



Governance State Boards/Chiefs/Agencies

Education Commission of the States • 700 Broadway, Suite 801 • Denver, CO 80203-3460 • 303.299.3600 • Fax: 303.296.8332 • www.ecs.org

State Education Governance Models

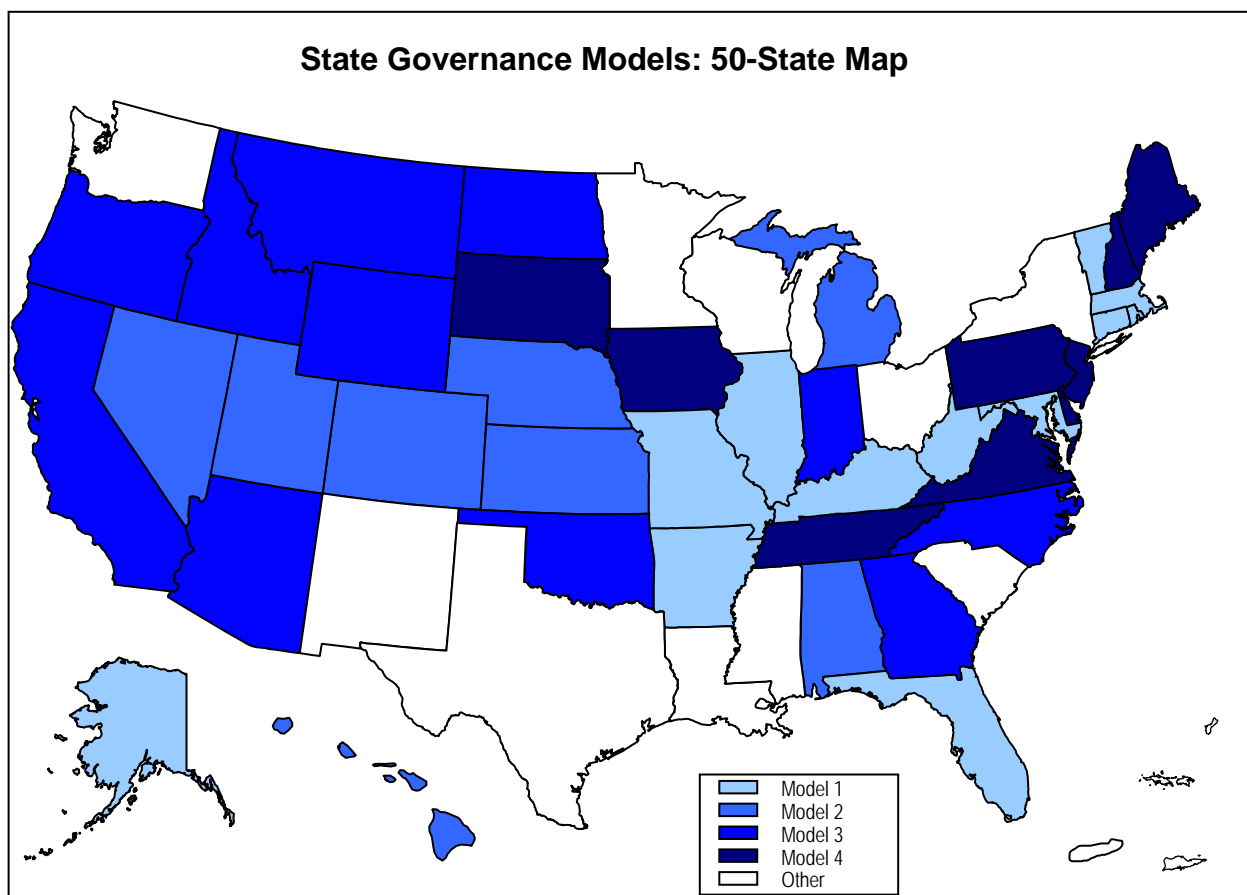
Updated and Revised by Mary Fulton

March 2008

(Original version, Todd Ziebarth, 2004)

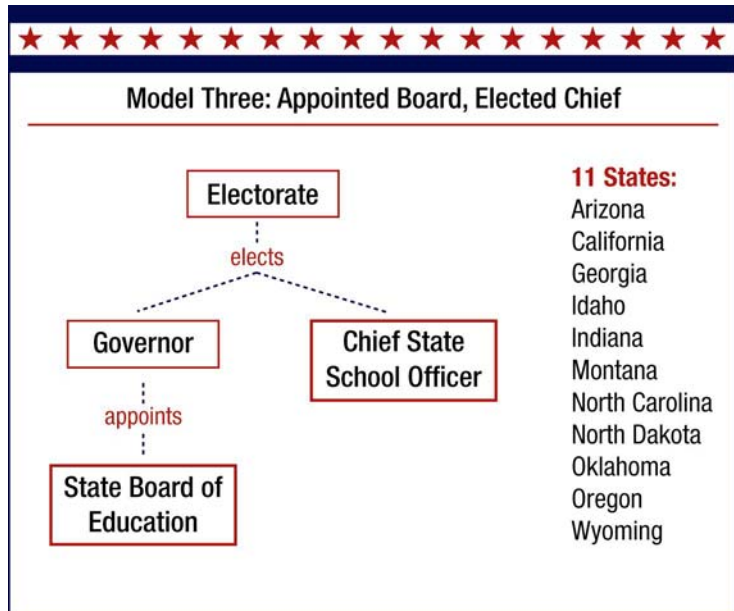
Education governance structures differ from state to state and directly affect how education policy leaders interact. Understanding the differences between structures can help explain the education policy process in terms of how decisions are made and the how authority is divided.

State education governance structures can be categorized into one of four general models that describe how state boards of education are constituted and whether the chief state school officer is appointed or elected. Forty of the 50 states fall into one of these categories; the other 10 states, plus the District of Columbia, have governance structures that are modified versions of the four general models.



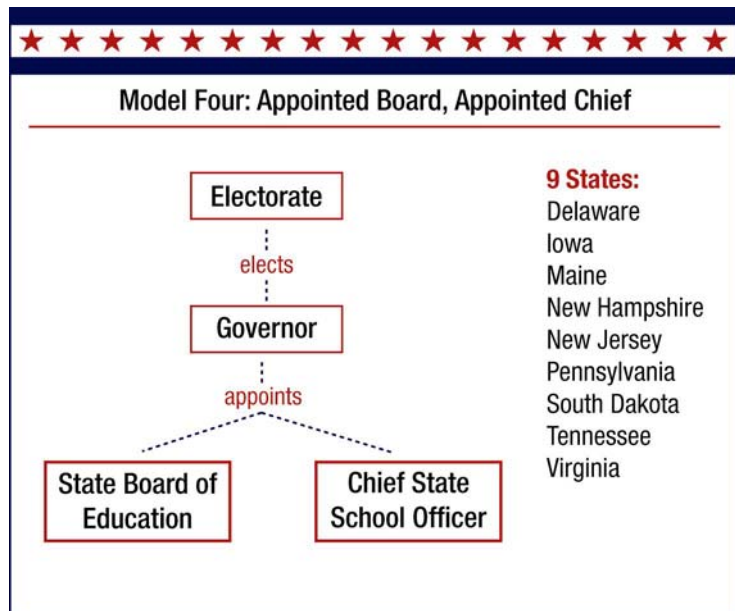
Model Three

In this model, the governor appoints the members of state board of education. The chief state school officer is elected. Model Three includes 11 states: **Arizona, California, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon and Wyoming.** In three of these states – Arizona, Indiana and Oklahoma – the chief state school officer also is a voting member of the state board of education.



Model Four

In this model, the governor appoints the state board of education and the chief state school officer. There are nine Model Four states: **Delaware, Iowa, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee and Virginia.**



Other Models

The remaining 10 states plus the District of Columbia function under modified versions of the above four models.

Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia

A. *Elected and Appointed State Board; Appointed Chief*

In **Louisiana**, eight board members are elected and three are appointed by the governor. In **Ohio**, 11 board members are elected, while the governor appoints eight members.

B. *Legislature Appoints State Board; Appointed or Elected Chief*

In **New York**, the state legislature appoints the board members and the chief state school officer is appointed by the board. The **South Carolina** legislature appoints the board, but the chief is elected.

C. *Joint Appointment of State Board; Appointed or Elected Chief*

The governor, lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House appoint members to the state board in **Mississippi**. The state board appoints the chief state school officer.

In the state of **Washington**, the board of education is made up of 16 members — five of whom are elected by district directors (three for the western half of the state, two for the eastern); one at-large member elected by members of boards of directors of state-approved private schools; the superintendent of public instruction; seven members appointed by the governor; and two student members (non-voting). The chief state school officer is elected. Washington moved from a model whereby the state board was elected by district directors (local boards) to this model in January 2006.

D. *Elected Board; Governor Appointed Chief*

The governor appoints the chief state school officer who also serves as the executive secretary of the elected state board. **Texas** uses this model.

E. *No State Board or Advisory Only; Elected or Appointed Chief*

Minnesota and **Wisconsin** do not have a state board of education. New Mexico has an elected body (Public Education Commission), but is advisory only.

Minnesota and New Mexico – chief state school officer is appointed by governor

Wisconsin – chief state school officer is elected.

The **District of Columbia** has a state board of education that is advisory only. Five of the members are elected and four are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the city council. Beginning in January 2009, all nine members will be elected. The District of Columbia Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007 created a new state board of education that advises the state superintendent and approves specified policies. Previously, the board oversaw day-to-day operations of schools. This act also gave the mayor primary responsibility for public education.

Territories

Puerto Rico currently maintains an educational model in which the chief state school officer is appointed by the governor. In the **Virgin Islands**, the board of education consists of nine elected members and the chief state school officer is appointed by the governor.

Summary: State Boards of Education

Appointed by Governor (32 states)

Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming

Elected (9 states)

Alabama, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, Texas and Utah

Appointed and Elected (2 states and D.C.)

Louisiana and Ohio; District of Columbia (advisory only)

Appointed by Legislature (2 states)

New York and South Carolina

Appointed by Multiple Authorities (2 states)

Mississippi and Washington

No State Board or Advisory Only (3 states and D.C.)

Minnesota and Wisconsin (no board); New Mexico and District of Columbia (advisory only)

Summary: Chief State School Officers

Appointed by Governor (13 states and D.C.)

Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. The District of Columbia mayor appoints the chief state school officer.

Appointed by State Board of Education (23 states)

Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont and West Virginia

Elected (14 states)

Arizona, California, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming

Governors' Cabinets with Education Representation

According to state Web sites, at least 25 governors appoint an education official to the executive cabinet. Such officials may be the superintendent of education, commissioner of education or secretary of education. These states include: **California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia** and **West Virginia**. In addition, the state superintendent of education for the **District of Columbia** serves on the mayor's cabinet.

Dual Offices for Education

Four states and the District of Columbia maintain a governance model that includes two authoritative positions for the state educational system:

- **California** has a Secretary of Education and also a Superintendent of Public Instruction who serves on the governor's cabinet. (*CAL. EDUC. CODE §33100 to 33191; CA. CONST. ART I, §2 and §7*)

- **Kentucky** has a Secretary of Education and a Commissioner of Education. (*KY. REV. STAT. ANN. §§156.147 to 156.250*)
- **Massachusetts** has a Secretary of Education and a Commissioner of Education. (*Mass. ANN. Laws ch.27. §§14A.*)
- **Virginia** supports a Secretary of Education (a cabinet position) and a Superintendent of Public Instruction. (*VA CODE ANN. §22.1-21 to 22.1-24 and 2.2-200*)
- **District of Columbia** has a State Superintendent of Education and a Chancellor of Education, both appointed by the mayor. District of Columbia Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007. (*D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)*)

Mary Fulton is a policy analyst with the ECS Information Clearinghouse.

© 2008 by the Education Commission of the States (ECS). All rights reserved. ECS is the only nationwide interstate compact devoted to education.

ECS encourages its readers to share our information with others. To request permission to reprint or excerpt some of our material, please contact the ECS Information Clearinghouse at 303.299.3675 or e-mail ecs@ecs.org.

Equipping Education Leaders, Advancing Ideas