Education Commission of the States serves as an extended policy team to all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. Since its creation by governors in 1965 as a way for states to join together for the improvement of education, the nation’s top education leaders have guided the work of Education Commission of the States.

Each state appoints seven Commissioners. They typically include the governor, a legislator from both the House and Senate, and four gubernatorial appointees, who are often the chief state school officer, a higher education leader, a state board member and/or other state-level education policymakers.

One Commissioner from each state is appointed to serve on Education Commission of the States Steering Committee. Steering Committee members serve a two-year term with the opportunity to serve additional terms if reappointed by the Nominating and Steering Committees.

Steering Committee members play an active role in facilitating the two-way communication between states and Education Commission of the States. Steering Committee members accomplish this by:

- Providing leadership among their state’s appointed Commissioners.
- Coordinating state visits by Education Commission of the States staff with key state education policy leaders.
- Working with Education Commission of the States staff to ensure their state’s budget includes annual dues and assist in the collection of the state dues.
- Serving on standing and special committees as needed.
- Assisting Education Commission of the States in identifying key state education policy issues.
- Sharing and increasing awareness of Education Commission of the States resources and services: research, reports, counseling and convenings.
- Attending and participating in Commissioners’ business sessions held twice a year during the Winter Commissioners Meeting and the National Forum on Education Policy.