

State Education Governance

NASBE

National Association of
State Boards of Education

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

July 2014

STATE EDUCATION GOVERNANCE MATRIX

Compiled by the National Association of State Boards of Education

(Updated July 2014)

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	AUTHORITY FOR STANDARDS ADOPTION	SPECIAL NOTES
Alabama	Partisan Ballot	8 plus Gov.	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Governor is President of Board	SBE	SBE	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	SBE	<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	SBE	<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	SBE	<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	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	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	SBE	<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	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 SBE members must have local board experience; Must be a resident for 5 years in order to sit on board
Florida	Appt. by Gov.	7	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	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	SBE	SBE members must be
Hawaii	Appt. by Gov., confirmed by Senate	9	7	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	Independent board	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	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	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	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	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	SBE	
Kentucky	Appt. by Gov., confirmed by Senate	11	4	Statute	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	Independent board	SBE	<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	SBE	
Maine	Appt. by Gov.	9	5	Statute	Appt. by Gov.	Elected by SBE members	SBE	CSSO & SBE	Two non-voting student members added in 2008
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	SBE	<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

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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	SBE	<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	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	CSSO	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	SBE	<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	SBE	Authority over university and other community college system teacher education programs
Montana	Appt. by Gov.	7	7	Constitution	Partisan ballot	Elected by SBE members	SBE	SBE	<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"

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Nebraska	Nonpartisan Ballot	8	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	SBE	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	SBE	<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	SBE	Gov. and Executive Council appoint SBE
New Jersey	Appt. by Gov.	13	6	Statute	Appt. by Gov.	Elected by SBE members	SBE	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 members of SBE must be women • Resident for 5 yrs. to sit on board
New Mexico	None			None	Appt. by Gov		Independent board	Department of Education	2003 Constitutional amendment reconstituted SBE as the Public Education Commission (PEC), which is advisory to the Secretary of Ed. The PEC is the authorizer of all charter schools in the state.
New York	Appt. by Legislature	16	5	Constitution and Statute	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	SBE	Responsible for higher education, cultural institutions, special education./vocational rehabilitation, and licensed professions
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	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
Norh Dakota	Appt. by Gov.	7	6	Statute	Nonpartisan Ballot	Elected by SBE	Independent board	CSSO	

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Ohio	11 elected by Nonpartisan Ballot; 8 appt. by Gov	19	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members (2-year term)	SBE	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	SBE	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	SBE	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	SBE	<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	SBE	New for 2013: A state law combined the boards for K-12 and higher education into one board appointed by the governor
South Carolina	Appt. by Legislature	17	4	Constitution	Partisan Ballot	Elected by SBE members	SBE	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	SBE	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	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	SBE	

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Utah	Nonpartisan Ballot	15	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	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	SBE	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	SBE	
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	CSSO	<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
West Virginia	Appt. by Gov. and approved by Senate	9	9	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	SBE	<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	CSSO	
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	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets quarterly; Reviews all school accreditation compliance for approval or disapproval

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District of Columbia	Nonpartisan ballot	9	4	Statute	Chancellor and CSSO are appt. by mayor	Elected by voters at-large		SBE	<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			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 July 2014 by Jared Costanzo.

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 Francis Eberle at FrancisE@NASBE.org

