training that I received both in the Army and the Air National Guard. My experiences as a teacher, pastor and para have given me some insight not just in dealing with students and parents but seeing the overall structure of the education system.

I am convinced that our School District is a critical time in its history. A falling student population, rapidly evolving technologies with its opportunities and pitfalls, the aging of many of our school buildings, public uncertainty about finances and social issues galore add up to a lot of challenges that we, as community and a School District serving that community, must navigate with wisdom and compassion. Our students deserve the opportunity to identify their gifts and interests and begin the lifelong journey to learning how to utilize those gifts and discovering more. We, as a community, desire to see our students succeed by being provided with a base education that allows them to build in those areas of interest.

I think that I would be an asset to the board in my passion for education, my desire to learn and generally calm demeanor. I want to see our schools, our students and our community succeed in the days to come.

Sincerely,

James E Young

Camden Point Christian Church

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Jim Young

Dear School Board Members:

Mr. Young has served as our pastor for several years. I believe he would be an excellent addition to your school board.

Mr. Young is well educated, extremely intelligent and has a very good understanding of the education system and the problems faced by students as well as teachers and administrators. He is very professional in dealing with people and very well spoken.

I believe he would be an asset to your board.

Sincerely,



Gloria Boyer
Camden Point
Christian Church
Treasurer

Katie Parkin

Special Education Teacher at Platte County High School

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

May 12, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am honored to write this letter of recommendation in support of James Young as a candidate for the St. Joseph School District Board of Education. I have had the privilege of knowing James as a retired educator, military veteran, and dedicated pastor—roles in which he has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, character, and a deep commitment to the well-being of his community.

James served as a paraprofessional and teacher for many years, during which he positively impacted the lives of students and colleagues. He brought not only strong instructional expertise to the classroom but also a genuine passion and a love of learning. His understanding of the challenges facing both students and teachers gives him a valuable perspective that would benefit the school board greatly.

As a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, James has demonstrated the kind of integrity, discipline, and service-minded leadership that are essential for effective governance. He approaches every responsibility with thoughtfulness and remains calm, while being solutions-focused in the face of complex decisions.

Equally significant is James's longstanding role as a pastor. He has been a source of spiritual guidance, compassion, and unity for families throughout the community. His ability to listen deeply and advocate for the needs of others reflects the very heart of public service.

James Young brings a rare and powerful combination of educational insight, civic responsibility, and moral leadership. I have no doubt that his voice on the St. Joseph School Board would be one of wisdom, empathy, and unwavering dedication to doing what's best for students, educators, and families alike.

I strongly support his candidacy and encourage others to do the same.

Sincerely,

Katie Parkin

Anthony Dice

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

May 10, 2025

Saint Joseph School District School Board
1415 North 26th Street
Saint Joseph, Missouri 64506

Dear Members of the School Board,

I am writing to offer my highest recommendation for James Young in support of his candidacy for a position on the Saint Joseph School District School Board. I have had the privilege of working alongside James for several years as both a colleague in the school as well as in the field of play as a coach and can say without hesitation that he is an outstanding individual with the values, experience, and commitment needed to serve our students, families, and community in this critical role.

As both a pastor and a former educator, James brings a unique perspective that bridges the gap between educational and community needs. His years of teaching experience have given him an in-depth understanding of the academic challenges that students face, as well as the importance of fostering an environment where students are supported not just intellectually, but emotionally and spiritually as well. His ability to connect with young people and help them navigate challenges with compassion and wisdom is truly inspiring.

Furthermore, as a pastor, James has demonstrated exceptional leadership, communication, and organizational skills. He leads by example, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all members of the congregation, and he does the same within his community outreach initiatives. His commitment to service and his ability to unite individuals from the Camden Point community and giving them the opportunity to share in the faith makes him a valuable asset to the school board and brings fresh thinking that will help improve the community as well as the students and educators.

I am confident that James will approach the responsibilities of this role with the same integrity, care, and dedication that he has shown throughout his career. He is a thoughtful decision-maker, an advocate for students, and a tireless supporter of quality education. His leadership would be a tremendous asset to the Saint Joseph School District School Board and the entire school community.

Thank you for considering this recommendation. I believe that James will bring valuable insight and dedication to the school board, and I am excited about the potential positive impact he will make. If you have any further questions or would like to discuss James's qualifications further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,