



Governance

State Boards/Chiefs/Agencies

Education Commission of the States

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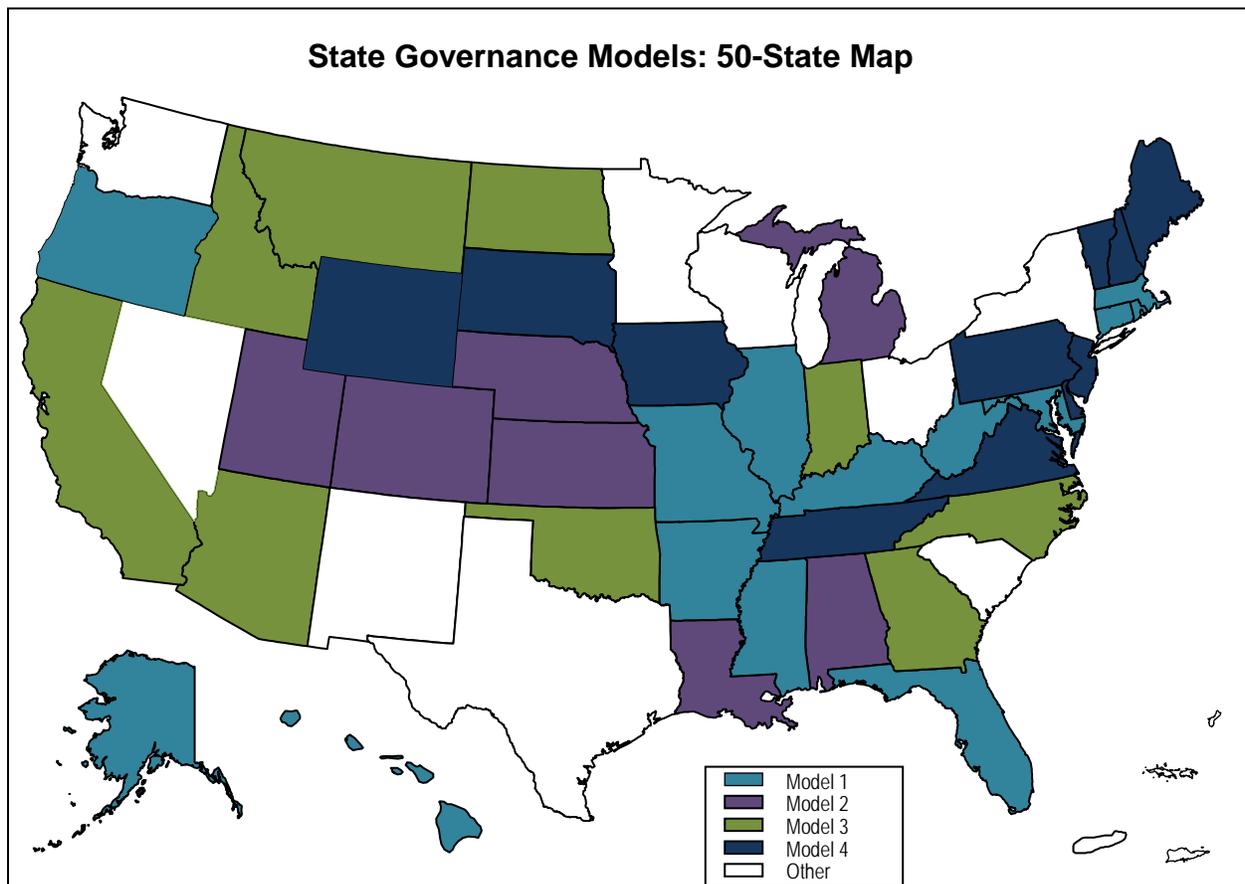
State Education Governance Models

Revised by Vincent Scudella

August 2013

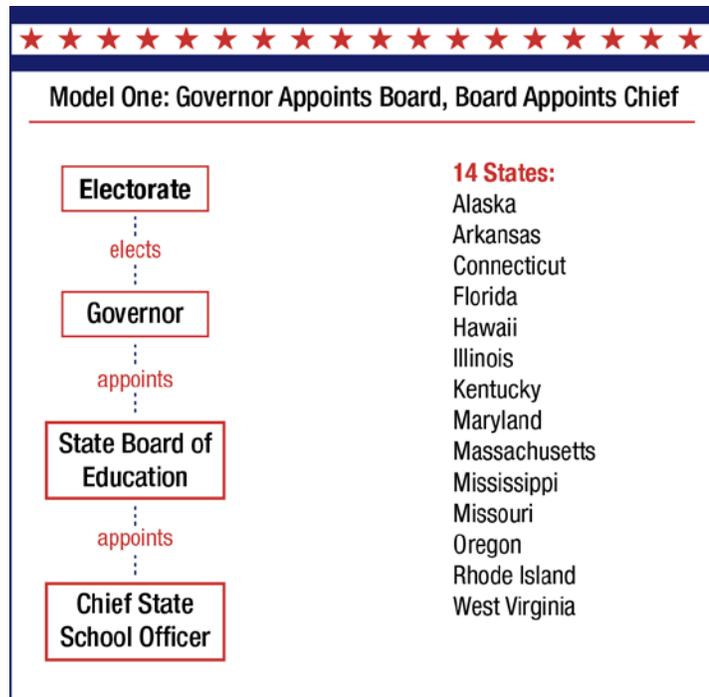
Education governance structures differ from state to state and directly affect how education policy leaders interact. Understanding the differences between structures can help explain the education policy process in terms of how decisions are made and the how authority is divided.

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-one of the 50 states fall into one of these categories; the other nine states, plus the District of Columbia, have governance structures that are modified versions of the four general models.



Model One

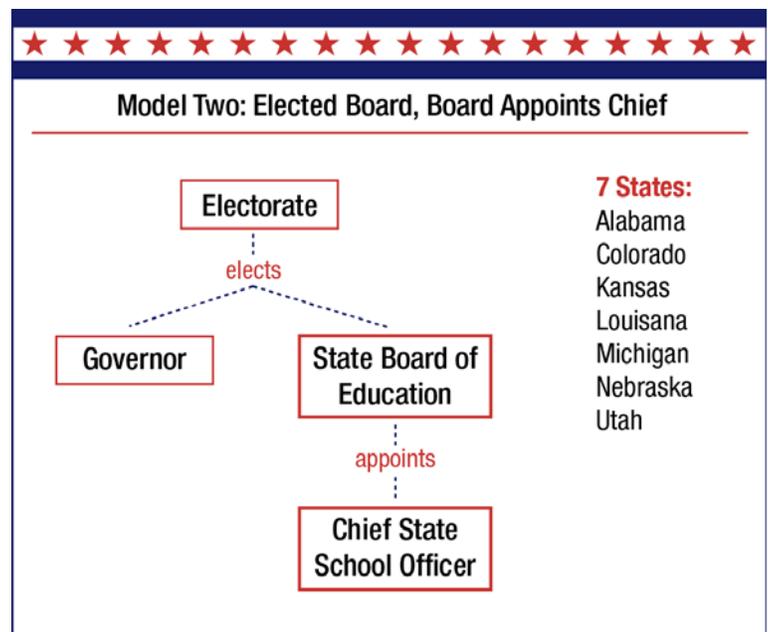
In this model, the governor appoints the majority or all of the members of the state board of education. The state board, in turn, appoints the chief state school officer. Model One includes 14 states: **Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi¹, Missouri, Oregon², Rhode Island³, and West Virginia.**



1. In Mississippi, the governor appoints five of the nine voting members, and the remaining four voting members are evenly appointed by the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house.
2. The governor appoints 12 of the 13 voting members of the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) and seven of the nine voting members of the Oregon state board of education. The OEIB appoints the chief education officer.
3. Rhode Island has 11 voting members of the state board of education, which is a K-20 board. All 11 are appointed by the governor.

Model Two

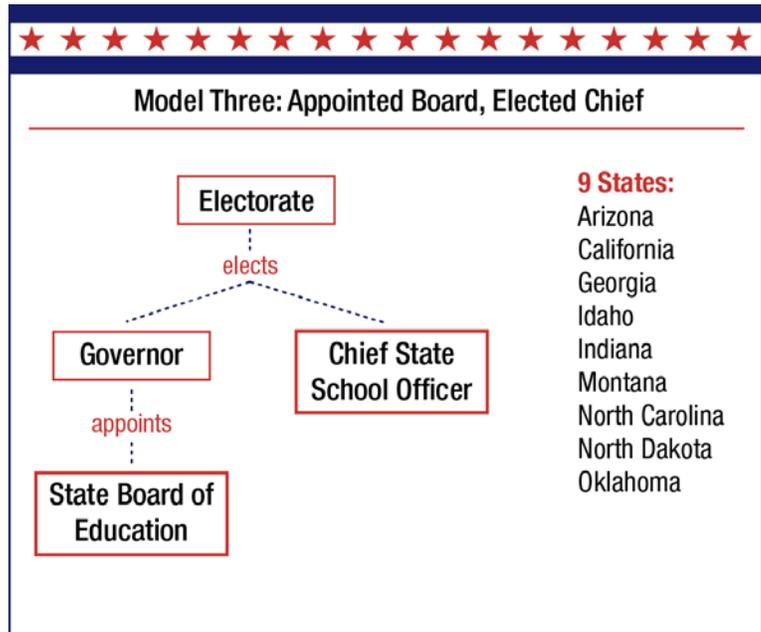
In this model, a majority or all of the members of the state board of education are elected, and the board appoints the chief state school officer. Seven states fall into Model Two: **Alabama, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, and Utah.**



Model Three

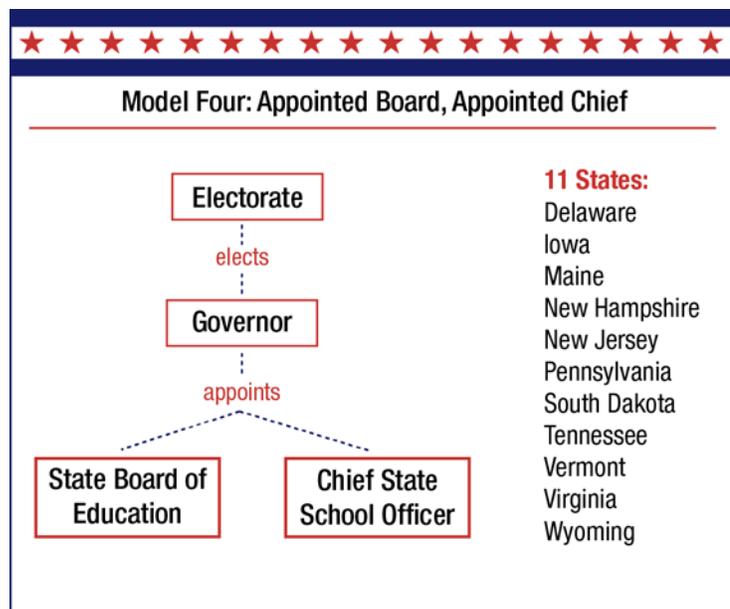
In this model, the governor appoints the majority or all of the members of the state board of education. The chief state school officer is elected. Model Three includes nine states: **Arizona, California, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, and Oklahoma**. In five of these states—Arizona, Idaho, Indiana, North Dakota, and Oklahoma*—the chief state school officer also is a voting member of the state board of education.

**Oklahoma state board oversees the state system of education, but not the agency.*



Model Four

In this model, the governor appoints the majority or all of the state board of education members and the chief state school officer. There are 11 Model Four states: **Delaware, Iowa, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming**.



Other Governance Models

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

The nine states include: Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.

A. Elected/Appointed State Board; Board-Appointed Chief

In **Ohio**, 11 of 19 board members are elected and the governor appoints eight members. The chief is appointed by the state board. Technically, Ohio fits within Model Two, but we include it here because of the fairly even balance of appointed and elected members.

B. Elected/Appointed State Board; Governor-Appointed Chief

In **Nevada**, four of seven voting members are elected from the four congressional districts, and three voting members are appointed by the governor (one of these members is appointed by the senate majority leader and the other by the speaker of the assembly). There are four nonvoting members (11 total). The chief is appointed by the governor.

C. Joint Elected/Appointed State Board; Elected Chief

In the state of **Washington**, the board of education is made up of 16 members—none of whom is elected by the voters, and the chief state school officer is elected.

- Five elected by district directors (from western and eastern Washington)
- One elected by members of state-approved private schools
- Superintendent of public instruction
- Seven members appointed by the governor
- Two student members (non-voting)

D. Legislature Appoints State Board; Appointed or Elected Chief

In **New York**, the state legislature appoints the majority of board members, and the chief state school officer is appointed by the board.

In **South Carolina**, the governor appoints one member of the board, and the legislature appoints 16 of the 17 members. The chief is elected.

E. Elected Board; Governor-Appointed Chief

In **Texas**, the state board of education is elected, but the governor appoints the chief state school officer, who also serves as the executive secretary of the state board.

F. 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 it is advisory only. The **District of Columbia** has an elected board of education created by the District of Columbia Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007 that advises the state superintendent but otherwise lacks authority. Previously, the board oversaw day-to-day operations of schools. This act also gave the mayor primary responsibility for public education, including the authority to appoint the school superintendent and chancellor.

- **Minnesota** and **New Mexico**: Chief state school officer is appointed by governor, but in New Mexico, must be confirmed by the senate.
- **Wisconsin**: Chief state school officer is elected.

Territories

Guam has a joint elected/appointed board of education. The governor appoints three of the voting members with the advice and consent of the legislature, and the remaining six voting members are elected. The board of education elects the chief state school officer. **Puerto Rico** currently maintains an educational model in which the chief state school officer is appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate but does not have a board of education. In the **Virgin Islands**, the board of education is elected and the chief state school officer is appointed by the governor.

Summary: State Boards of Education

All voting members appointed by governor (24 states)

Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming

Some voting members appointed by governor (eight states)

Arizona, Idaho, Indiana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

All or majority of voting members elected (seven states)

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

Appointed and elected (four states and D.C.)

Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, Ohio, and District of Columbia (advisory only)

Appointed by legislature (one state)

New York

Note: Although Pennsylvania is listed in “Some voting members appointed by the governor” category, four of 21 voting members are appointed by the Pennsylvania legislature.

Appointed by multiple authorities (three states)

Mississippi, South Carolina, and Washington

No state board or advisory only (three 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 (15 states and D.C.)

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

Appointed by state board of education (23 states)

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

Elected (12 states)

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

Dual Offices for Education

In five states and the District of Columbia, the governor (or mayor, in D.C.) appoints a cabinet-level secretary of education.

State	Titles	Citation
Kentucky	Secretary of Education and Workforce Development and Commissioner of Education	KY. STAT. ANN. §§151B.020 and 156.148
Massachusetts	Secretary of Education and Commissioner of Education	MASS. ANN. LAWS ch.6A§14A and 15§1F
Oklahoma	Secretary of Education and State Superintendent of Education	OKLA. STATE. ANN. tit.70, §3-118 and OKLA. CONST. ART. VI SEC. 1
Oregon	Superintendent of Public Instruction (the governor) and Chief Education Officer	OR. REV. STAT. §326.300(1) and §326.010 Section 2(1)
Virginia	Secretary of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction	VA CODE ANN. §22.1-21 and §2.2-200
District of Columbia	State Superintendent of Education and Chancellor of D.C. Public Schools, both appointed by the mayor	D.C. OFFICIAL CODE ARTICLE VI. (C) and §38-174

The original version of this document was compiled by Todd Ziebarth, 2004.

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