



P-20 Governance

By Jennifer Dounay Zinth

January 2011

Better coordination among higher education, K-12 and early learning, as well as reducing bureaucracy and streamlining services for taxpayers are of concern to many state policymakers. To address these concerns, some states have consolidated most or all authority for K-12 and postsecondary education (and in some cases, early learning) in a single entity.

Full Consolidation

Florida (includes “P”)

Constitutional amendments approved by voters in 1998 authorized the reorganization of Florida's education system. These changes were codified in 2000 as the [Florida Education Governance Reorganization Act of 2000](#). The act requires the governor to appoint a seven-member state board of education with authority for education from pre-kindergarten through graduate school education, as well as authority to appoint the commissioner of education. Effective January 7, 2003, the act additionally eliminated numerous commissions and boards (including the Board of Regents) and reassigned their authority to the Florida Board of Education. The 2002 rewrite of the education code created the K-20 Education Code. However, a successful 2002 constitutional amendment created the **Board of Governors to oversee the State University System**; these changes were codified in 2003 and subsequent legislation.

Subsequent disputes over the relative authority of the Legislature and the Board of Governors were resolved under a “State University System Governance Agreement” entered into between the legislative leadership and the Board of Governors on March 24, 2010. (A copy of the agreement is available from ECS upon request.) The agreement provides a framework for the collaborative exercise of joint authority by the Board and the Legislature for the State University System of Florida in accordance with their respective state constitutional responsibilities.

Idaho (no “P”)

The Idaho [State Board of Education](#) oversees both K-12 and postsecondary education (K-20).

New York (includes “P”)

[Statute](#) charges the education department with “the general management and supervision of all public schools and all of the educational work of the state, including the operations of The University of the State of New York and the exercise of all the functions of the education department, of The University of the State of New York, of the regents of the university and of the commissioner of education and the performance of all their powers and duties[.]” Elsewhere in [statute](#), the commissioner of education is identified as “the chief executive officer of the state system of education and of the board of regents” and directed to “enforce all general and special laws relating to the educational system of the state and execute all educational policies determined upon by the board of regents.”

Pennsylvania (includes “P”)

The Pennsylvania State Board of Education, by statute, has authority over P-12 and postsecondary education. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education [Web site](#), “The Board is comprised of 22 members, ten of whom serve as the Board’s Council of Basic Education and ten of whom serve on the Board’s Council of Higher Education. ... The 22 members of the board also serve as the State Board for Vocational Education.” The Secretary of Education leads the Department of Education and serves as the state board’s chief executive officer.

Partial Consolidation

Iowa (includes “P”)

The [state board of education](#) oversees early childhood, K-12, community colleges, and all teacher and administrator preparation programs in the state.

Michigan (includes “P”)

According to the [state constitution](#), “Leadership and general supervision over all public education, including adult education and instructional programs in state institutions, except as to institutions of higher education granting baccalaureate degrees, is vested in a state board of education. It shall serve as the general planning and coordinating body for all public education, including higher education[.]”

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