

State Education Governance

State-by-State Chart of Essential Governance Information

March 2010

**National Association of
State Boards of Education**

NASBE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE BOARDS OF EDUCATION

STATE EDUCATION GOVERNANCE CHART

Compiled by the National Association of State Boards of Education

(Updated March 2010)

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; 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	9	4	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 nonvoting student members serve 1-year terms on board
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	Elected statewide	Elected by SBE members	Independent board	Charter school commission can authorize schools rejected by local boards. SBE can override commission decisions.	Members must be a resident for 5 yrs.
Hawaii	Nonpartisan Ballot	13	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	Independent board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sole chartering agent Appeals to SBE 	Nonvoting student member selected by the state student council
Idaho	Appt. by Gov.	8	5	Constitution	Nonpartisan Ballot	Appt. by and serves at the pleasure of the SBE	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No chartering authority No appeals to SBE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be resident for 3 yrs. in order to sit on board; Members are also Regents of Univ. of Idaho; 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.	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 yrs., be 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 it has been 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	No charter law	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	No charter law (previous law expired July 1, 2009)	<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	Nonpartisan Ballot	10	4	Statute	Appt. 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 	Nonvoting student member
New Hampshire	Appt. by Gov.	7	5	Statute	Appt. by Gov.	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No chartering authority Appeals to SBE 	Gov. and 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 Appeals to SBE 	<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	Legislation gave SBE chartering authority in 2007	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	Appt. by Gov.	13 (including two voting ex officio members)	8	Constitution	Partisan Ballot	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chartering agent Appeals to SBE 	2 Teacher of the Year advisors; 2 student advisors; 1 Principal of the Year advisor; 1 local superintendent advisor; 1 local board member advisor; State Treasurer and Lt. Governor are voting ex officio members
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 terms)	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	6	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	Nonpartisan Ballot	Elected by SBE members	Independent board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appeals to SBE SBE can charter schools after appeal 	SBE has authority over community college system
Pennsylvania	Appt. by Gov., confirmed by Senate	21	6	Statute	Appt. by Gov.	Appt. by Gov.	SBE	Appeals to separate Charter School Appeals Board	Statutory responsibility for post-secondary education; In 2008, SBE added two nonvoting students, one as member, one as member-elect
Rhode Island	Appt. by Gov.	9	3	Statute	Appt. by SBE	Appt. by Gov.	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBE authorizes after initial approval by local board or CSSO; No appeals process 	A Constitutional amendment on "Separation of Powers" passed in 2004 eliminated the practice of appointing one board member from the House and one from the Senate
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

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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	9	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	Non-Partisan Ballot	15	4	Constitution	Appt. by SBE	Elected by SBE members	SBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No chartering authority Appeals to SBE 	Board includes two nonvoting members appointed by State Board of Regents
Vermont	Appt by Gov. and approved by the Senate	9, incl. student member	6 (limited to 1 term)	Statute	Appt. by SBE and approved by Gov.	Elected by SBE members (2-year term)	SBE	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.; 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	No charter law	<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	No charter law	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 the same political party

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Wisconsin	None			None	Nonpartisan Ballot		CSSO, advised by a Professional Standards Council		
Wyoming	Appt. by Gov.	11	6 (limited to 1 term)	Statute	Partisan Ballot	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 appt. by mayor	Elected by voters at-large			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board, which was previously both state and local, reconfigured solely as state board of education in 2007; 2 nonvoting student members
Guam	9 elected by district; also, 4 nonvoting ex officio members, including a student	9	2	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 	Previous board was abolished in March 1999. The first election for a new Guam Education Policy Board was held in November 2002.
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

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We are aware that there are often changes to state governance structures and lines of authority. Please help keep policymakers and the education community informed. When changes occur in your state, contact David Kysilko at NASBE, 1-800-368-5023 or by e-mail at davidk@nasbe.org.

