



LEADERSHIP TURNOVER: 2015 YEAR OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN STATE EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

Presidential election season brings increased attention to turnover in cabinet positions and Congress. However, when it comes to education, the most important leadership changes occur at the state level: among governors, state boards of education, state legislators, and state leaders of K–12 and higher education systems. That’s because, despite rhetoric to the contrary, education is primarily a state and local issue.

The last year was one of significant state education leadership turnover across the country. Given the number of states who saw new leaders take office — especially as state legislative sessions gear up — it’s critical that education stakeholders such as parents, community leaders, and business leaders be a consistent voice for keeping expectations high and improving student performance in their communities.

Turnover in four critical state education leadership roles — Governor, State Boards of Education, Chief (leader of K–12 system), and the State Higher Education Executive Officer, or SHEEO (leader of the postsecondary system) — can be seen in the tables that follow.¹ A few highlights of the leadership changes in 2015 (including changes announced through February 1, 2016):

- 14 new governors and new DC mayor;
- 31 states currently led by a different chief than when the 2014-15 school year began, including four new chiefs in 2016, 25 new chiefs in 2015, and two chiefs in the last months of 2014²;

- 16 new SHEEOs; and
- 95 new board members in 33 states, which represents nearly one fifth of all board members.
- Most states have seen significant leadership turn. Only seven states saw no leadership churn in these positions since the beginning of 2015. Thirty-two states saw a change in either a governor or K–12 chief; 10 states saw a change in *both* a governor and a K–12 chief. Four states saw complete turnover, welcoming a new governor, chief, SHEEO, and board members.

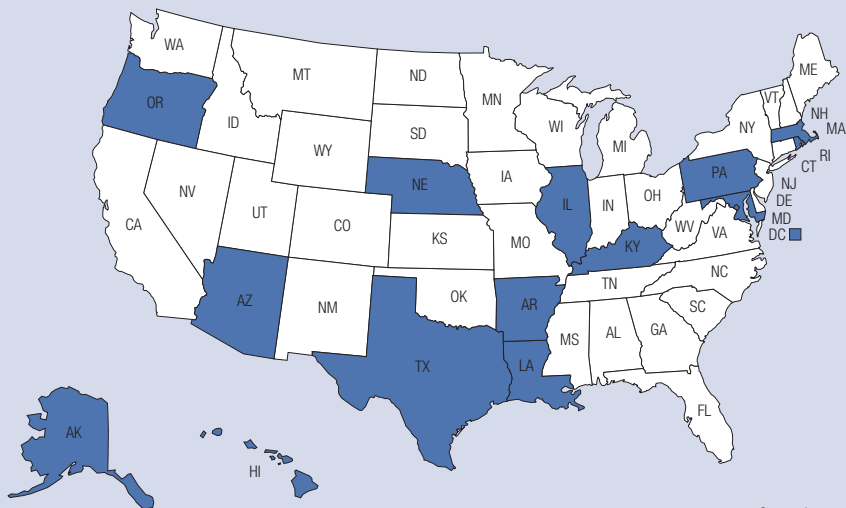
Looking ahead, we can expect more changes: several leaders are serving in acting or interim roles; 2016 brings term limits for many individuals on this list; and the November Presidential and Gubernatorial elections will trigger additional turnover (some voluntary, some not). Definite changes ahead include:

- At least *six new **governors***, due to term limits and announced retirements (Delaware, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia), with an *additional six governors* up for election;
- At least *two new **chiefs***, due to Washington’s elected chief choosing to not seek reelection in 2016 and Montana’s elected chief facing term limits in 2016, with an *additional four chiefs* in interim roles (Alaska, Maine, Maryland, Nevada) and *three chiefs* up for re-election (Indiana, North Carolina, North Dakota); and
- At least *three new **SHEEOs*** (Colorado, Missouri, North Carolina) due to announced retirements and transitions.
- Many **Board members’** terms concluded at the end of 2015 or will end during 2016, and successors will be named or elected.

¹ This does not capture additional turnover in other critical roles at the state level or in school districts, schools, unions, and support organizations that have significant impact on leading, teaching, and learning.

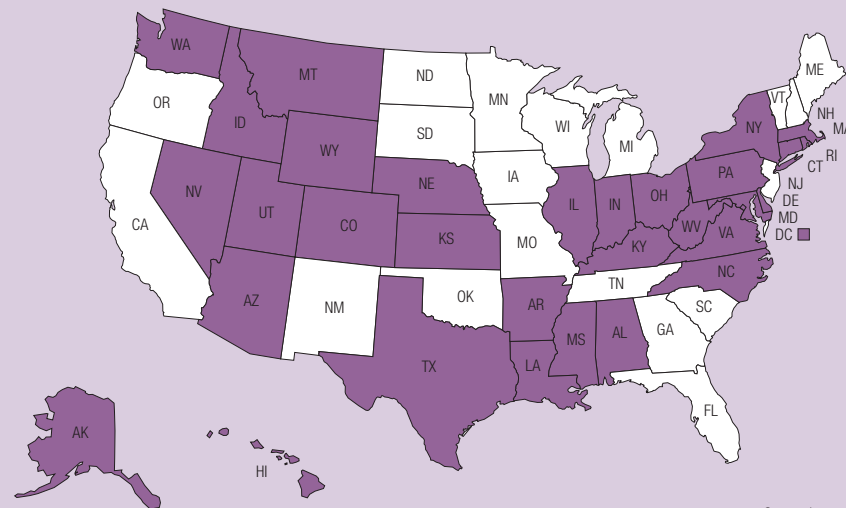
² This count includes New Jersey’s David Hespe and Utah’s Brad Smith, who began in November and December 2014 respectively and New Mexico’s Hannah Skandera, whose role was made permanent after serving in an interim capacity for 4 years.

New Governors (14 plus new D.C. mayor) ■ – Began role in 2015 or 2016



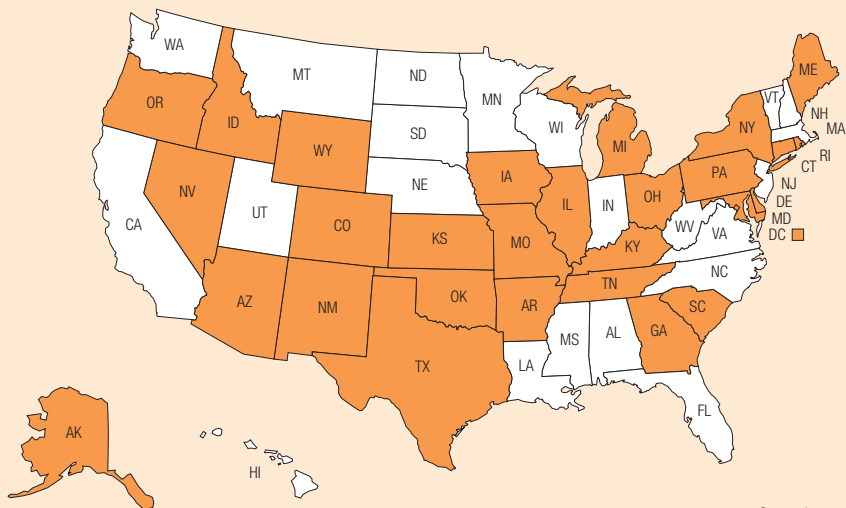
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New Board Members (95 in 33 states) ■ – Began role in 2015 or 2016



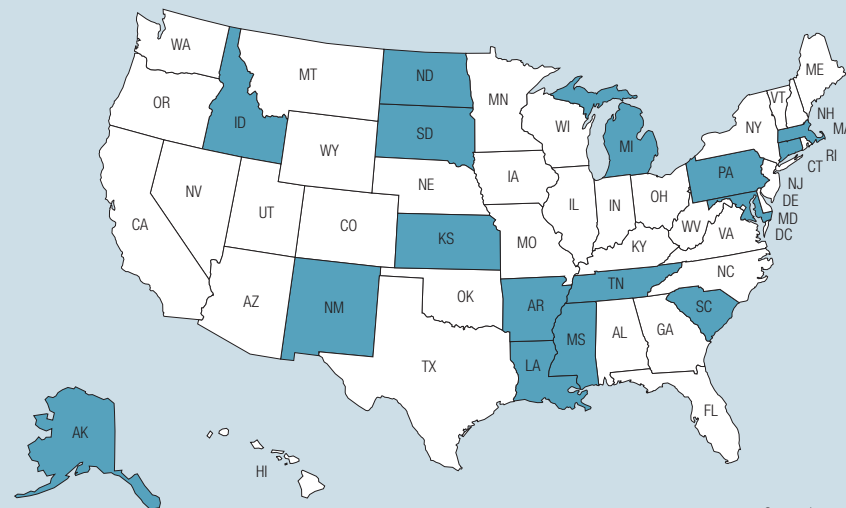
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New Chiefs (29) ■ – Began role in 2015 or 2016



Source: diymaps.net ©

New SHEEOs (16) ■ – Began role in 2015 or 2016



Source: diymaps.net ©



STATE LEADERSHIP CHURN: SNAPSHOT

State	New Governor	New Board Members	New Chief	New SHEEO
AL				
AK				
AZ				
AR				
CA				
CO				
CT				
DE				
DC				
FL				
GA				
HI				
ID				
IL				
IN				
IA				
KS				
KY				
LA				
ME				
MD				
MA				
MI				
MN				
MS				

■ New Governor
 ■ New Board Members
 ■ New Chief
 ■ New SHEEO

State	New Governor	New Board Members	New Chief	New SHEEO
MO				
MT				
NE				
NV				
NH				
NJ				
NM				
NY				
NC				
ND				
OH				
OK				
OR				
PA				
RI				
SC				
SD				
TN				
TX				
UT				
VT				
VA				
WA				
WV				
WI				
WY				



STATE LEADERSHIP CHURN: DETAILS

State	New Governor	New Board Members ¹	New Chief	New SHEEO ²
Alabama		2/8 voting members: Cynthia Sanders McCarty (Jan. 2015), Matthew Brown (Jul. 2015)		
Alaska	Bill Walker (R) (Jan. 2015)	2/7 voting members: Keith Hamilton (Mar. 2015), John Harmon (Apr. 2015)	Susan McCauley* (Mar. 2016)	Jim Johnsen (Jul. 2015)
Arizona	Doug Ducey (R) (Jan. 2015)	4/11 voting members, including chief: Tim Carter [^] , Michael Crow [^] , Jared Taylor, Chuck Schmidt (Mar. 2015)	Diane Douglas (R) (Jan. 2015)	
Arkansas	Asa Hutchinson (R) (Jan. 2015)	3/9 voting members: Charisse Dean, Brett Williamson, and Susan Chambers (Jul. 2015)	Johnny Key (Mar. 2015)	Brett Powell (Feb. 2015)
California		0/11 voting members, including student		
Colorado		3/7 voting members: Val Flores (Jan. 2015) Steve Durham* and Joyce Rankin (Aug. 2015)	Richard Crandall (Jan. 2016) ³	<i>pending</i> ⁴
Connecticut		3/11 voting members: Erik Clemons, William Davenport, and Malia Sieve (Nov. 2015)	Dianna Wentzell (May 2015)	
Delaware	<i>pending</i>	1/7 voting members: Nina Lou Bunting (Jun. 2015)	Steven Godowsky (Oct. 2015)	
District of Columbia	(Mayor) Muriel Bowser (D) (Jan. 2015)	3+/9 voting members: Ruth Wattenberg, Laura Wilson Phelan, and Joe Weedon (Jan. 2015)	Hanseul Kang (Feb. 2015)	

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¹ The description includes the number of new members as a fraction of the total number of voting members.

² State Higher Education Executive Officers are the chief executives of statewide governing, policy, and coordinating boards of postsecondary education. This table does not capture new members or pending term limits of these boards, only the designated SHEEO according to <http://www.sheeo.org/our-members>.

³ Elliott Asp was appointed interim Commissioner in June 2015. On January 4, 2016, Richard Crandall was selected for the permanent position.

⁴ Joe Garcia will transition to a new role as president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education by July 1, 2016.

KEY: [^] = Pending Confirmation by state legislature # = Interim * = New Member also serves as Chair + = Current member named new Chair (when known) Pending = 2016 changes planned due to resignations, elections, and term limits.



State	New Governor	New Board Members ¹	New Chief	New SHEEO ²
Florida		0+/7 voting members		
Georgia		0+/13 voting members	Richard Woods (R) (Jan. 2015)	
Hawaii	David Ige (D) (Jan. 2015)	3/9 voting members: Lance Mizumoto*, Maggie Cox, Hubert Minn (Jul. 2015)		
Idaho		1/8 voting members: Linda Clark (Jul. 2015)	Sherri Ybarra (R) (Jan. 2015)	Matt Freeman (Jun. 2015)
Illinois	Bruce Rauner (R) (Jan. 2015)	6/9 voting members: James T. Meeks (Jan. 2015), Lula Ford, Eligio Pimentel, Roberta Parks, and Craig Lindvahl (Feb. 2015), John Sanders (Mar. 2015).	Tony Smith (Apr. 2015)	
Indiana		5/11 voting members: Eddie Melton, Vince Bertram, and Lee Ann Kwiatkowski; Byron Ernest, Steve Yager (Jun. 2015)		
Iowa		0/9 voting members	Ryan Wise^ (Jul. 2015)	
Kansas		1+/10 voting members: Jim Porter (Jan. 2015)	Randy Watson (Jul. 2015)	Blake Flanders (Apr. 2015)
Kentucky	Matt Bevin (R) (Nov. 2015)	2/11 voting members: Sarah M. Ford (Oct. 2015), Susan Kaye Edington (Dec. 2015)	Stephen Pruitt (Oct. 2015)	
Louisiana	John Bel Edwards (Jan. 2016)	8/11 voting members: Tony Davis, Kathy Edmonston, Sandy Holloway, Gary Jones, Jada Lewis, Thomas Roque, Lurie Thomason, and Doris Voitier (Jan. 2016)		Joseph C. Rallo (Jan. 2015)

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State	New Governor	New Board Members ¹	New Chief	New SHEEO ²
Maine		0 ⁺ /7 voting members	Bill Beardsley [#] (Nov. 2015)	
Maryland	Larry Hogan (R) (Jan. 2015)	3/12 voting members (including student member): Andy Smarick, Chester Finn, Quinn M. Wandalowski (May 2015)	Jack Smith [#] (Aug. 2015)	James Fielder [^] (Jan. 2016) ⁵
Massachusetts	Charlie Baker (R) (Jan. 2015) ⁶	3/11 voting members (including student member): Paul Sagan* (Mar. 2015), Roland Fryer and Michael Moriarity (Sept. 2015)		Carlos Santiago (Jul. 2015)
Michigan		0/8 voting members	Brian Whiston (Jul. 2015)	Daniel Hurley (Jul. 2015)
Minnesota		N/A — No board		
Mississippi		2/9 voting members: Karen Elam (Jan. 2015), Jason Dean (Sept. 2015)		Glenn Boyce (Apr. 2015)
Missouri	<i>pending</i>	0 ⁺ /8 voting members	Margie Vandeven (Jan. 2015)	<i>pending</i> ⁷
Montana		2/7 voting members: Darlene Schottle (Jan. 2015), Tammy Lacey (Feb. 2016)	<i>pending</i> ⁸	
Nebraska	Pete Ricketts (R) (Jan. 2015)	2/8 voting members: Maureen Nichols, Patrick McPherson (Jan. 2015)		

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⁵ Jennie C. Hunter-Cevera was appointed interim Secretary of Maryland Higher Education in February 2015 but was never confirmed by the state senate. On January 8, 2016, James Fielder was appointed to the role pending confirmation.

⁶ In addition, Gov. Baker appointed Jim Peyser as Secretary of Education in January 2015. This is a unique role, different than the K–12 Chief.

⁷ David R. Russell announced that he will retire in early 2016.

⁸ Supt. Denise Juneau is not eligible for re-election in 2016.

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State	New Governor	New Board Members ¹	New Chief	New SHEEO ²
Nevada		5/7 voting members: Freeman Holbrook, Tonia Holmes-Sutton, Elaine Wynn* (Jan. 2015), Victor Wakefield (Jun. 2015), Pat Hickey (Jan. 2016) ⁹	Steve Canavero [#] (Aug. 2015)	
New Hampshire	<i>pending</i> ¹⁰	0/7 voting members		
New Jersey		0/13 voting members		
New Mexico		N/A — no board	Hanna Skandera ¹¹ (Feb. 2015)	Barbara Damron (Jan. 2015)
New York		4/16 voting members: Judith Chin, Judith Johnson, Beverly Ouderkirk, and Catherine Collins (Mar. 2015)	Mary Ellen Elia (May 2015)	
North Carolina		1/13 voting members: Eric Davis (Jan. 2015) ¹²		<i>pending</i> ¹³
North Dakota	<i>pending</i>	N/A — no board		Mark Hagerott (Jul. 2015)
Ohio		1/19 voting members: Frank Pettigrew (Oct. 2015)	Lonnie Rivera ^{#14} (Jan. 2016)	
Oklahoma		0/7 voting members	Joy Hofmeister (R) (Jan. 2015)	
Oregon	Kate Brown (D) (Feb. 2015)	0/7 voting members ¹⁵	Salam Noor (Jul. 2015)	
Pennsylvania	Tom Wolf (D) (Jan. 2015)	1/21 voting members ¹⁶ Nicole Carnicella (Feb. 2015)	Pedro Rivera (Apr. 2015)	Wil del Pilar [#] (Aug. 2015)

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⁹ Pending one additional appointment to succeed Allison Serafin, who resigned in Jan. 2016.

¹⁰ Confirmed after 4 years as designate.

¹¹ BOR Chancellor Tisch will not seek another term (ends Mar 2016).

¹² Additional appointment pending.

¹³ Margaret Spellings was appointed president of the University of North Carolina system and will begin her role in March of 2016.

¹⁴ Lonnie Rivera was chosen as the interim superintendent but withdrew from the permanent position.

¹⁵ New Secretary of State, Jeanne Atkins, serves as an Ex-Officio Board Member.

¹⁶ The PA Board of Education includes a 10 person Council of Basic Education and a ten person Council of Higher Education.

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Rhode Island	Gina Raimondo (D) (Jan. 2015)	6/11 voting members: Barbara Cottam* (Jan 2015), Jim Karam, Marta Martinez, Betsy Shimberg (Feb. 2015), William Foulkes and Daniel McConaghy (Jun. 2015) ¹⁷	Ken Wagner (Jul. 2015)	
South Carolina		0+/17 voting members	Molly Spearman (R) (Jan. 2015)	Gary Glenn# (Sept. 2015)
South Dakota		2/9 voting members: Susan Aguilar, Scott Herman (Jan. 2016)		Michael G. Rush (Jun. 2015)
Tennessee		0/10 voting members, including student member	Candice McQueen (Jan. 2015)	Russ Deaton# (Jan. 2015)
Texas	Greg Abbott (R) (Jan. 2015)	1+/15 voting members: Erika Beltran (Jan. 2015)	Mike Morath (Jan. 2016)	
Utah		7/15 voting members: Laura Belnap, Brittney Cummins, Linda Hansen, Mark Huntsman, Spencer Stokes, and Joel Wright (Jan. 2015), Stan Lockhart (Jul. 2015)		
Vermont	<i>pending</i>	0/9 voting members, including student member ¹⁸		
Virginia		1+/9 voting members: Elizabeth Vickrey Lodal (Feb. 2015) ¹⁹		

¹⁷ Foulkes is named Chair, Council on Postsecondary and McConaghy is named Chair, Council on Elementary and Secondary Education.

¹⁸ Student members are elected for two years, but only serve as voting member in the second year.

¹⁹ Additional appointment pending.

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State	New Governor	New Board Members ¹	New Chief	New SHEEO ²
Washington		2/14 voting members (including chief): Janis Avery (Jan. 2015); Mona Bailey (Jul. 2015)	<i>pending</i> ²⁰	
West Virginia	<i>pending</i>	2/9 voting members: James Wilson and Beverly Kingery (Jan. 2015)		
Wisconsin		N/A — no board		
Wyoming		1 ⁺ /11 voting members: Nate Breen (Feb. 2015)	Jillian Balow (R) (Jan. 2015)	<i>pending</i> ²¹

²⁰ Superintendent Randy Dorn won't seek re-election in 2016.

²¹ University of Wyoming Dick McGinty will retire at the end of his contract in summer 2016.

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