

State Education Governance

NASBE

National Association of
State Boards of Education

**State-by-State Chart of Essential
Governance Information**

March 2013

STATE EDUCATION GOVERNANCE MATRIX

Compiled by the National Association of State Boards of Education

(Updated March 2013)

STATE	METHOD OF SELECTION OF STATE BOARD MEMBERS	NUMBER OF VOTING MEMBERS	LENGTH OF TERM	STATE BOARD ESTABLISHED IN STATUTE OR CONSTITUTION	SELECTION OF CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICER	SELECTION OF STATE BOARD CHAIR/ PRESIDENT	AUTHORITY FOR TEACHER LICENSURE	STATE BOARD ROLE IN CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION	SPECIAL NOTES
Alabama	Partisan Ballot	8 plus Gov.	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Governor is President of Board	SBE	No charter law	SBE oversees community colleges
Alaska	Appt. by Gov., confirmed by legislature	7	5	Statute	Appt. by SBE, with approval by Gov.	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chartering agent No appeals process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board appoints one student advisor, and one military advisor is appt. by Alaska Adj. Gen. of the Army; these members vote, but their votes are advisory; CSSO must have 5 yrs. experience in education, 3 in administration
Arizona	Appt. by Gov., confirmed by Senate	11, including CSSO	4	Constitution	Partisan Ballot	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chartering agent No appeals process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sits as Vo-Tech board Requires four lay members Two members added in 2005: one lay member, one charter school administrator
Arkansas	Appt. by Gov.	9	7	Statute	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sole chartering agent No appeals process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSSO serves at the pleasure of the Governor CSSO must have 10 yrs. teaching experience, including 5 in administration or supervision, and hold state teacher's certificate
California	Appt. by Gov.	11, including student	4	Constitution	Nonpartisan Ballot	Elected by SBE members	Independent board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chartering agent Appeals to SBE 	Voting student member (with 1-year term) who has full participation rights
Colorado	Partisan Ballot	7	6 (limited to 2 terms)	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local boards and Charter School Institute are both authorizing agents Appeals to SBE 	When a vacancy occurs, a new SBE member is appointed by a partisan vacancy committee to fill the remainder of the term.

SBE = state board of education
 CSSO = chief state school officer (e.g. commissioner, superintendent)
 Appt. = appointed

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Connecticut	Appt. by Gov., confirmed by House and Senate	11	4 (2 non-voting students serve 1- year terms)	Statute	Recommendation by SBE to Gov.	Appt. by Gov.	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chartering agent No appeals process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commissioner of Higher Education serves as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the board; Two members must have vo-tech or manufacturing experience
Delaware	Appt. by Gov., confirmed by Senate	7	6	Statute	Appt. by Gov.	Appt. by and serves at the pleasure of the Gov.	Independent board, but its regulatory actions require approval by SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chartering agent No appeals process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 SBE members must have local board experience; Must be a resident for 5 yrs. in order to sit on board
Florida	Appt. by Gov.	7	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	New state chartering board is appointed by SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner of Ed. serves on Board of Governors for the state university system; SBE oversees community colleges
Georgia	Appt. by Gov.	13	7	Constitution	Partisan Ballot	Elected by SBE members	Independent board	Charter school commission can authorize schools rejected by local boards. SBE can override commission decisions, in which case the SBE becomes the authorizer	SBE members must be a resident for 5 yrs.
Hawaii	Appt. by Gov., confirmed by Senate	9	7	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	Independent board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sole chartering agent Appeals to SBE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board changed from elected to appointed in 2011; Nonvoting student and military rep.
Idaho	7 Appt. by Gov.; CSSO also serves on SBE	8	5	Constitution	Partisan Ballot	Appt. by and serves at the pleasure of the SBE	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes rules for charter schools Appeals to SBE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBE is also Board of Regents for Univ. of Idaho and governs all state higher ed. institutions SBE oversees community colleges
Illinois	Appt. by Gov.	9	4 (limited to 2 terms)	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Appt. by Gov.	SBE	SBE has chartering authority through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charter referendum process; Charter applicants' appeals to SBE; Certification of all approved charters 	Requirements for regional and political balance on board

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Indiana	10 members appt. by Gov., plus elected State Superintendent	11	4	Statute	Partisan Ballot	State Supt. serves as chair	Licensing authority is now with Dept. of Ed., with advisory licensing board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No chartering authority No appeals to SBE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 members must be educators Political balance is required \$2,000 per year for state board members
Iowa	Appt. by Gov.	9	6	Statute	Appt. by Gov.	Elected by SBE members (2-year term)	Independent board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools apply first to local boards; if approved, local boards apply to SBE for final approval; Applicants can appeal local board rejection to SBE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One nonvoting student member; SBE oversees community colleges
Kansas	Partisan Ballot	10	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members (2-year term)	SBE	Schools apply first to local boards; if approved, local boards apply to SBE for final approval	
Kentucky	Appt. by Gov., confirmed by Senate	11	4	Statute	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	Independent board	No charter law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President of Council on Postsecondary Ed. is nonvoting ex officio member; Board members must be resident for 3 years, at least 30 years old, and hold a 2-year Associate degree; Governor appoints Secretary of Education
Louisiana	8 elected by nonpartisan ballot; 3 appt. by Gov.	11	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants may submit charter proposal to SBE if rejected by local board or if local board's conditions are unacceptable; Applicants can apply directly to SBE to charter "failed" schools 	
Maine	Appt. by Gov.	9	5	Statute	Appt. by Gov.	Elected by SBE members	SBE	SBE appoints a State Charter School Commission (SCSC). 3 members of SCSC must be SBE members. SCSC may authorize a limited number of charters and is the only authorizer of virtual charters	Two non-voting student members added in 2008

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Maryland	Appt. by Gov.	12 incl. student member	4 (term limit of 2 4-year terms)	Statute	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	Shared responsibility between SBE and separate licensure board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBE can charter "restructured" schools if their applications are not acted on at the district level; Appeals to SBE; Charter schools apply to SBE for waivers on issue-by-issue basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voting student member, which is a one-year appointment by the Gov. CSSO must have 7 yrs. teaching experience and administration experience
Massachusetts	6 appt. by Gov.; 4 voting ex officio members, 1 student	11 incl. student member	5	Statute	Appt. by SBE	Appt. by Gov.	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sole chartering agent No appeals process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation in 2008 created a Secretary of Education to coordinate the work of the K-12, early childhood, and higher education boards; The legislation also added two members to the K-12 board, as well as the Secretary of Education
Michigan	Partisan ballot	8	8	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No chartering authority No appeals to SBE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gov. is ex officio member of the board; State teacher of the year is a nonvoting advisor to the board; SBE oversees community colleges
Minnesota	None			None	Appt. by Gov.		Independent board		State Board existed by statute, but was abolished by legislature as of Dec. 31, 1999
Mississippi	5 appt. by Gov. 4 appt. by Leg.	9	9	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	Law provides for up to 12 low-performing schools to convert to charters. SBE is the only authorizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lt. Gov. and speaker of the house each appoint 2 members; CSSO must have 5 yrs. administrative experience
Missouri	Appt. by Gov. with consent of Senate	8	8	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBE has discretionary authority if application is denied by initial sponsor Appeals to SBE 	Authority over university and other community college system teacher education programs

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Montana	Appt. by Gov.	7	7	Constitution	Partisan ballot	Elected by SBE members	SBE	Charter rules require a school to have a locally elected "school board of trustees"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonvoting student member has 2-year term; Gov., commissioner of higher ed., and state supt. are nonvoting ex officio members of SBE; K-12 Board of Public Ed. and Board of Regents meet together as "State Board of Education"
Nebraska	Nonpartisan Ballot	8	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	No charter law	Teachers, state officials or candidates, and nonresidents are not eligible for board membership
Nevada	4 elected 3 appointed by Gov.	7	4	Statute	Appt. by Gov. from 3 nominees provided by SBE	Elected by SBE members	Independent board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chartering agent Appeals to SBE if local board takes no action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonvoting student member 2011 law reconstituted SBE into mix of elected and appointed members
New Hampshire	Appt. by Gov., confirmed by Executive Council	7	4	Statute	Appt. by Gov. after consulting SBE, confirmed by Council	Named by Gov. for 1-year term	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBE has chartering authority (no local boards currently approved as authorizers) Appeals to SBE 	Gov. and Executive Council appoint SBE
New Jersey	Appt. by Gov.	13	6	Statute	Appt. by Gov.	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No chartering authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 members of SBE must be women Resident for 5 yrs. to sit on board
New Mexico	Partisan Ballot	10	4	Constitution	Appt. by Gov/	Elected by SBE members	Independent board	SBE has chartering authority	2003 Constitutional amendment reconstituted SBE as the Public Education Commission, which is advisory to the Secretary of Ed.
New York	Appt. by Legislature	16	5	Constitution and Statute	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chartering agent No appeals process 	Responsible for higher education, cultural institutions, special education./vocational rehabilitation, and licensed professions

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North Carolina	11 appt. by Gov., approved by joint session of House and Senate; 2 voting ex officio members: State Treasurer and Lt. Gov.	13	8	Constitution	Partisan Ballot	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chartering agent Appeals to SBE 	7 nonvoting advisors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 students 2 Teachers of the Year 1 Principal of the Year 1 local superintendent 1 local board member
North Dakota	Appt. by Gov.	7	6	Statute	Nonpartisan Ballot	Elected by SBE	Independent board	No charter law	
Ohio	11 elected by Nonpartisan Ballot; 8 appt. by Gov	19	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members (2-year term)	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBE approves new charter school sponsors/authorizers for start-up schools Sponsors serve as chartering agent for individual schools Specified termination actions can be appealed to SBE 	Separate board for higher education; 2 ex officio members (nonvoting)
Oklahoma	Appt. by Gov.	7	4, serve at pleasure of gov.	Constitution	Partisan Ballot	State Supt. serves as chair	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No chartering authority No appeals process 	2 SBE members are ex officio voting members of the State Board of Career and Technology Education
Oregon	Appt. by Gov.	7	4 (2 term limit)	Statute	Appt. by Education Investment Board	Elected by SBE members	Independent board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appeals to SBE SBE can charter schools after appeal 	2011 law created the Oregon Education Investment Board, a P-20 coordinating body with gov. serving as chair; currently 1 SBE member also serves on the Education Investment Board
Pennsylvania	Appt. by Gov., confirmed by Senate	21	6	Statute	Appt. by Gov.	Appt. by Gov.	SBE	Appeals to separate Charter School Appeals Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory responsibility for post-secondary education; In 2008, four nonvoting students were added (2 for K-12, 2 for higher ed), who serve first year as member-elect, second year as member
Rhode Island	Appt. by Gov., confirmed by Senate	11	3 (limited to two 3-year terms)	Statute	Appt. by SBE	Appt. by Gov. (Gov. also appoints vice-chair)	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBE authorizes after initial approval by local board or CSSO; No appeals process 	New for 2013: A state law combined the boards for K-12 and higher education into one board appointed by the governor

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South Carolina	Appt. by Legislature	17	4	Constitution	Partisan Ballot	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No chartering authority Appeals to SBE 	Legislative delegations elect 16 SBE members, Gov. appoints 1 SBE member
South Dakota	Appt. by Gov.	9	4	Statute	Appt. by Gov.	Elected by SBE members	SBE	2010 legislation authorized 1 charter school, which would give priority to students from federally recognized tribes	SBE has jurisdiction over state's four technical institutes
Tennessee	Appt. by Gov., confirmed by General Assembly	10, incl. student member	5	Statute	Appt. by Gov.	Elected by SBE members (4-year term)	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No chartering authority Appeals to SBE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voting student member (1-yr. term); Board selects Executive Director; Serves as State Board for Vocational Education
Texas	Partisan Ballot	15	4	Constitution	Appt. by Gov.	Appt. by Gov. (2-year term)	Independent board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chartering agent No appeals process 	
Utah	Nonpartisan Ballot	15	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final chartering authority following state Charter School Board recommendations Appeals to SBE 	SBE has six nonvoting members: two representing the State Board of Regents and one each representing the Coalition of Minorities Advisory Committee, the Utah School Boards Association, the state Charter School Board, and Utah College of Applied Technology
Vermont	Appt by Gov. and approved by the Senate	9, incl. student member	6 (limited to 1 term)	Statute	Appt. by Gov. from 3 nominees provided by SBE (as of January 2013)	Elected by SBE members (2-year term)	Independent board	No charter law	2nd student member is nonvoting, a junior who moves to the voting position the next year.
Virginia	Appt. by Gov.	9	4	Constitution	Appt. by Gov.	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBE advises applicants before they go to local boards for approval No appeals process 	
Washington	5 elected by local school board members; 7 appt. by Gov. and confirmed by Senate; 1 elected by private schools; State Supt.	14 limited to 2 terms (CSSO excepted); 2 nonvoting students	4 (students serve 2 years, starting as junior)	Statute	Nonpartisan Ballot	Elected by SBE members	Independent board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local school boards must have approval from SBE to become authorizers SBE responsible for oversight of authorizers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation passed in 2005 reconstituted board for 2006; Private school rep. and CSSO have full voting rights; For school board representatives, 3 are from western part of state, and 2 from eastern part

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West Virginia	Appt. by Gov. and approved by Senate	9	9	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	No charter law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three nonvoting ex officio members: CSSO, chancellor of higher education, and chancellor of community and technical college education; No more than 5 SBE members can be from same political party
Wisconsin	None			None	Nonpartisan Ballot		CSSO, advised by a Professional Standards Council		
Wyoming	Appt. by Gov.	11	6 (limited to 1 term)	Statute	SBE names 3 finalists for Dir. of Dept. of Ed., Gov. makes final choice	Elected by SBE members	Independent board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No chartering authority Appeals to SBE 	Meets quarterly; reviews all school accreditation compliance for approval or disapproval
District of Columbia	Nonpartisan ballot	9	4	Statute	Chancellor and CSSO are appt. by mayor	Elected by voters at-large			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board, previously both state and local, reconfigured solely as state board of education in 2007; 2 nonvoting student members
Guam	6 elected at-large; 3 appointed by Gov., 1 voting student	10 (including student)	3 years for appointed, 2 for elected	Statute	Appt by SBE	Elected by SBE members		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New charter law creates council for approving charter applications Four public schools may be converted to charters 	One each of the 3 appointed members must represent business, parents of students, and retired teachers or school administrators
Northern Marianas	Elected	5	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members			3 nonvoting members (including 1 student, 1 teacher, and 1 private school representative) are appointed by the Governor

Compiled by the National Association of State Boards of Education, updated March 2013.

We are aware that there are often changes to state governance structures. Please help keep policymakers and the education community informed: when changes occur in your state, contact David Kysilko at davidk@nasbe.org.