
K-12 SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

DR. ASHLEY IDREES, EDUCATION POLICY SPECIALIST



NATIONAL OVERVIEW

- Every state has constitutional language specifying the authority and duties of state legislatures in education
- 43 states give their state legislature some type of role in appointing or confirming their state board of education members
- 26 states have outlined a formal constitutional role specific to education for their governor
- 41 have statutory language providing the governor with a formal role
- State board of education authority and duties are also detailed in state constitutions and statute
- No state board or advisory only: Minnesota and Wisconsin (no board); New Mexico and District of Columbia (advisory only)

ECS, 2019

NEW MEXICO

- The legislative power shall be vested in a senate and a house of representatives which shall be designated by the legislature of the state of New Mexico, and shall hold its sessions at the seat of government
- The legislature shall provide for the training of teachers in the normal schools or otherwise so that they may become proficient in both the English and Spanish languages
- Children of Spanish descent in the state of New Mexico shall never be denied the right and privilege of admission and attendance in the public schools or other public educational institutions of the state, and they shall never be classed in separate schools, but shall forever enjoy perfect equality with other children in all public schools and educational institutions of the state, and the legislature shall provide penalties for the violation of this section

ECS, 2019

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOARDS OF EDUCATION

Participant Results:

- Members typically serve for an average of 8.6 years
- Top ranked response for motivation at 50.3% was, “To ensure that our children’s schools are the best they can be”
- 16% state board members responded, “To give back to my community”
- The majority (55%) of board members responded Yes when asked about their plans to pursue another term on the board

Board Development & District Priorities:

- Receiving training twice a year as an entire board was the most frequent response at 34% followed by 30% who said only once
- Top Priorities: Overall student achievement at 43%, Budget/Funding at 42%, and Teacher Quality at 39%
- Non-Urgent Priorities: Social Issues at 35%, Improving Non-Academic Learning 29% and Student Discipline & Behavior at 25%

Questions

THANK YOU

ASHLEY.IDREES@NCSL.ORG

303.856.1584

