



2009 Status of Educator Standards Boards



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During the summer of 2009 the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) conducted a survey of its members to collect data on the status of Independent Standards Boards (ISB) in the United States. All but two of the states completed the survey, however based on additional research it was determined that those states did not have ISBs.

There are three types of Standards Boards: Independent, Semi-Independent and Advisory. An ISB is defined as a board that is independent of the state’s Board of Education and the majority of the voting members are educators. Also the members are appointed by the Governor or Legislature or in one state by the State Superintendent. A Semi-Independent Standards Board shares responsibilities with the State Board of Education, particularly in adopting regulations. An Advisory Standards Board makes recommendations to the State Board of Education on teacher related policy, but does not have regulatory responsibility.

To try to categorize the responsibilities of the many boards across the country is very difficult. Some boards are responsible for all aspects of the educator profession including the approval of educator standards, programs and accreditation, certification/licensure and discipline, while other boards are responsible for portions of each of those responsibilities. The survey found the same mix of responsibilities for semi independent and advisory educator standards boards.

The survey found thirteen independent standards boards based on the above definition; seven of those are comprehensive ISBs which are located in California, Hawaii, Kentucky, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon and Wyoming. All of these states have ISBs that are responsible for Educator Standards, Educator Program Approval, Program Accreditation, Certification/Licensure and Educator Discipline.

The remaining ISBs have various responsibilities as identified in Chart 1.

Chart 1 – Responsibilities of Independent Standards Boards

State	Educator Standards	Educator Program Approval	Program Accreditation	Certification Licensure	Educator Discipline
California	X	X	X	X	X
Delaware	X			X	X
Georgia	X	X		X	X
Hawaii	X	X	X	X	X
Iowa	X			X	X
Kentucky	X	X	X	X	X
Minnesota	X	X	X	X	X
North Dakota	X	X	X	X	X
Oklahoma	X	X	X		

State	Educator Standards	Educator Program Approval	Program Accreditation	Certification Licensure	Educator Discipline
Oregon	X	X	X	X	X
Vermont	X	X	X	X	
Washington	X	X	X	X	
Wyoming	X	X	X	X	X

The survey also found that four states had semi-independent standards boards. These are boards that share responsibility with the state’s Board of Education. As with the ISBs, the responsibility for each board varies by state. Chart 2 displays those states with semi-independent standards boards and their responsibilities.

Chart 2 – Responsibilities of Semi-Independent Standards Boards

State	Educator Standards	Educator Program Approval	Program Accreditation	Certification Licensure	Educator Discipline
Maryland	X	X		X	X
Nevada				X	
New Jersey	X	X		X	X
Texas	X	X	X	X	X

Three states, Alaska, Pennsylvania and South Dakota have independent standards boards that are strictly responsible for educator discipline. The members of these boards are appointed by the Governor and in Alaska by the Legislature. Licensing and program approval is housed in the state Department of Education in these three states. Vermont is unique in that it has two boards, one for educator standards and one for educator discipline and both are housed in the Vermont Department of Education.

Twelve states have advisory standards boards that make recommendations to the state Board of Education regarding educator policy. The areas of responsibility vary state by state for these boards. Chart 3 displays the states with advisory standards boards and their areas of responsibilities.

Chart 3 – Responsibilities of Advisory Standards Boards

State	Educator Standards	Educator Program Approval	Program Accreditation	Certification Licensure	Educator Discipline
Arkansas		X	X	X	X
Idaho	X	X		X*	X
Indiana	X	X	X	X	X
Mississippi	X	X	X	X	X
Missouri		X	X	X	X
Montana	X				

State	Educator Standards	Educator Program Approval	Program Accreditation	Certification Licensure	Educator Discipline
New Mexico	X	X	X	X	X
New York	X	X	X	X	X
North Carolina	X				
Ohio	X			X	
Rhode Island				X	

* Board is only responsible for alternative programs.

The 19 remaining states and the District of Columbia do not have standards boards, the responsibility for educator preparation, licensing and discipline falls within the jurisdiction of the state Department of Education. Chart 4 lists the states where educator responsibilities are housed within the department of education.

Chart 4 – States Without Standards Boards

Alabama
Arizona
Colorado
Connecticut
District of Columbia
Florida
Illinois
Kansas
Louisiana
Maine
Massachusetts
Michigan
Nebraska
New Hampshire
South Carolina
Tennessee
Utah
Virginia
West Virginia
Wisconsin

Funding

The funding source for the independent, semi-independent and advisory standards boards also varies by state. The survey found that seven of the thirteen independent standards boards receive their funds from application fees. The other six are either fully funded by

the General Fund or a combination of General Fund and fees. Chart 5 lists the funding for each independent standards board.

Chart 5 – Funding Source for Independent Standards Boards

State	Funding
California	Fee
Delaware	General Fund
Georgia	General Fund
Hawaii	General Fund & Fee
Iowa	Fee
Kentucky	General Fund & Fee
Minnesota	General Fund
North Dakota	Fee
Oklahoma	General Fund
Oregon	Fee
Vermont	Fee
Washington	General Fund & Fee
Wyoming	Fee

The semi-independent standards boards in Maryland and Texas are funded by both fees and General Fund while Nevada and New Jersey are funded strictly by fees.

The majority of advisory standards boards received their funding from the General Fund. Chart 6 displays the source of funding for each of the advisory standards boards.

Chart 6 – Funding Source for Advisory Standards Boards

State	Funding
Arkansas	Fee
Idaho	Fee
Indiana	General Fund & Fee
Mississippi	General Fund
Missouri	General Fund and Fee
Montana	Fee
New Mexico	General Fund
New York	General Fund
North Carolina	General Fund
Ohio	General Fund
Rhode Island	General Fund

Board Members

The number of members of educator standards boards varied from as high as twenty-five to as few as seven. Representation on the boards varies from state to state. Charts 6, 7 and 8 list the number of board members on each board and who each board member represents.

Chart 7 – Board Representatives on Independent Standards Boards

State	Term on the Board	# of Board Members	Teacher	Admin	University	Non Admin	Public	DOE	School Board	Ex Officio
California	4	19	6	1	1	1	4	1	1	4
Delaware	3	16	8	4	1		2		1	
Georgia	3	18	9	2	2		3		2	
Hawaii	3	15	7	3	1		2	1	1	
Iowa	4	12	5	4			2	1		
Kentucky	4	17	9	2	3				1	2
Minnesota	4	11	6	1	1		3			
North Dakota	3	10	5	2	1				2	
Oklahoma	3	20	4	2	8		4	2		4
Oregon	3	17	8	4	2		2		1	
Vermont	3	13	7	2	2		1		1	
Washington	4	12*								
Wyoming	4	13	5	3	3	1			1	

* No specified representatives, the majority must be active practitioners.

Chart 8 – Board Representatives on Semi-Independent Standards Boards

State	Term on the Board	# of Board Members	Teacher	Admin	University	Non Admin	Public	DOE	School Board	Ex Officio
Maryland	3	25	9	6	6		2	1	1	
Nevada	3	9	4	2	1	1	1			
New Jersey	2	14	4	5	2	1		1		1
Texas	6	14	4	2	1	1	4	1		1

Chart 9 – Board Representatives on Advisory Standards Boards

State	Term on the Board	# of Board Members	Teacher	Admin	University	Non Admin	Public	DOE	School Board	Ex Officio
Arkansas	3	15	4	6	3			2		
Idaho	3	18	6	4	4	1		2	1	
Indiana	4	18	9	3	3	1			1	1
Mississippi	4	15	4	3	3		4		1	
Missouri	4	27	15	3	6				1	2
Montana	3	7	4	1	1				1	
New Mexico	3	20	12	4	3		1			
New York	4	28	12	3	7		6			
North Carolina	4	16	10	3	2	1				
Ohio	2	21	11	5	3		1		1	
Rhode Island	*	9	4	1	3					1

*No term limits

Appointing Authority

The appointing authority for the ISBs is traditionally the Governor and/or Legislature, with the exception of Wyoming where its members are appointed by the Superintendent.

Chart 10 – Appointing Authority for Independent Standards Boards

State	Appointing Authority
California	Governor
Delaware	Governor & Legislature
Georgia	Governor
Hawaii	Governor
Iowa	Governor
Kentucky	Governor
Minnesota	Governor
North Dakota	Governor
Oklahoma	Governor & Legislature
Oregon	Governor
Vermont	Governor
Washington	Governor
Wyoming	Superintendent

The board members on the semi-independent standards boards in Maryland, Nevada and Texas are appointed by the Governor and the State Board appoints members in New Jersey.

The appointing authority for the advisory standards boards varies from the Governor to representatives of organizations. The one board where the Governor appoints the members was originally an ISB, but the state legislature changed its authority to advisory.

Chart 11 – Appointing Authority for Advisory Standards Boards

State	Appointing Authority
Arkansas	State School Chief
Idaho	State Board
Indiana	Governor
Mississippi	State Board
Missouri	State Board
Montana	State Board
New Mexico	Secretary of Education
New York	State Board of Regents
North Carolina	Governor & Legislature
Ohio	State Board
Rhode Island	*

*Board members appointed by organizations

Educators Employed in States with Independent Standards Boards

The survey also asked the number of educators employed in those states with ISBs. All states with ISBs, except Oklahoma are responsible for the licensing of educators in their state. The ISBs license about 15% of the educators nationwide. According to the US Census Bureau, there are approximately 5.1 million K-12 educators in the United States and the states with ISBs have approximately 800,000 K-12 employed educators.

Future of Independent Standards Boards

California was the first in the nation to create a ISB, however during that time there have been numerous attempts by the legislature to return the responsibilities to the Department of Education. The survey asked if during the past 5 years has there been an attempt to return the board's duties to the state Department of Education. Besides California, Hawaii, Oklahoma and Oregon have all seen attempts to be abolished, however none of those legislative actions were successful.

During the 2010 legislative session, Bill S 2035 has been introduced in the Rhode Island General Assembly to make the current advisory board independent. There have also been discussions in Arizona and Massachusetts about forming independent standards boards.

The existing ISBs have met and decided to form the National Independent Educator Standards Board Association (NIESBA) in association with the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC). (They are currently working with NASDTEC to establish a relationship.) They also plan to meet during the 2010 NASDTEC Annual conference.

Chart 12 provides an alphabetical listing of all states and the District of Columbia and identifies states with an Independent Standards Board, an Independent Standards Board-Discipline, a Semi-Independent Standards Board, and an Advisory Standards Board. The state Department of Education is responsible educator preparation polices where no standards board exists.

Chart 12 – 2009 Status of Standards Boards in the United States

State	Type of Board
Alabama	None
Alaska	Independent Standards Board - Discipline
Arizona	None
Arkansas	Advisory Standards Board
California	Independent Standards Board
Colorado	None
Connecticut	None
Delaware	Independent Standards Board
District of Columbia	None
Florida	None
Georgia	Independent Standards Board
Hawaii	Independent Standards Board
Idaho	Advisory Standards Board
Illinois	None
Indiana	Advisory Standards Board
Iowa	Independent Standards Board
Kansas	None
Kentucky	Independent Standards Board
Louisiana	None
Maine	None
Maryland	Semi-Independent Standards Board
Massachusetts	None
Michigan	None
Minnesota	Independent Standards Board
Mississippi	Advisory Standards Board
Missouri	Advisory Standards Board
Montana	Advisory Standards Board
Nebraska	None
Nevada	Semi-Independent Standards Board
New Hampshire	None
New Jersey	Semi-Independent Standards Board
New Mexico	Advisory Standards Board
New York	Advisory Standards Board
North Carolina	Advisory Standards Board
North Dakota	Independent Standards Board
Ohio	Advisory Standards Boards
Oklahoma	Independent Standards Board
Oregon	Independent Standards Board
Pennsylvania	Independent Standards Board - Discipline
Rhode Island	Advisory Standards Board
South Carolina	None
South Dakota	Independent Standards Board - Discipline
Tennessee	None
Texas	Semi-Independent Standards Board
Utah	None
Vermont	Independent Standards Board
Virginia	None
Washington	Independent Standards Board
West Virginia	None
Wisconsin	None
Wyoming	Independent Standards Board