



**EDUCATION  
COMMISSION  
OF THE STATES**

Your education policy team.

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

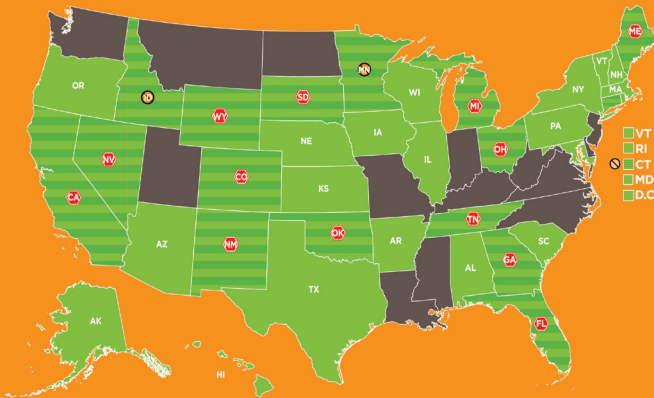
Micah Ann Wixom

International Symposium for Innovation in Rural Education (ISFIRE) | August 1, 2018



## 2018 ELECTIONS CHANGES IN STATE EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

**36 STATES PLUS D.C.** will hold governors races in 2018.



**36**

**Governors races being held**

\*D.C. will hold a mayoral race

**16**

**Guaranteed new governors**

There will be at least **16 NEW GOVERNORS** in 2019 due to ...

**13** Term limit

**3** Incumbent not running for re-election

Source: NGA

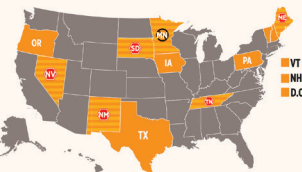
Many of these governors **APPOINT** state education leaders ...

### CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS

Source: CCSSO

**12 STATES PLUS D.C.**

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

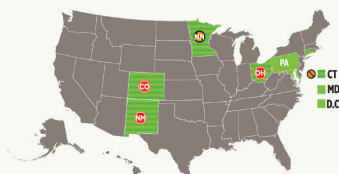


### STATE HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Source: SHEEO

**7 STATES PLUS D.C.**

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

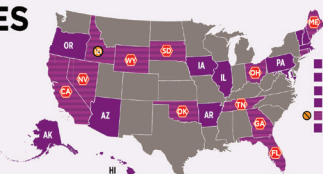


### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Source: NASBE

**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



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

Source: NASBE



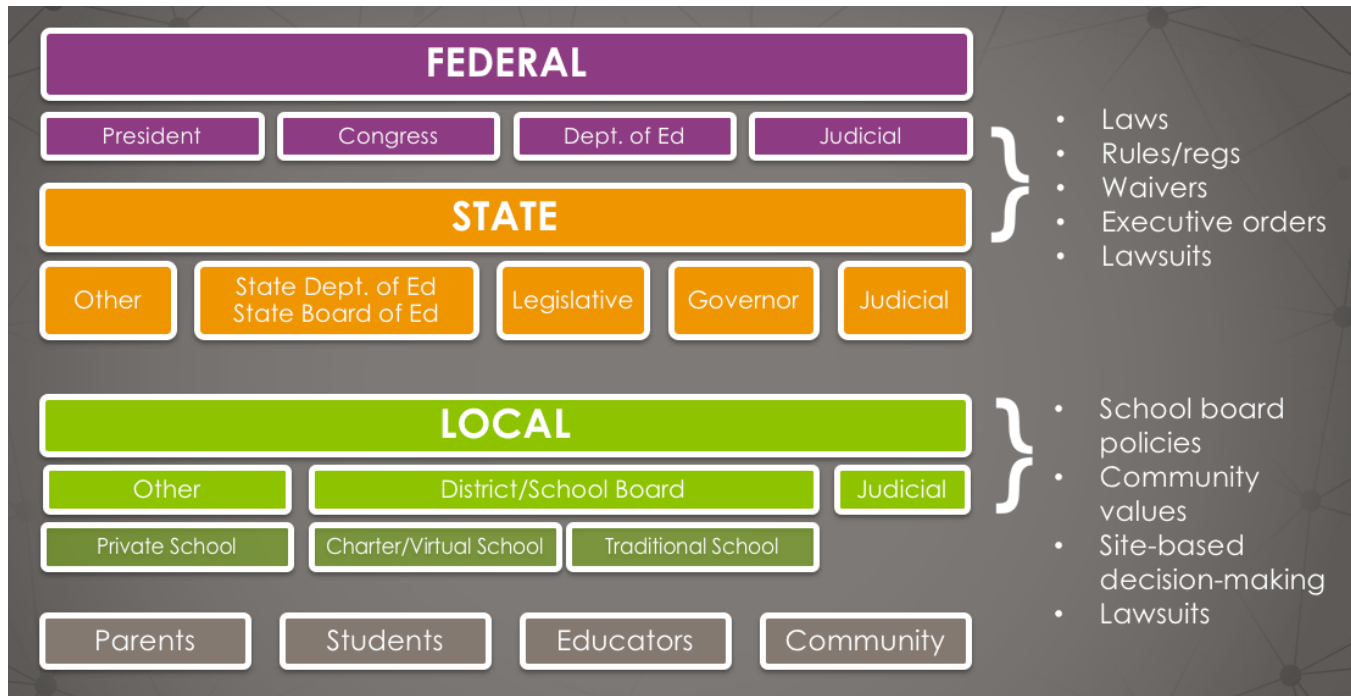
**87** out of **99**

**LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS**

will hold general elections in November 2018.

Source: NCSL

## Engaging in the Policymaking Process



## Learn About Your State

### Legislature

- When does the legislative session begin and end? Do they meet every year?
- How many representatives and senators?
- Are they full time or part time?
- Which party controls each house?
- Who chairs education committees?
- Are there interim education committees?

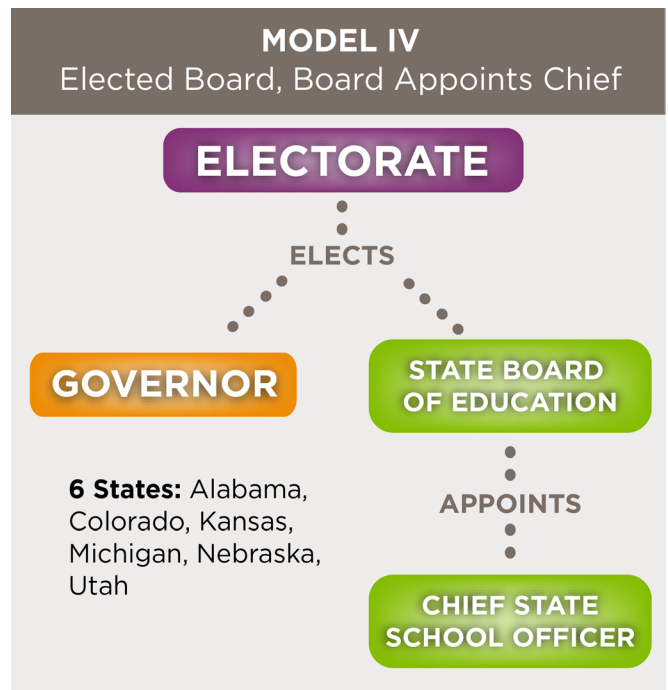
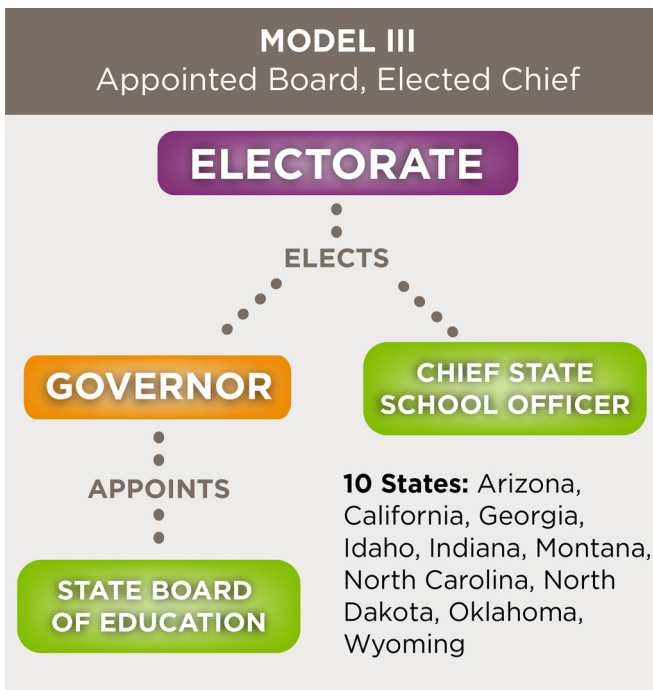
### State Education Leaders

- What is the governor's role in the state chief and state board of education?
- Is the state chief appointed or elected?
- Who does the state board report to? Appointed or elected?



## State K-12 Governance Structures

For more information: State Education Governance Structures: 2017 Update — [www.ecs.org/state-education-governance-structures-2017-update/](http://www.ecs.org/state-education-governance-structures-2017-update/).





## Tips for Engaging with State Leaders

- Don't make assumptions about the person or their level of experience, perspective, etc.
- Remember that policymakers have different experiences, depth of knowledge about topics, backgrounds, etc.
- Remember that most state leaders are involved because they care about issues and the people they serve.
- Ask questions in difficult conversations or to avoid giving your opinion.
- When discussing policy issues, remember that policymakers are balancing competing interests.
- Be open to building relationships in unlikely places.
- Build relationships outside of “the ask.”
- Tell stories.

## Advocacy

### Questions to Consider

**What problem are you trying to solve?**

**What is the cause?**

**Who has authority to solve it?**

**What are realistic solutions?**

**What are indicators of progress?**

**What are potential unintended consequences?**

For more information: State Education Policy Checklist — [www.ecs.org/state-education-policy-checklist](http://www.ecs.org/state-education-policy-checklist).