



RESOURCE TITLE:

50-State Comparison: State Postsecondary Governance Structures

This resource provides a comprehensive summary of the various entities that make up postsecondary governance ecosystems in each state and the District of Columbia. It also:

- Focuses on and provides in-depth information about statewide coordinating boards/agencies and governing boards. If statewide boards do not exist, then information is provided for major systemwide coordinating and governing boards.
- Includes general information about other state higher education entities, such as administrative/service offices, financial aid offices and advisory boards.
- Lists other postsecondary system-level governing boards, most multicampus institutional boards and membership organizations.

This resource does not include information related to setting tuition rates, administering funding formulas or allocating funds. The state profile information is based primarily on statutes, codes,

◀ SHARE THIS RESOURCE

ON



and state and postsecondary system board/agency policies. To the extent possible, Education Commission of the States reached out to state and system officials to verify its information.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Twenty-eight states have a single, statewide coordinating board/agency or governing board; 20 states have a single, statewide coordinating board/agency; eight states have a single, statewide governing board; and the remaining states have one or more major, systemwide coordinating or governing board(s) and/or a statewide administrative/service agency.
- Coordinating and governing boards appoint most of the postsecondary education executive officers.
- The majority of board members for statewide and systemwide coordinating and governing boards are appointed, and governors hold this authority for most boards.
- In most states, several individuals serve as ex-officio board members based on their professional roles, such as higher education leaders and state K-12 superintendents.
- Students serve on numerous boards and are appointed by the governor or selected by student government organizations.
- Faculty members also serve on some boards and are usually selected by their professional associations.

Click on the comparisons below to see how all states approach these governance structures or choose to view a specific state's approach by going to the individual **state profiles** page.

50-State Comparisons

- 1. State Overviews**
- 2. Single Statewide Coordinating Board/Agency or Governing Board and State Postsecondary Governance Models**
- 3. Statewide and Major Postsecondary System Coordinating and Governing Boards**
- 4. Agencies and System Offices Affiliated with Coordinating and Governing Boards**
- 5. Administrative and Advisory Entities**
- 6. Other Postsecondary System and Multi-Campus Boards**
- 7. Membership Organizations**

8. All Data Points for All States

RELATED RESOURCES

Education Governance Dashboard

50-State Comparison: Postsecondary Education Funding

50-State Comparison: State Policies on Postsecondary Tuition Setting, Capping and Freezing

An Analysis of State Postsecondary Governance Structures

Statewide Changes to Postsecondary Governance in 2019

States Move to Restructure Their Postsecondary Governance Systems

Shaking Up the Decision-Making Channels in Postsecondary Education

50-State Comparison: K-12 Governance

50-State Comparison: Early Care and Education Governance

PUBLISHED: November 9, 2020

AUTHOR(S): Damion Pechota, Mary Fulton, Shanique Broom

RESOURCE TYPE: **50-State Comparison**

EDUCATION LEVEL: Postsecondary

STATE(S): Nationwide

i MORE ON THIS ISSUE

Governance 

Education Commission of the States is the trusted source for comprehensive knowledge and unbiased resources on education policy issues ranging from early learning through postsecondary education.

SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe to our publications and stay informed.

? REQUEST ASSISTANCE

Need more information? **Contact** one of our policy experts.



[Contact Us](#) [Terms of Use](#)

©2023 Education Commission of the States.

All Rights Reserved.

