

Governance at a Glance

States use a variety of methods for determining who will serve on the state board of education, how many members it will have, and how the leadership of the panel will be selected.

STATE	METHOD OF SELECTION OF STATE BOARD MEMBERS	NUMBER OF VOTING MEMBERS	SELECTION OF STATE BOARD CHAIR/ PRESIDENT
Alabama	Partisan ballot	eight plus governor	Governor is president of board
Alaska	Appointed by governor, confirmed by legislature	seven	Elected by state board of education members
Arizona	Appointed by governor, confirmed by Senate	11, including chief school officer	Elected by state board of education members
Arkansas	Appointed by governor	nine	Elected by state board of education members
California	Appointed by governor	11, including student member	Elected by state board of education members
Colorado	Partisan ballot	eight	Elected by state board of education members
Connecticut	Appointed by governor, confirmed by House and Senate	seven	Appointed by governor
Delaware	Appointed by governor, confirmed by Senate	seven	Appointed by, serves at pleasure of governor
Florida	Appointed by governor	seven	Elected by state board of education members
Georgia	Appointed by governor	13	Elected by state board of education members
Hawaii	Nonpartisan ballot	13	Elected by state board of education members
Idaho	Appointed by governor	eight	Appointed by, serves at pleasure of state board
Illinois	Appointed by governor	nine	Appointed by governor
Indiana	10 members appointed by governor, plus elected state superintendent	11	State superintendent serves as chair
Iowa	Appointed by governor	nine	Elected by state board members (2-year term)
Kansas	Partisan ballot	10	Elected by state board members (2-year term)
Kentucky	Appointed by governor	11	Elected by state board of education members
Louisiana	Eight elected by nonpartisan ballot; three appt. by gov.	11	Elected by state board of education members
Maine	Appointed by governor	nine	Elected by state board of education members
Maryland	Appointed by governor	12, including student member	Elected by state board of education members
Massachusetts	Eight appointed by gov.; four voting ex officio members	12, including student member	Appointed by governor
Michigan	Partisan ballot	eight	Elected by state board of education members
Minnesota	None		
Mississippi	Five appointed by governor; four appt. by legislature	nine	Elected by state board of education members
Missouri	Appointed by governor with consent of Senate	eight	Elected by state board of education members
Montana	Appointed by governor	seven	Elected by state board of education members
Nebraska	Nonpartisan ballot	eight	Elected by state board of education members
Nevada	Nonpartisan ballot	10	Elected by state board of education members
New Hampshire	Appointed by governor	seven	Elected by state board of education members
New Jersey	Appointed by governor	13	Elected by state board of education members
New Mexico	Partisan ballot	10	Elected by state board of education members
New York	Appointed by legislature	16	Elected by state board of education members
North Carolina	Appointed by governor	13, including two voting ex officio members	Elected by state board of education members
North Dakota	Appointed by governor	seven	Elected by state board of education
Ohio	11 elected by nonpartisan ballot; eight appt. by gov.	19	Elected by state board members (2-year terms)
Oklahoma	Appointed by governor	seven	State superintendent serves as chair
Oregon	Appointed by governor	seven	Elected by state board of education members
Pennsylvania	Appointed by governor, confirmed by Senate	21	Appointed by governor
Rhode Island	Appointed by governor	nine	Appointed by governor
South Carolina	Appointed by legislature	17	Elected by state board of education members
South Dakota	Appointed by governor	nine	Elected by state board of education members
Tennessee	Appointed by governor, confirmed by General Assembly	10, including student member	Elected by state board members (4-year term)
Texas	Partisan ballot	15	Appointed by governor (2-year term)
Utah	Nonpartisan ballot	15	Elected by state board of education members
Vermont	Appointed by governor, approved by the Senate	nine, including student member	Elected by state board members (2-year term)
Virginia	Appointed by governor	nine	Elected by state board of education members
Washington	Five elected by local school board members; seven appointed by governor, one elected by private schools; state superintendent	14 limited to two terms (CSSO excepted), two nonvoting students	Elected by state board of education members
West Virginia	Appointed by governor, approved by Senate	nine	Elected by state board of education members
Wisconsin	None		
Wyoming	Appointed by governor	11	Elected by state board of education members

SOURCE: National Association of State Boards of Education