

Ohio School Boards Association

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Northeast Ohio school board member receives association's highest honor

COLUMBUS — An Akron City Schools board member will receive the Ohio School Boards Association's (OSBA) most prestigious award.

The Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr., who has served on the Akron City Schools Board of Education for 19 years, will be recognized as a 2018 All-Ohio School Board member on Sunday, Nov. 11, during the OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show in Columbus. OSBA Chief Executive Officer Richard Lewis will introduce All-Ohio School Board members on the first day of the 63rd annual conference, a three-day convention attended by more than 9,000 Ohio public school board members, administrators and other education stakeholders.

Each year, OSBA names one board of education member from each of its five regions — Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast and Southwest — to the All-Ohio School Board. The award recognizes outstanding service to public education and represents the dedication shown by thousands of board members across the state.

All-Ohio School Board candidates are nominated by their respective school boards. OSBA regional committees then select the five winners.

Walker, an Akron resident and senior pastor at Beth-El African Methodist Episcopal Church in Cleveland, represents OSBA's Northeast Region. Five times he has been elected to the Akron board and currently serves as its vice president. He has served three times as board president and twice as vice president.

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All-Ohio School Board 2/2/2/2/2/

Walker has been instrumental in establishing the district's long-term vision, including the Akron Community Learning Centers 15-year construction plan and I Promise School. "His leadership is a strong cornerstone for our entire board. He is a model of compassion and a visionary board member," his colleagues wrote in nominating him for the All-Ohio award.

His work with OSBA includes serving on the association's Urban Network. He also has served on the Board of Trustees, Northeast Region Executive Committee and as president and vice president of the Black Caucus, among others.

In his community, Walker is a member of the Akron NAACP, Summit County Public Health Advisory Council, Catholic Social Services Board of Directors and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

In its 63rd year, OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.

For more information, contact OSBA or your local school district.

Note to reporters, editors: OSBA's All-Ohio School Board honorees have been told they are receiving the award. Please feel free to contact them for feature stories, comments or photos. Walker's phone number is (330) 864-5732. If you wish to cover the awards presentation in Columbus on Nov. 11, please contact Crystal Davis, whose contact information is at the top of this release.