

Connecticut State Profile

November 1, 2020

State profiles for the 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

Connecticut does not have a single statewide or systemwide coordinating or governing board for public higher education. The Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education governs a system of state colleges, community colleges and a public online college, which do not have local boards. The governing board appoints the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system. The system office implements the board’s policies, oversees academic and operational programs, and provides services to the institutions. The board of regents adopted the Students First Plan in June 2018 and reaffirmed the plan in December 2019 to consolidate the system’s 12 community colleges into a single, accredited institution; however, the plan is not expected to be fully implemented until 2023-24. A separate board governs the University of Connecticut, which also has an administrative arm. The Connecticut Office of Higher Education is an administrative/service agency that, among other responsibilities, provides data and information services and administers student financial aid. The governor appoints the executive director of the agency.

Data Point	Description
Single Statewide Coordinating Board/Agency or Governing Board and State Postsecondary Governance Models	
Single Statewide Coordinating Board (or Agency) or Governing Board for All Public Higher Education	No



Data Point	Description
State Postsecondary Governance Model	One or more major, systemwide coordinating or governing board and Administrative/service agency
Statewide and Major Systemwide Coordinating Boards (or Agency) or Governing Boards	
Entity Name	Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education
Entity Function	Governing
Scope of Authority	Systemwide
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"> - Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders - Approve institutional missions - Conduct policy research and analysis - Develop master/strategic plans for state or system - Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning - Ensure academic program and/or institutional quality - Govern systems and/or institutions - Monitor or evaluate system/institutional effectiveness - Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions - Recommend or approve establishing, merging or closing institutions - Review existing academic programs
Budget Role for Institutions	Approve and recommend
New Academic Program Role	Review and approve



Data Point	Description
Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer	Governing board
Number of Board Members (Voting and Non-voting)	21
Number of Board Members Appointed Based on Role or Selected	15
Number of Board Members Elected through General Election	0
Board Member Composition and Selection	21 members with 15 voting members and 6 non-voting ex-officio members; 9 appointed by governor; 4 appointed by legislative leadership, with 1 K-12 education specialist and 3 alumni of the community colleges, Connecticut State Universities, and/or Charter Oak State College; 2 students who are chair and vice-chair of Student Advisory Committee. Non-voting ex-officio members include commissioners of education, economic and community development, labor and public health, and chair and vice chair of Faculty Advisory Committee.
Do Institutions Governed (or Coordinated) by a Postsecondary System Board have Individual Governing Boards?	No
Type of Institutions with Individual Governing Boards	Not applicable
Type of Institutions without Individual Governing Boards	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)
Website	http://www.ct.edu/regents



Data Point	Description
Citations	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10a-1 Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education Policies
Agencies and System Offices Affiliated with Coordinating and Governing Boards	
Entity Name	Board of Regents for Connecticut State Colleges & Universities System Office
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	http://www.ct.edu/
Administrative and Advisory Entities	
Entity Name	Connecticut Office 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)
Primary Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administer federal programs - Administer student financial aid and/or loans - Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements) - Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer) - License or approve/authorize specified institutions - Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success - Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions



Data Point	Description
Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer	Governor with approval of Senate or legislature
Website	http://www.ctdhe.org/
Citations	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10a-1
Administrative and Advisory Entities	
Entity Name	Connecticut Higher Education Coordinating Council
Entity Function	Advisory
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year and public two-year
Primary Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and/or oversee accountability measures - Ensure system/institutional efficiencies
Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer	Not applicable
Website	http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?q=504182
Citations	Conn. Gen. Stat Ann § 10a-6a and 6b
Other Postsecondary System and Multi-Campus Institutional Boards	
Entity Name	University of Connecticut Board of Trustees
Entity Function	Governing
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year
Website	http://boardoftrustees.uconn.edu/
Membership Organizations	



Data Point	Description
Entity Name	Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
Entity Function	Membership
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Independent/non-profit
Website	http://www.theccic.org/