

## 50-State Comparison

## Postsecondary Governance Structures

## Administrative and Advisory Entities

## November 2020

This resource provides a comprehensive summary of the various entities that comprise 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 systemwide governing boards, most multi-campus institutional boards and membership organizations.

The term public two-year institutions also may include technical colleges. 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 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.

View other data points in the 50-State Comparison: State Postsecondary Governance Structures resource here.

STATE E	ENTITY NAME	ENTITY FUNCTION	TYPE OF INSTITUTIONS	PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES	APPOINTING AUTHORITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE OFFICER	GENERAL NOTES	WEBSITE	CITATIONS
Alabama N	Not applicable							
C	Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education	Administrative/service	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans</li> <li>Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders</li> <li>Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements)</li> <li>Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning</li> <li>License or approve/authorize specified institutions</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> </ul>	Agency board or agency committee	The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education is an administrative agency of the executive branch of state government and is overseen by a board.	Link	Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.42.010
C F	Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education	Administrative/service	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans</li> <li>Conduct policy research and analysis</li> <li>Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success</li> <li>Provide forum to discuss postsecondary issues</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> </ul>	Not applicable	Arizona's Commission for Postsecondary Education provides services for public four- and two-year institutions, private colleges and universities, and vocational and trade schools.	Link	Ariz. Revised Stat. 15- 1851
Arkansas N	Not applicable							
S	California Student Aid Commission	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans</li> <li>Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders</li> <li>Conduct policy research and analysis</li> <li>Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning</li> <li>Provide forum to discuss postsecondary issues</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> <li>Provide professional development and/or training</li> </ul>	Not applicable		Link	Cal. Educ. Code § 69510 - 69519; § 69400 - 70110
Colorado N	Not applicable							

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Connecticut	Connecticut Office of Higher Education	Administrative/service	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Administer federal programs</li> <li>Administer student financial aid and/or loans</li> <li>Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements)</li> <li>Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer)</li> <li>License or approve/authorize specified institutions</li> <li>Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> </ul>	Governor with approval of Senate or legislature		Link	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10a-1
Connecticut	Connecticut Higher Education Coordinating Council	Advisory	Public four-year and public two-year	- Develop and/or oversee accountability measures - Ensure system/institutional efficiencies	Not applicable		Link	Conn. Gen. Stat Ann § 10a-6a and 6b
Delaware	Delaware Department of Education Higher Education Office	Administrative/service	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans</li> <li>Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements)</li> <li>Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer)</li> <li>License or approve/authorize specified institutions</li> <li>Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> </ul>	Agency board or agency committee	The Delaware Higher Education Office is housed in the department of education and administers academic programs, including remedial education reform strategies, dual enrollment programs and Advanced Placement programs. Executive director is hired by an agency committee.	Link	Del. Code Ann. Tit. 14 § 180-184
District of Columbia	Office of the State Superintendent of Education Postsecondary and Career Education Division	Administrative/service	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans</li> <li>Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements)</li> <li>Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer)</li> <li>License or approve/authorize specified institutions</li> <li>Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> </ul>	State board of education or commissioner/secretary of education	The Higher Education Licensure Commission operates within the Postsecondary and Career Education Division and is responsible for licensing public and private institutions. The District of Columbia State Superintendent appoints the assistant superintendent for the postsecondary and career education division.	Link	D.C. Code § 38
Florida	Florida Department of Education Division of Florida Colleges	Administrative/service	Public two-year	<ul> <li>Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders</li> <li>Conduct policy research and analysis</li> <li>Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer)</li> <li>Develop and/or oversee accountability measures</li> <li>Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning</li> <li>Ensure academic program quality</li> <li>Promote or advocate for institutions</li> <li>Provide forum to discuss postsecondary issues</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> </ul>	State board of education or commissioner/secretary of education	The Division of Florida Colleges ensures academic program quality for bachelor's degrees, which the state colleges are allowed to offer with approval.	Link	
Florida	Florida Talent Development Council	Advisory	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	- Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders - Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning	Not applicable		Link	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1004.015
Georgia	Georgia Student Finance Commission	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	- Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans - Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success	Not applicable		Link	Ga. Code. Ann. § 20- 3-230 et. seq.
Hawaii	Not applicable							

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Idaho	Not applicable							
Illinois	Illinois Student Assistance Commission	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Administer federal programs</li> <li>Administer student financial aid and/or loans</li> <li>Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders</li> <li>Conduct policy research and analysis</li> <li>Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning</li> <li>Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> <li>Provide professional development and/or training</li> </ul>	Not applicable	A board, whose members are appointed by the governor, oversees the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.	Link	110 III. Comp. Stat. Ann. 947/15 and 947/20
Indiana	Not applicable							
lowa	lowa Department of Education Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation	Administrative/service	Public two-year	<ul> <li>Administer federal programs</li> <li>Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders</li> <li>Approve academic programs</li> <li>Conduct policy research and analysis</li> <li>Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer)</li> <li>Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning</li> <li>Ensure academic program quality</li> <li>Provide forum to discuss postsecondary issues</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> <li>Review/approve and/or recommend budgets</li> </ul>	State board of education or commissioner/secretary of education	The commissioner of education appoints the administrator of the Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation.	Link	Iowa Code Ann. § 260C.6
lowa	Iowa College Student Aid Commission	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans</li> <li>Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements)</li> <li>Conduct policy research and analysis</li> <li>License or approve/authorize specified institutions</li> <li>Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> </ul>	Not applicable	A 15-member board oversees Iowa's College Student Aid Commission.	Link	Iowa Code Ann. § 261.2
Iowa	lowa	Advisory	Public two-year	Advise and/or provide	Not applicable	Iowa's Community College	Link	Iowa Code
	Community College Council			recommendations to state policy and education leaders		Council provides recommendations to the state board of education on topics related to community colleges.		Ann. § 256.31
Kansas	Not applicable							
Kentucky	Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	- Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans - Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success	Not applicable	A board of directors, appointed by the governor, oversees the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.	Link	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 164.744
Louisiana	Not applicable							
Maine	Finance Authority of Maine	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	- Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans - Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success - Provide professional development and/or training	Not applicable		Link	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 10 ch. 110 § 969-A
Maryland	Not applicable							
	Not applicable							

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Michigan	Michigan State Budget Office	Administrative/service	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders</li> <li>Adopt rules to regulate institutions of higher education</li> <li>Conduct policy research and analysis</li> <li>Develop and/or oversee accountability measures</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> <li>Review/approve and/or recommend budgets</li> </ul>	Not applicable	The Michigan State Budget Office exercises several responsibilities related to postsecondary education since the state does not have a coordinating or governing board or major postsecondary systems. The budget office also oversees the state P-20 data system.	Link	
Michigan	Michigan Student Financial Services Bureau	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	- Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans - Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success	Not applicable		Link	
Minnesota	Minnesota Office of Higher Education	Administrative/service	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Administer federal programs</li> <li>Administer student financial aid and/or loans</li> <li>Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders</li> <li>Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements)</li> <li>Conduct policy research and analysis</li> <li>Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer)</li> <li>Develop and/or oversee accountability measures</li> <li>License or approve/authorize specified institutions</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> </ul>	Governor with approval of Senate or legislature		Link	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 136A.01
Mississippi	Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	- Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans - Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success	Not applicable		Link	Miss. Code. Ann. § 37- 106 et. seq.
Missouri	Not applicable							
Montana	Not applicable							
Nebraska	Not applicable							
Nevada	Not applicable							
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Department of Education of Higher Education - Higher Education Commission	Administrative/service	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders</li> <li>Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements)</li> <li>Conduct policy research and analysis</li> <li>Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer)</li> <li>Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning</li> <li>Ensure academic program quality</li> <li>License or approve/authorize specified institutions</li> <li>Promote or advocate for institutions</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> <li>Provide professional development and/or training</li> </ul>	Governor	With respect to new program approval, the Division of Higher Education primarily oversees teacher preparation and Veteran programs. Governor appoints director of the Division of Higher Education after consultation with K-12 education commissioner, higher education commission and state board of education. Director serves at pleasure of governor and education commissioner.	Link	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 21-N:8-a

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New Jersey	State of New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education	Administrative/service	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Administer federal programs</li> <li>Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders</li> <li>Adopt rules to regulate institutions of higher education</li> <li>Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements)</li> <li>Conduct policy research and analysis</li> <li>Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer)</li> <li>Develop and/or oversee accountability measures</li> <li>Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning</li> <li>License or approve/authorize specified institutions</li> <li>Oversee residency requirements for tuition purposes</li> <li>Provide forum to discuss postsecondary issues</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> <li>Review/approve and/or recommend budgets</li> </ul>	Governor with approval of Senate or legislature	The secretary of higher education submits recommendations on the higher education budget and student aid levels to the governor and legislature. The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education also is responsible for developing a master plan and approving/administering bonds requested by institutions.	Link	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:3B-47
New Jersey	New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	- Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans - Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success - Provide professional development and/or training	Not applicable		Link	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:71A-3
New Jersey	New Jersey Presidents' Council	Advisory	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders	Not applicable	New Jersey President's Council makes recommendations related to new academic programs, establishing/closing/consolidating institutions, funding for student aid programs, and institutional licensure.	Link	N.J. Stat. Ann § 18A:3B-7- 8
New York	New York State Education Department Office of Higher Education	Administrative/service	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Administer federal programs</li> <li>Administer online and/or out-of-state programs</li> <li>Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders</li> <li>Approve academic programs</li> <li>Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements)</li> <li>Conduct policy research and analysis</li> <li>Develop and/or oversee accountability measures</li> <li>Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning</li> <li>Ensure academic program quality</li> <li>Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success</li> <li>Provide forum to discuss postsecondary issues</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> </ul>	State board of education or commissioner/secretary of education	The Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York appoints the deputy commissioner of higher education.	Link	N.Y. Educ. Law § 101
New York	New York State Higher Education Services Corporation	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	- Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans - Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success	Not applicable	The Higher Education Services Corporation provides financial aid outreach programs for students and families	Link	N.Y. Educ. Law § 652
North Carolina	North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans</li> <li>Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements)</li> <li>Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success</li> </ul>	Not applicable		Link	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 116-203
North Dakota	Not applicable							

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Ohio	Ohio Board of Regents	Advisory	Public four-year and public two-year	Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders	Not applicable	Ohio Board of Regents is responsible for developing an annual report on the Condition of Higher Education in Ohio, and issuing an annual performance review of the department's chancellor (executive director).	Link	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3333.01
Oklahoma	Not applicable							
Oregon	Not applicable							
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania State Board of Education	Governing	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders</li> <li>Adopt rules to regulate institutions of higher education</li> <li>Conduct policy research and analysis</li> <li>Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning</li> <li>Ensure system/institutional efficiencies</li> <li>Provide forum to discuss postsecondary issues</li> </ul>	Not applicable	Pennsylvania State Board of Education's also adopts a master plan for K-12 and higher education based on the plans proposed by the respective education councils. The secretary of education is appointed by the governor, although this position has a limited role in postsecondary education. The deputy secretary for postsecondary and higher education is appointed by the governor and has primary responsibility for policies and programs related to institutions. The Pennsylvania State Board of Education (SBE) is responsible for reviewing and adopting regulations, upon recommendation of its two councils: Council of Basic Education and Council of Higher Education in The Council of Higher Education and Council of Higher Education and Gorges; develop standards for all higher education building projects involving state funds; council sploy proposals. The SBE also serves as the State Board for Vocational Education which sets policy and regulation (GTE) programs.	Link	71 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 62
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Authority	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	- Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans - Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success - Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions - Provide professional development and/or training	Not applicable		Link	24 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 5101

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Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Department of Education Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education	Administrative/service	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	<ul> <li>Administer federal programs</li> <li>Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders</li> <li>Adopt rules to regulate institutions of higher education</li> <li>Approve academic programs</li> <li>Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements)</li> <li>Conduct policy research and analysis</li> <li>Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer)</li> <li>Develop and/or oversee accountability measures</li> <li>Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning</li> <li>License or approve/authorize specified institutions</li> <li>Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success</li> <li>Provide forum to discuss postsecondary issues</li> <li>Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions</li> <li>Provide professional development and/or training</li> </ul>	Governor	The Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education also exercises the following responsibilities: Develop a master/strategic plan; monitor or evaluate system/institutional effectiveness; recommend or approve establishing, merging or closing institutions; and Review or approve facility/capital construction plans.	Link	71 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 1037
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Board of Education	Coordinating	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	- Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders - Adopt rules to regulate institutions of higher education - Develop and/or oversee accountability measures - Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning - Provide forum to discuss postsecondary issues - Review/approve and/or recommend budgets	Not applicable	The Rhode Island State Board of Education's authority pertains primarily to P-20 education issues. The board also approves strategic plans developed by the K-12 and postsecondary councils and creates a statewide plan for P-20 education. The commissioner of education is appointed by the Council of Elementary and Secondary Education with the advice and consent of the state board of education, although this position has a limited role with postsecondary education. The Rhode Island Board of Education has broad oversight of P-20 education, although the K- 12 and Postsecondary Councils exercise more comprehensive authority over their education sectors.	Link	R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-97
South Carolina	Not applicable							
South Dakota	Not applicable							
Tennessee	Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	- Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans - Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success - Provide professional development and/or training	Not applicable		Link	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49- 4-201
Texas	Not applicable							
Utah	Not applicable							
Vermont	Vermont Student Assistance Corporation	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	- Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans - Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success - Provide professional development and/or training	Not applicable		Link	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 2821
Virginia	Not applicable							
Washington	Not applicable							
West Virginia	Not applicable							

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Wisconsin	Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board	Financial aid agency	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)	- Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans - Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements) - Provide professional development and/or training	Not applicable		Link	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 39
Wyoming	Wyoming Department of Education	Administrative/service	Public four-year and public two-year	Administer state financial aid programs and/or loans	Not applicable		Link	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21- 2-201