

Colorado State Profile

March 1, 2019

State profiles for the data visualization and 50-State Comparison on postsecondary governance structures summarize information about coordinating boards/agencies and governing boards, administrative/service agencies, advisory groups and membership organizations. The most in-depth information is provided for statewide and major postsecondary systemwide coordinating boards/agencies and governing boards.

Note: This resource does not include information related to setting tuition rates, administering funding formulas or allocating funds. The state profile information is based primarily on statutes, codes and state and postsecondary system board/agency policies. To the extent possible, Education Commission of the States reached out to state and system officials to verify our information.

State Overview

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education is a statewide coordinating board for public postsecondary education and oversees independent degree-granting institution authorization. Colorado's Department of Higher Education is the administrative agency charged with carrying out the board's policies and overseeing various programs, including student financial aid and credit transfer, and providing data and information services. The department's executive director is appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. Individual boards, with members appointed by the governor, govern the campuses of Colorado State University; while an elected board governs the University of Colorado campuses. The State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education governs the two-year colleges, except for two local district colleges.

| Data Point | Description |
|--|---|
| Single Statewide Coordinating or Governing Board/Agency | |
| Single Statewide Coordinating Board (or Agency) or Governing Board for All Public Higher Education | Yes |
| Statewide and Major Systemwide Coordinating Boards (or Agency) or Governing Boards | |
| Entity Name | Colorado Commission on Higher Education |
| Entity Function | Coordinating |



| Data Point | Description |
|---|--|
| Scope of Authority | Statewide |
| Legal Authority | Statutory |
| Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity | Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty) |
| Primary Responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements) - Approve institutional missions - Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer) - Develop master/strategic plans for state or system - Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning - License or approve/authorize specified institutions - Oversee residency requirements for tuition purposes - Recommend or approve establishing, merging or closing institutions - Review or approve facility/capital construction plans |
| Budget Role for Institutions | Review and recommend |
| New Academic Program Role | Limited academic program role |
| Academic Program Role Notes | For majority of cases, institutions do not need approval for new academic programs; exceptions include programs that are outside the statutorily defined role of their mission. The Commission does review programs for duplication and direct discontinuation of programs. |
| Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer | Governor with approval of Senate or legislature |
| Number of Board Members (Voting and Non-voting) | 11 |



| Data Point | Description |
|---|--|
| Number of Board Members Appointed, Serve Based on Role or Selected | 11 |
| Number of Board Members Elected through General Election | 0 |
| Board Member Composition and Selection | 11 members appointed by governor with consent of Senate. |
| Do Institutions Governed (or Coordinated) by a Postsecondary System Board have Individual Governing Boards? | Not applicable |
| Type of Institutions with Individual Governing Boards | Not applicable |
| Type of Institutions without Individual Governing Boards | Not applicable |
| Website | https://highered.colorado.gov/ |
| Citations | Colorado Revised Statute, Title 23, Article 1 Colorado Commission on Higher Education Policies and Procedures |
| Agencies and System Offices Affiliated with Coordinating and Governing Boards | |
| Entity Name | Colorado Department of Higher Education |
| Entity Function | Administrative/service |
| Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity | Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty) |
| Website | https://highered.colorado.gov/default.html |



| Data Point | Description |
|---|---|
| Administrative and Advisory Entities | |
| Entity Name | Not applicable |
| Other Postsecondary System and Multi-Campus Institutional Boards | |
| Entity Name | University of Colorado Board of Regents |
| Entity Function | Governing |
| Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity | Public four-year |
| Website | https://www.cu.edu/regents |
| Other Postsecondary System and Multi-Campus Institutional Boards | |
| Entity Name | Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System |
| Entity Function | Governing |
| Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity | Public four-year |
| Website | http://www.csusystem.edu/board-of-governors/board-members |
| Other Postsecondary System and Multi-Campus Institutional Boards | |
| Entity Name | State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education (Colorado) |
| Entity Function | Governing |



| Data Point | Description |
|---|---|
| Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity | Public two-year |
| Website | https://www.cccs.edu/about-cccs/state-board/ |
| Membership Organizations | |
| Entity Name | Independent Higher Education of Colorado |
| Entity Function | Membership |
| Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity | Independent/non-profit |
| Website | No website available |