

# HOW THE SAUSAGE GETS MADE: Engaging in the Policymaking Process

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**EDUCATION COMMISSION**  
OF THE STATES

Your education policy team.

International Symposium for  
Innovation in Rural Education (ISFIRE)

August 1, 2018



# Who we are

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The **essential, indispensable** member of any team addressing education policy.



# What we do

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We believe in the power of **learning from experience** and we know informed policymakers create **better education policy.**



# How we do it

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# Montana ECS Commissioners



**Steve Bullock**, Governor, State of Montana, ECS Steering Committee Member

**Elsie Arntzen**, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**Seth Berglee**, Montana House of Representatives

**Elly Driggers**, Retired Teacher

**Alison Harmon**, Dean, Montana State University

**Keith Regier**, Montana Senate

**Darlene Schottle**, Vice-Chair, Montana Board of Public Education

**Siri Smillie**, Education Policy Advisor, State of Montana

# Engaging in the Policymaking Process



1. Elections Overview
2. Engaging in the Policy Process
3. State Policy Examples



Many of these governors

**APPOINT**

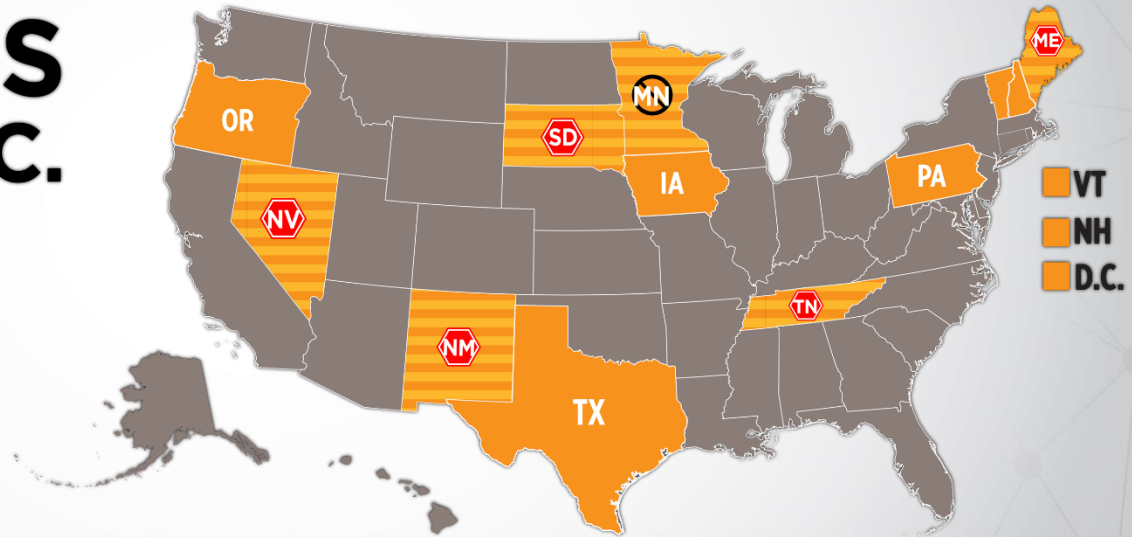
state education leaders ...



# Chief State School Officers

**12 STATES  
PLUS D.C.**

 **6 OF THOSE  
STATES** )  
are guaranteed to have  
a **new** governor.



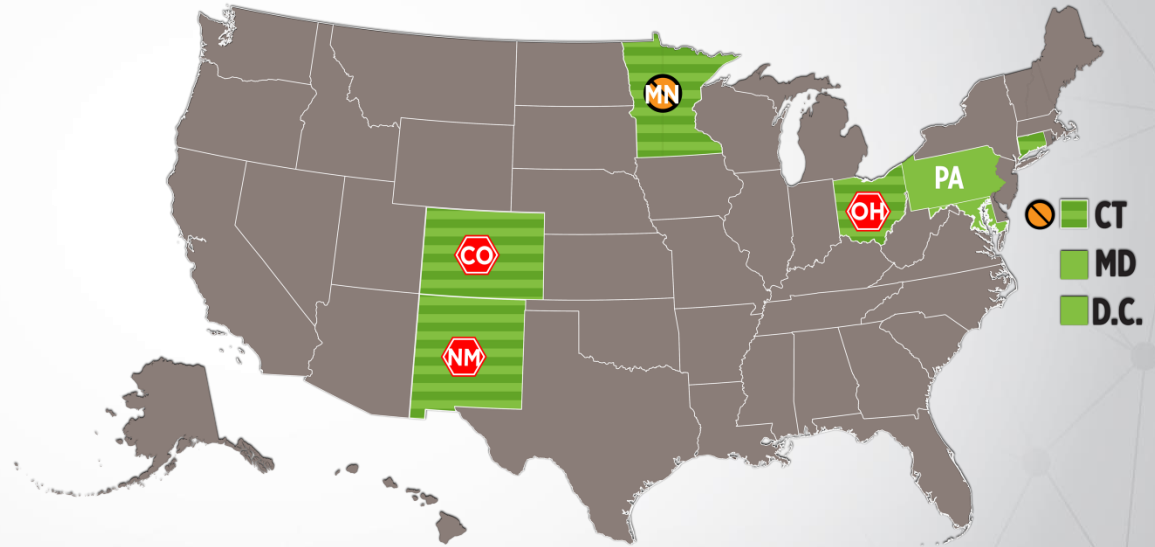
Source: CCSSO

# State Higher Education Executive Officers

**7 STATES  
PLUS D.C.**

**5 OF THOSE  
STATES**

are guaranteed to have  
a **new** governor.



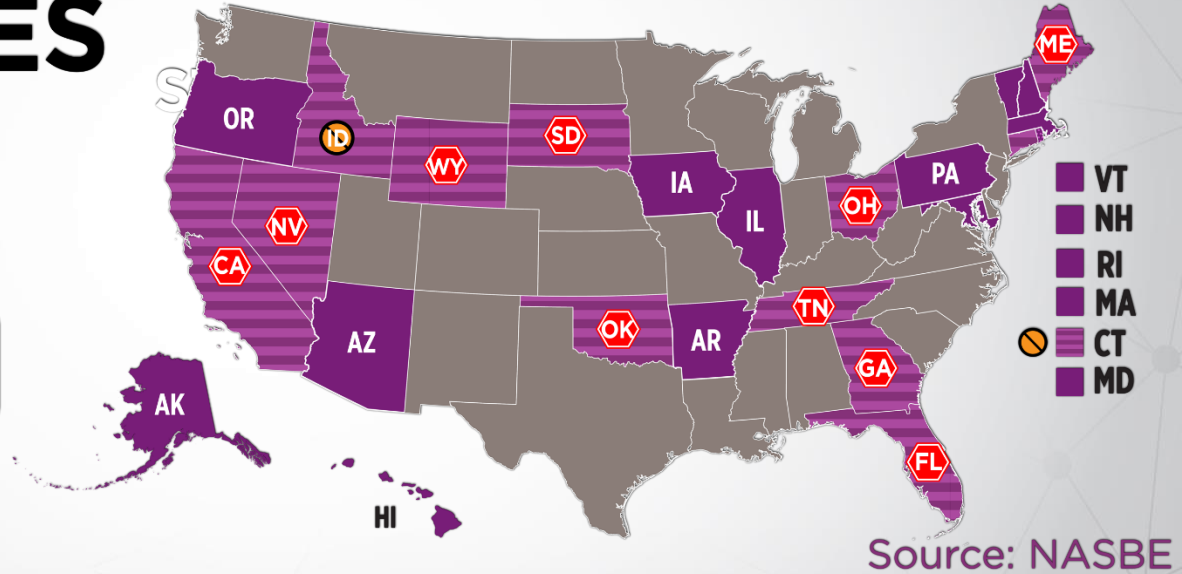
Source: SHEEO

# State Board of Education Members

# 25 STATES

 **12 OF THOSE STATES**

are guaranteed to have a **new** governor.



Other states will hold  
**ELECTIONS**  
for state education  
leaders ...



## CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS: 7 STATES Source: CCSSO



ARIZONA



CALIFORNIA



GEORGIA



IDAHO



OKLAHOMA



SOUTH  
CAROLINA



WYOMING

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION: 8 STATES PLUS D.C. Source: NASBE



ALABAMA



COLORADO



KANSAS



MICHIGAN



NEBRASKA



OHIO



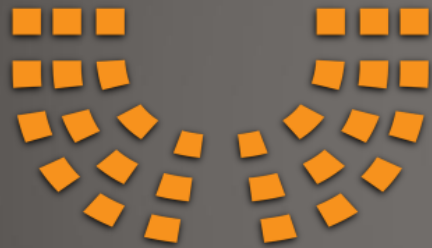
TEXAS



UTAH



D.C.



**87** out of **99** **LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS**

will hold general elections  
in November 2018.

Source: NCSL

# Engaging in the Policymaking Process



1. Elections Overview
- 2. Engaging in the Policy Process**
3. State Policy Examples

# FEDERAL

President

Congress

Dept. of Ed

Judicial

# STATE

Other

State Dept. of Ed  
State Board of Ed

Legislative

Governor

Judicial

# LOCAL

Other

District/School Board

Judicial

Private School

Charter/Virtual School

Traditional School

Parents

Students

Educators

Community

- Laws
- Rules/regs
- Waivers
- Executive orders
- Lawsuits

- School board policies
- Community values
- Site-based decision-making
- Lawsuits



# Engaging in the Policy Process

## Learn About Your State

### Legislature

- When is the session?
- How many representatives and senators?
- Full- or part-time?
- Dominate party?
- Education committee chair?
- Interim education committees?

### State Education Leaders

- Governor's role?
- Board/Chief: Appointed or elected?
- Board reporting structure?

# Engaging in the Policy Process

## K-12 Governance Structures



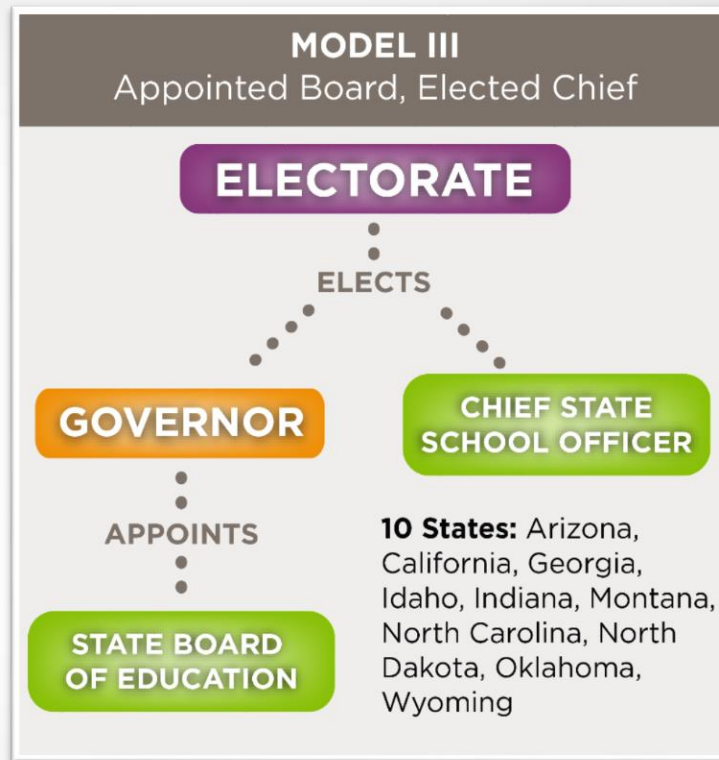
# Engaging in the Policy Process

## K-12 Governance Structures



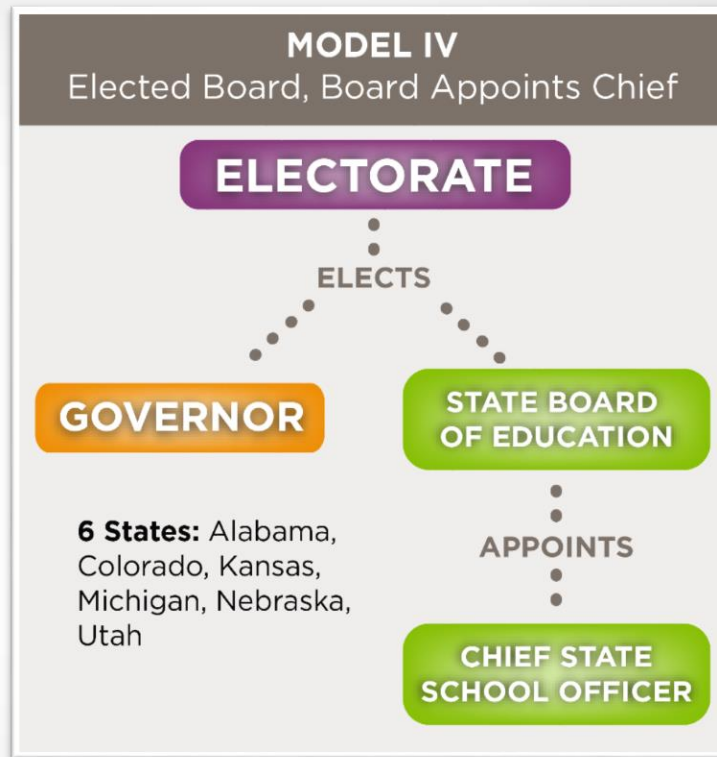
# Engaging in the Policy Process

## K-12 Governance Structures



# Engaging in the Policy Process

## K-12 Governance Structures



# Engaging in the Policy Process

## Understanding a Bill

- **Legislative Resources**
  - Bill summaries and status
  - Fiscal notes/summaries
  - Committee reports
  - Amendments
- **Nonpartisan Sources**
  - ECS, NCSL, CCSSO, NASBE, NGA
- **Media**
  - Education Week
  - Chalkbeat
  - Local media sources

# Engaging in the Policy Process

## Tips for engaging with state leaders

- ✓ Don't make assumptions.
- ✓ Policymakers have different experiences.
- ✓ State leaders care.
- ✓ Ask questions, give opinions.
- ✓ Competing interests.
- ✓ Be willing to build relationships.
- ✓ They always hear “the ask.”
- ✓ Tell stories.

# Engaging in the Policy Process

## Advocacy

? What is the problem?

? What is the cause?

? Who can solve it?

? What are solutions?

? Indicators of progress?

? Potential consequences?



# Engaging in the Policy Process

## Get to Know Your State Leaders

- Legislators
- GEPAS
- Governors
- State Board Members

# Engaging in the Policy Process

## Sample Legislator Bio

- New legislator assigned to the education committee, among others.
- Retired after a 35-year career in insurance. No background in education, government or policy.
- Passionate about education, but aside from attending school events for his children and grandchildren, he has little exposure to schools and education policy.

# Engaging in the Policy Process

## Sample GEPA Bio

- Has worked as a governor's education policy advisor for about 1.5 years.
- Early 30s and has worked in politics and policy for entire career.
- Role as a policy advisor to the governor requires them to quickly learn about many different issues.
- Strong understanding of the political landscape, if not education policy.

# Engaging in the Policy Process

## Sample State Board of Education Member Bio

- State board of education member for four years. Previously served as a local school board member and on various state-level committees and task forces.
- Retired educator and school administrator with a strong record in school turnaround.
- Developed a strong understanding of how local, state and federal education policies interact.

# Engaging in the Policy Process

## Sample Governor Bio

- Governor nearing the end of first term.
- Served several terms in the legislature and was successful in business.
- Education has been a top priority. Understands the education policy landscape, but lacks a strong grasp of specific issues.
- Has political aspirations and is keenly aware of the economic/political importance of education in those plans.

# Engaging in the Policymaking Process



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# State Policy Examples



## Colorado, SB 18-085

- Expands stipends available to rural district teachers seeking national board certification.
- Extends stipends to teachers seeking alternative licensure, concurrent enrollment certification, special services certification.

# State Policy Examples



## Utah, HB 327

- Pilot program expands stipends available to individuals in rural areas to take advantage of job and business opportunities available online.
- Directs the administering university to provide training to and coordinate with rural high schools.





# Your education policy team.

Browse by education issue, legislation, search our knowledge base for any topic, even chat with us live!

We're here to help you find the information you need.

**RURAL NEEDS**



State Policy Proposals That Recognize Rural Needs (Resource)



## CONVENE & COUNSEL

Bringing education leaders together from across the aisle and across states, our gatherings provide opportunities to interact, learn and collaborate.



## RESEARCH & REPORTS

Education Commission of the States is the trusted source for comprehensive knowledge and resources on hundreds of education policy issues.



## INITIATIVES

While covering the full spectrum of education policy, Education Commission of the States dives deeply into key issues impacting all states.

# State Policy Examples

RESOURCE TITLE:

## State Policy Proposals That Recognize Rural Needs

As the ever-increasing focus on equity in education grows, state policymakers are inevitably faced with pressures to better understand which students are still being left out. Given the relative locality and duty of state legislators to serve their constituents, discussions about P-20 education for rural students proves to be a trending topic among policymakers.

← SHARE THIS RESOURCE ON



Rural priorities are different from urban priorities, and policy solutions should be focused accordingly. While policy solutions should respond to the nuanced experiences of different student populations and communities' needs, there are some overarching themes that have, and continue, to plague many rural districts – including:

- **Low college enrollment** and completion.
- Lack of adequate **broadband connectivity** and the impacts on education.
- **Finding qualified instructors** to teach dual credit courses.



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