

Knowing Your School/School District and Understanding Your Role Within School Administration

ASBO LSFM Certification Program

November 3, 2014

State Board of Education

- Nine members serve on the Board, including the Governor who serves as president of the Board.
- Eight members elected by district serve a four-year term.
- Elections for four board member positions are held on alternating two-year cycles.
- The Board appoints the State Superintendent of Education and the Chancellor of the Department of Postsecondary Education.

State Board of Education

- The State Board of Education establishes policies, prescribes minimum course content and exercises general control and supervision over the public elementary and secondary schools. The Board is required to adopt textbooks used in public schools. It adopts rules and regulations governing the education of exceptional and disabled children.

State Board of Education

- The Board constitutes the board of control for postsecondary education through the Alabama Community College System, Marion Military Institute, and the Alabama Technology Network (ATN). On recommendations of the Department of Postsecondary Education, and the Chancellor, it makes rules and regulations for the governing of each such institution, prescribes the courses of study to be offered, and the conditions for granting certificates, diplomas and/or degrees.

State Board of Education

- The Board appoints the president of each postsecondary college, directs and supervises expenditure of legislative appropriations, prescribes qualifications and tenure requirements for faculty, and establishes salary schedules. It is authorized to accept gifts, donations, money and real and personal property for the benefit of community and technical colleges, and to disseminate information. Subject to qualifications prescribed by the Board, the president of each, community and technical college appoints the faculty and staff of the respective college.

Department of Postsecondary Education

- In addition to 21 community colleges, 4 technical colleges, Marion Military Institute, and workforce development initiatives (ATN), the department now includes Adult Education (GED), private school licensure, and the state approving agency for veterans' programs.

State Board of Education

- The Board conducts investigations regarding the educational needs of Alabama and adopts rules for proper construction and sanitation for school buildings.

State Department of Education

- The State Department of Education executes educational policies for the schools of the State as authorized by law and determined by the State Board of Education.
- Its functions are carried out through the State Superintendent of Education and personnel of the State Department of Education, whom the State Superintendent directs.

State Department of Education

- Administers rules and resolutions adopted by the State Board of Education for elementary and secondary education and the Office of Disability Determination.
- Administers state laws and state funds appropriated for local school boards.
- Administers federal education funds and other federal funds when the department functions as a conduit for federal funds.

State Department of Education

- State Superintendent has the authority to review actions and orders of county and city boards of education, and of county superintendents and city superintendents in matters relating to finance and other matters seriously affecting educational interests.
- State Superintendent may request State Board approval to assume control of local school boards for financial, academic, and school safety and discipline issues.

Local Boards of Education

- 67 County Boards of Education. (All Elected.)
- 69 City Boards of Education as of October 1, 2014. (20 Elected and 49 Appointed By City Council)
- An incorporated municipality with 5000 or more inhabitants according to the federal census, may establish a city board of education.
- A city council may create a city board of education but cannot abolish the school board.

Local Boards of Education

- The School Board Governance Improvement Act of 2012 established new minimum qualifications for school board members , requires compliance with a code of conduct, and requires board members to participate in orientation and ongoing training.

County and City Superintendents

- All city superintendents are appointed by the city board of education.
- County superintendents of education are elected unless local legislation provides for the county board of education to be appointed instead of elected.

(As of October 1, 2014, 26 county superintendents are appointed and 41 are elected.)

Board of School Trustees

- A county board of education may appoint 3 parents or guardians of students at a school as school trustees for the school.
- The school principal serves as secretary for the board of school trustees.
- School trustees have the right to reject assignment of a teacher or principal to the school.
- School building is controlled by the trustees.

School Principals

- A principal employed by a local school system beginning July 1, 2000 does not have continuing service status. **Contract Principal.**
- Principals who had attained tenure could remain tenured and retain continuing service status.
- Contract principals are not covered by the Students First Act.