

Mississippi 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

Mississippi does not have a single statewide or systemwide coordinating or governing board for public postsecondary education. The Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Higher Education Institutions governs the system of public four-year institutions and appoints the commissioner. The system office implements board policies, administers various programs and provides services to the institutions, which do not have local governing boards. The Mississippi Community College Board is a coordinating board for two-year institutions and appoints the executive director. The affiliated administrative office carries out board policies, administers programs, and provides data and research services to the institutions, which are governed by local boards. The Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board administers financial aid programs and provides outreach and access programs related to financial support for students.

Data Point	Description
Single Statewide Coordinating or Governing Board/Agency	
Single Statewide Coordinating Board (or Agency) or Governing Board for All Public Higher Education	No
Statewide and Major Systemwide Coordinating Boards (or Agency) or Governing Boards	
Entity Name	Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Education



Data Point	Description
Entity Function	Governing
Scope of Authority	Systemwide
Legal Authority	Constitutional
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year
Primary Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders - Approve or administer bonds - Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements) - Approve presidential hiring and/or compensation - Approve institutional missions - Approve of or award degrees and credentials - Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer) - Develop master/strategic plans for state or system - Develop and/or oversee accountability or performance measures - Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning - Ensure system/institutional efficiencies - Ensure academic program and/or institutional quality - Govern systems and/or institutions - Monitor or evaluate system/institutional effectiveness - Promote or advocate for institutions - Review existing academic programs - Review or approve facility/capital construction plans
Budget Role for Institutions	Approve and recommend
New Academic Program Role	Review and approve
Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer	Governing board



Data Point	Description
Number of Board Members (Voting and Non-voting)	12
Number of Board Members Appointed, Serve Based on Role or Selected	12
Number of Board Members Elected through General Election	0
Board Member Composition and Selection	12 members, representing the three Supreme Court Districts, appointed by governor and confirmed by Senate.
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
Website	http://www.mississippi.edu/board/
Citations	Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-1. Management of state institutions of higher learning Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Education Policies and Bylaws
Statewide and Major Systemwide Coordinating Boards (or Agency) or Governing Boards	
Entity Name	Mississippi Community College Board
Entity Function	Coordinating



Data Point	Description
Scope of Authority	Systemwide
Legal Authority	Statutory
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public two-year
Primary Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administer online and/or out-of-state programs - Advise and/or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders - Develop and/or oversee accountability or performance measures - Engage in statewide or systemwide policy planning - License or approve/authorize specified institutions - Oversee residency requirements for tuition purposes - Promote or advocate for institutions
Primary Responsibilities Notes	While the system office staff have primary responsibility for administering federal programs, conducting research and providing information and data services, the coordinating board may exercise limited authority over these activities.
Budget Role for Institutions	Approve and recommend
New Academic Program Role	Review and approve
Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer	Coordinating board
Number of Board Members (Voting and Non-voting)	10
Number of Board Members Appointed, Serve Based on Role or Selected	10



Data Point	Description
Number of Board Members Elected through General Election	0
Board Member Composition and Selection	10 members appointed by governor with advice and consent of Senate; 2 members representing each of five Congressional districts; no 2 appointees can reside in same junior college district.
Do Institutions Governed (or Coordinated) by a Postsecondary System Board have Individual Governing Boards?	Yes
Type of Institutions with Individual Governing Boards	Public two-year
Type of Institutions without Individual Governing Boards	Not applicable
Website	http://mccb.edu/
Citations	Miss. Code Ann. § 37-4-3 Mississippi Community College Board Policies and Procedures Manual
Agencies and System Offices Affiliated with Coordinating and Governing Boards	
Entity Name	Mississippi State Institutions of Higher Education System Office
Entity Function	Administrative/service
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year
Website	http://www.ihl.state.ms.us/



Data Point	Description
Agencies and System Offices Affiliated with Coordinating and Governing Boards	
Entity Name	Mississippi Community College Board System Office
Entity Function	Administrative/service
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public two-year
Website	http://mccb.edu/
Administrative and Advisory Entities	
Entity Name	Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board
Entity Function	Financial aid agency
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 state financial aid programs and/or loans - Oversee programs for college outreach, access and/or success
Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer	Not applicable
Website	Link
Citations	Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-106 et. seq.
Other Postsecondary System and Multi-Campus Institutional Boards	
Entity Name	Not applicable
Membership Organizations	
Entity Name	Not applicable