

How does your state board of education work?

💡 Quickly find your state by selecting Ctrl+F on your keyboard and typing in your state in the search box that pops up!

State	Who selects SBOE members?	Who selects the state school officer?	Who selects the SBOE chair or president?	How many SBOE members are there?	How long is an SBOE term (in years)?	State Board Established in statute or constitution?	Cycle when SBOE elections happen
Alabama	Partisan ballot	SBOE appoints	Governor serves as president	8 plus governor	4	Constitution	Midterm elections
Alaska	Governor appoints; legislature confirms	SBOE appoints with governor's approval	SBOE elects	7 plus 2 nonvoting members, including 1 student	5	Statute	
Arizona	Governor appoints with consent of Senate, except CSSO	Partisan ballot	SBOE elects	11, including 1 teacher	4	Constitution	
Arkansas	Governor appoints; Senate confirms	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	9, including 1 nonvoting teacher of the year	7	Statute	
California	Governor appoints with advice and consent of Senate	Nonpartisan ballot	SBOE elects	11, including 1 voting student	4	Constitution	

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Colorado	Partisan ballot	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	9 (starting in 2022)	6	Constitution	Staggered: The at-large seat and districts 5, 6, and 8 faced elections in 2022, and will again in 2028. The next election for districts 2 and 4 is in 2024, and districts 1, 3, and 7 will face elections in 2026.
Connecticut	Governor appoints with advice and consent of General Assembly	SBOE makes recommendation; governor appoints	Governor appoints	11 voting members plus 2 nonvoting students	4	Statute	
Delaware	Governor appoints; Senate confirms	Governor appoints	Governor appoints	7 voting members plus 1 nonvoting student and former teacher of the year	6	Statute	
Florida	Governor appoints; Senate confirms	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	7	4	Constitution	
Georgia	Governor appoints, with consent of Senate	Partisan ballot	SBOE elects	14	7	Constitution	

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Hawaii	Governor appoints with advice and consent of Senate	SBOE appoints	Governor appoints chair; SBOE elects vice chair	9 plus 2 nonvoting members, including 1 student	3	Constitution	
Idaho	Governor appoints 7 with consent of Senate; CSSO also serves	Partisan ballot	SBOE appoints	8	5	Constitution	
Illinois	Governor appoints with consent of Senate	SBOE appoints	Governor appoints chair; SBOE elects vice chair	9	4	Constitution	
Indiana	The Governor, Indiana House Speaker, and Senate President Pro Tempore appoint members	Governor appoints (as of 2019)	The secretary of education is appointed by the governor and serves as the chair of the SBOE	11: Governor appoints 8 plus SSO, speaker and president pro tempore each appoint 1	*See below	Statute	
Iowa	Governor appoints; Senate confirms	Governor appoints	SBOE elects	9 plus 1 nonvoting student	6	Statute	
Kansas	Elected	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	10	4	Constitution	Even-numbered districts during presidential elections. Odd-numbered districts during midterm elections

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Kentucky	Governor appoints; Senate confirms	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	11 plus 4 nonvoting members, including student and teacher	4	Statute	
Louisiana	8 elected by nonpartisan ballot; governor appoints 3; Senate confirms	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	11	4	Constitution	State gubernatorial election years (2023, 2027, 2031)
Maine	Governor appoints	Governor appoints	SBOE elects	9 plus 2 nonvoting students	5	Statute	
Maryland	Governor appoints 13 with advice and consent of Senate; state teachers elect 1 teacher	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	14, including 1 teacher, parent, and student	4	Statute	
Massachusetts	Governor appoints 6; 4 voting ex officio members, 1 student	SBOE appoints, with approval from secretary	Governor appoints	11, including 1 voting student	5	Statute	

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Michigan	Partisan ballot	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	8, including 1 nonvoting teacher	8	Constitution	Midterm and presidential election cycles
Minnesota	None	Governor appoints	NA	NA	NA	None	
Mississippi	Governor appoints 5; Lt. Gov. appoints 2; speaker of the house appoints 2	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	9, including 1 teacher, plus 2 nonvoting students	9	Constitution	
Missouri	Governor appoints; Senate confirms	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	8, including 1 nonvoting teacher	8	Constitution	
Montana	Governor appoints; Senate confirms	Partisan ballot	SBOE elects	7 plus 4 nonvoting members including 1 student	7	Constitution	
Nebraska	Nonpartisan ballot	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	8	4	Constitution	4 seats during presidential elections, 4 during midterm elections

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Nevada	4 elected; governor appoints 3, 2 of whom the legislature nominates; Governor appoints 4 nonvoting members	Governor appoints from 3 nominees SBOE provides	SBOE elects	7, including 1 teacher, plus 4 nonvoting members, including 1 student	4	Statute	Elected during presidential election years
New Hampshire	Governor and executive council appoints	Governor appoints after consulting SBOE; council confirms	Governor appoints	7	5	Statute	
New Jersey	Governor appoints, with advice and consent of Senate	Governor appoints, with advice and consent of Senate	SBOE elects	13 plus 1 nonvoting student	6	Statute	
New Mexico	None	Governor appoints	NA	NA	NA	None	

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New York	Legislature appoints	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	17	5	Constitution and Statute	
North Carolina	Governor appoints and legislature confirms 11; 2 voting ex officio members: state treasurer and Lt. gov.	Partisan ballot	SBOE elects	13 plus 2 nonvoting students and a teacher	8	Constitution	
North Dakota	Governor appoints 6, plus a popularly elected state superintendent	Nonpartisan ballot	State superintendent serves as an executive director and is popularly elected	7	6 (state superintendent elected every 4 years during presidential election cycles)	Constitution	
Ohio	11 elected by nonpartisan ballot; governor appoints 8 with advice and consent of Senate	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects (2 year term)	19	4	Constitution	6 elected during presidential elections; 5 elected during midterms

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Oklahoma	Governor appoints with advice and consent of Senate	Partisan ballot	CSSO serves as chair	7	4	Constitution	
Oregon	Governor appoints; Senate confirms; SBOE appoints student	Governor serves as superintendent of education; appoints deputy	SBOE elects	7 plus 6 nonvoting members including 2 students and a teacher	4	Statute	
Pennsylvania	Governor appoints 17, Senate confirms; General Assembly appoints 4	Governor appoints	Governor appoints	21 plus 4 nonvoting students	6	Statute	
Rhode Island	Governor appoints with advice and consent of Senate	Council appoints, with advice and consent of SBOE	Governor appoints	17 plus 1 nonvoting student	3	Statute	
South Carolina	Legislature appoints 16, governor appoints 1	Partisan ballot	SBOE elects	17	4	Constitution	
Pennsylvania	Governor appoints 17, Senate confirms; General Assembly appoints 4	Governor appoints	Governor appoints	21 plus 4 nonvoting students	6	Statute	

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Rhode Island	Governor appoints with advice and consent of the Senate	Council appoints, with advice and consent of SBOE	Governor appoints	17 plus 1 nonvoting student	3	Statute	
South Carolina	Legislature appoints 16, governor appoints 1	Partisan ballot	SBOE elects	17	4	Constitution	
South Dakota	Governor appoints with consent of the Senate	Governor appoints	SBOE elects	7	4	Statute	
Tennessee	Governor appoints; General Assembly confirms	Governor appoints	SBOE elects (4 year term)	10, including 1 student and teacher	5	Statute	
Texas	Partisan ballot	Governor appoints	Governor appoints (2 year term)	15	4	Constitution	Midterm elections

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Utah	Partisan ballot	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	15, including a teacher	4	Constitution	Officials representing Districts 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15 elected during presidential election cycles. Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11 elected during midterms. (Special elections have occurred in recent years).
Vermont	Governor appoints 9 voting members and 2 nonvoting members with consent of Senate	Governor appoints from 3 nominees SBOE provides	SBOE elects (2 year term)	9 voting members, including 1 voting student, plus 1 nonvoting student and the CSSO	6	Statute	

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Virginia	Governor appoints; General Assembly confirms	Governor appoints	SBOE elects	9	4	Constitution	
Washington	Local school board members elect 5; governor appoints and Senate confirms 7; student group selects 2 students; private school select 1; CSSO also serves	Nonpartisan ballot	SBOE elects	16, including 2 voting students and 1 current teacher	4	Statute	
West Virginia	Governor appoints 9, with consent of Senate; 3 nonvoting ex-officio members	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	9	9	Constitution	
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction	Nonpartisan ballot	NA	NA	NA	None	
Wyoming	Governor appoints; Senate approves	Partisan ballot	SBOE elects	12, including 1 teacher	6	Statute	

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District of Columbia	Nonpartisan ballot	Mayor appoints chancellor and CSSO	SBOE elects	9 plus 4 students (vote recorded without weight)	4	Statute	Staggered: wards 2, 4, 7, 8, and city at large elected in presidential election years; wards 1, 3, 5, and 6 elected in midterm years.
Guam	6 elected at large; governor appoints 3	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	9 plus 2 nonvoting members including 1 student	3 years for appointed, 2 for elected	Statute	
Northern Marianas	Elected	SBOE appoints	SBOE elects	5 plus 1 nonvoting student	4	Constitution	
Virgin Islands	Elected	Governor nominates; Senate approves	SBOE elects	9	4	Statute	

SBOE = state board of education; SEA = state education agency; CSSO = chief state school officer; PSC = professional standards commission

*Find Indiana SBOE members and their term lengths here: <https://www.in.gov/sboe/about-the-board/board-members/>

Authority for Standards Adoption:

- State Board of Education: all states except...
- Chief State School Officer: Minnesota, North Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin
- State Education Agency: New Mexico, Texas

Authority for Teacher Licensure:

- State Board of Education: All states except...
- Professional Standards Commission: California, Georgia, Kentucky
- Chief State School Officer: Michigan, DC
- Standards Board: Hawaii, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming
- State Education Agency: Indiana, New Mexico
- Independent Board: Iowa, Texas
- None: Guam, Northern Marianas

Glossary:

- State Board of Education: Creates education policies in a specific state ranging from high school graduation requirements to qualifications for teaching personnel.
- State Education Agency: State-level government organization within each state responsible for public k-12 education. It is primarily made of career employees, often referred to as civil servants, whereas a board of education is often appointed by the governor.
- Chief State School Officer: Directly responsible to the state board of education. The state school officers are responsible for educational policy setting and overseeing education-related issues and problems; they influence policy and regulatory changes. They are sometimes called state superintendent or commissioner of education.
- Professional Standards Commission: Makes recommendations to the State Board of Education about standards for public school educators, administrators, and contractors.
- Standards Adoption: The process by which academic standards are achieved in a state.
- Teacher Licensure: Professional accreditation and requirements for teaching in a particular state.



Articles Referenced:

[How State Boards of Education Influence Education Policy, Parents Defending Education Action Education Governance, The National Association of State Boards of Education](#)