

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

(Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] 385.017 - 385.100)

DESCRIPTION

Duties: Pursuant to NRS 385.075, the State Board of Education establishes policies to govern the administration of all functions of the State of Nevada relating to supervision, management, and control of public schools not conferred by law on some other agency. In addition, NRS 385.080 authorizes the State Board to adopt regulations for its own government and as necessary for the execution of the powers and duties conferred upon it by law. Pursuant to NRS 385.3469 and NRS 385.34691, the State Board prepares a report of accountability and a corresponding plan to improve the achievement of pupils in the State of Nevada.

Selection Process: Pursuant to NRS 385.021, the State Board consists of ten members elected statewide.

Budget: For Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-2010, the budget for the State Board is approximately \$60,600. Of this amount, \$11,000 is for member salaries, \$22,000 is for national membership dues, and \$27,600 is for operating costs. In addition, a 1.0 full-time equivalent employee of the Department of Education provides support to the Board.

Communication Structure:

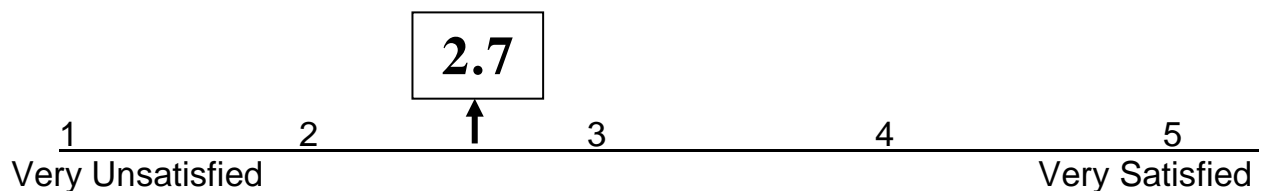
- ✓ Superintendent of Public Instruction: Pursuant to NRS 385.150, the State Board of Education appoints the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a term of three years.
- ✓ Department of Education: The State Board approves the positions necessary to be employed for the efficient operation of the Department.
- ✓ School Districts: (a) Pursuant to NRS 385.110, the State Board of Education prescribes and enforces the courses of study for public schools in the State of Nevada. (b) Pursuant to NRS 390.140, the State Board makes the final selection of all textbooks to be used in the public school in Nevada, except for charter schools. (c) Pursuant to NRS 389.012 and NRS 389.015, the State Board prescribes standards for the testing program in the State of Nevada.

- ✓ Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools: Pursuant to NRS 385.110, the courses of study prescribed and enforced by the State Board must comply with the standards of content and performance established by the Council.
- ✓ Charter Schools: Pursuant to NRS 386.515, the State Board of Education is a sponsor of charter schools, under certain circumstances.

SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents: 52 Surveys, Representing 93 Respondents

How satisfied are you with the State Board's process for establishing policies to govern the administration of all functions of the State of Nevada relating to supervision, management and control of public schools? (n=46 Surveys)



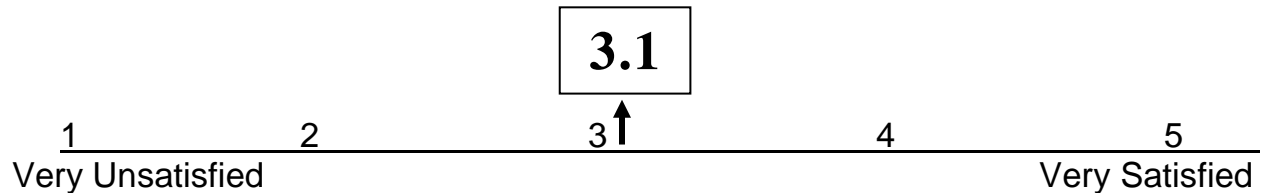
Comments:

- Members are not knowledgeable about the educational issues for which they must make decisions. (n=9) [Members frequently do not comprehend their boundaries, are unprofessional, and struggle following the open meeting law.] [Members have difficulty making decisions or using sound judgment.] [Members do not have the expertise, and sometimes the work ethic to address the issues facing public education.] [The members seem out of touch with the school districts, schools, students, and parents.] [The State Board seems oblivious to or disinterested in major policy issues nationally.] [Members do not attend any meetings concerning education and never show up to Session hearings concerning education unless there is a bill to eliminate them.] [Members of the State Board never come forward and express the need to improve student achievement in this State.] [The Board appears to have no capacity to identify timely issues such as Race to the Top and take a leadership role.] [The Board used to be more active. I have not seen anything substantial out of these people since the mid-80s.] [We must have experts and lay people who have reaped the benefits of an educational system before they judge the system.]
- More authority, oversight, and trust needs to be delegated to this group in order to effectively administer education in Nevada. (n=5) [The Board has been unable to govern the administration of all functions of education in the State as it should.] [The State Board, as it currently stands, is

inconsequential.] [The Board is not well respected in the educational community and their requests are not given due respect by the Legislature.] [The State Board's power has been diluted. In previous years the Board seemed rudderless. It has not been until recently that the State Board has become more organized and efficient.]

- The State Board needs to make Nevada's education system accountable. (n=2) [Although the State Board recommends policies to school districts, there are few mechanisms in place to enforce implementation of the policies.] [The State board needs to focus on accountability measures, transparency of the accountability measures, and communication to the community so that the community can make school districts more accountable.]
- A reconfigured Board would be the best entity to establish policies. (n=2) [The State Board needs the correct support and the possible appointment of a third of its members.]
- The State Board works well with the Department of Education. (n=1)
- The State Board ensures that issues are properly researched before they are brought forward for comment, input, and ultimately Board policy action. (n=1)
- The State Board does a very good job given the fact that they are elected officials who hold other full-time jobs. (n=1)

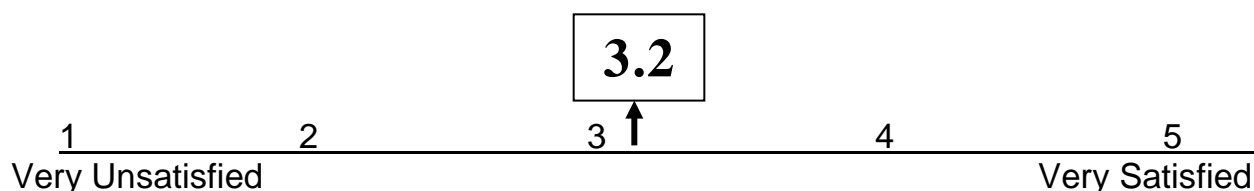
How satisfied are you with the State Board's process for adopting regulations concerning elementary and secondary education in the State of Nevada? (n=45 Surveys)



Comments:

- The process for adopting regulations utilizes key stakeholders and is very thoroughly done. (n=4) [The majority of the regulations coming to the Board for adoption have been researched and recommended by the education community.]
- Members are not knowledgeable about the educational issues for which they must make decisions. (n=3) [Every member has his own agenda at the expense of student achievement.] [Members do not have the depth of understanding necessary to make decisions and are sometimes led by staff.] [Board members adopt regulations but appear to not understand most of what they are adopting.] [As long as someone else has directed them to do it, they are ok. Most of the regulations the Board approves come from other groups.]
- The communication link between the State Board/Department of Education and the school districts/other entities is not strong. (n=2) [There is not a good system for letting school districts know what policies and regulations they must adopt.] [Due to the creation of several commissions that take decisions away from the Board, there is very little cohesive policy and strategy across the State and total educational governance structure.]
- The process of adopting regulations is a tedious and somewhat inefficient process; however, the State Board does a good job of following the rules. (n=2)
- The rural school districts need more input into the system. (n=1)
- The Department needs sufficient staff to appropriately address the involvement of stakeholders in regulations. (n=1)

How satisfied are you with the State Board's process for preparing a state level report of accountability and a corresponding plan to improve the achievement of pupils in the State of Nevada? (n=45 Surveys)



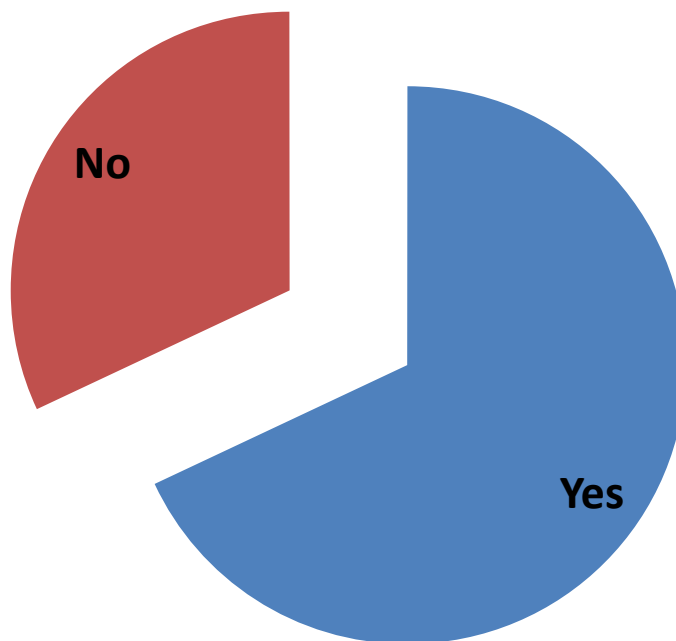
Comments:

- The State Board and Department need experts to appropriately assess, monitor, and develop a quality plan for improvement. (n=7) [The State Plan for Improvement is a document that sits on a book shelf – it is not a working plan. The State Plan should be a working document that drives education policy in this State.] [The Department does not have staffs that are experts in developing improvement plans. The State Board does not have the expertise to approve the plan. Adequate funding is needed to acquire the necessary experts.] [The State Board can do very little to improve student achievement because they are so removed from the classroom. The State Board involves a lot of people in creating the State Plan, but, at the end of the day, the State Board seems to shy away from the big issues they could tackle to improve student achievement.] [The State Plan for Improvement has no timeline and target dates.] [It is a pretty useless report that has a lot of fluff, but does not really come to grips with trends and problems in the State.] [The report is developed, but is not informative as to solutions, goals, outcomes, and needs.]
- The report of accountability and corresponding plan is an excellent process for improving education in Nevada. (n=4) [The success of the plan is due to the State Superintendent and his staff.] [The plan has provided some good guidance and direction.] [Overall this process is sound.]
- The State Board has little involvement in development of the State Improvement Plan. (n=4) [My understanding is that the Department of Education prepares the report.] [This function seems to be directly delegated to the Department staff without much direction from the State Board.] [The Department does an excellent job; the State Board has little influence on the outcome of the accountability report and Plan.]

- The State Improvement Plan is not a sound document to use in guiding the improvement of the current state of education in Nevada. (n=2) [The State Improvement Plan is not a research report and is not based on the principles found to be most effective in education. A State Improvement Plan based on anything other than research and empirical support is rubbish and waste of taxpayers' money.]
- The content of the accountability report is lacking in some areas, such as teacher information. (n=1)
- The communication link between the State Board/Department of Education and the school districts/other entities is not strong. (n=1) [What is the strategic plan to improve? How is this plan communicated down to the local level and other State players?]

Based upon your knowledge, is there a need in Nevada to continue the Board in its current form? (n=44 Surveys)

Need to Continue the State Board of Education?

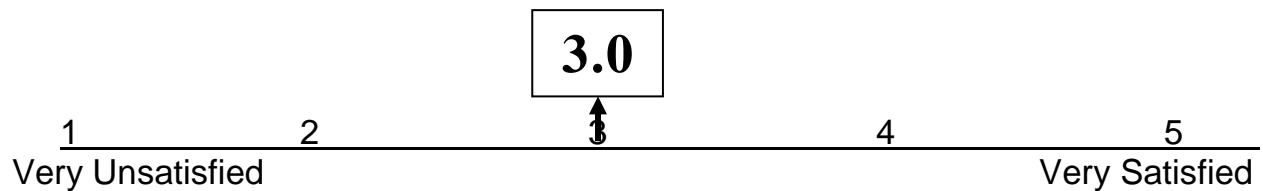


Yes	68%	n=30
No	32%	n=14
TOTAL	100%	n=44

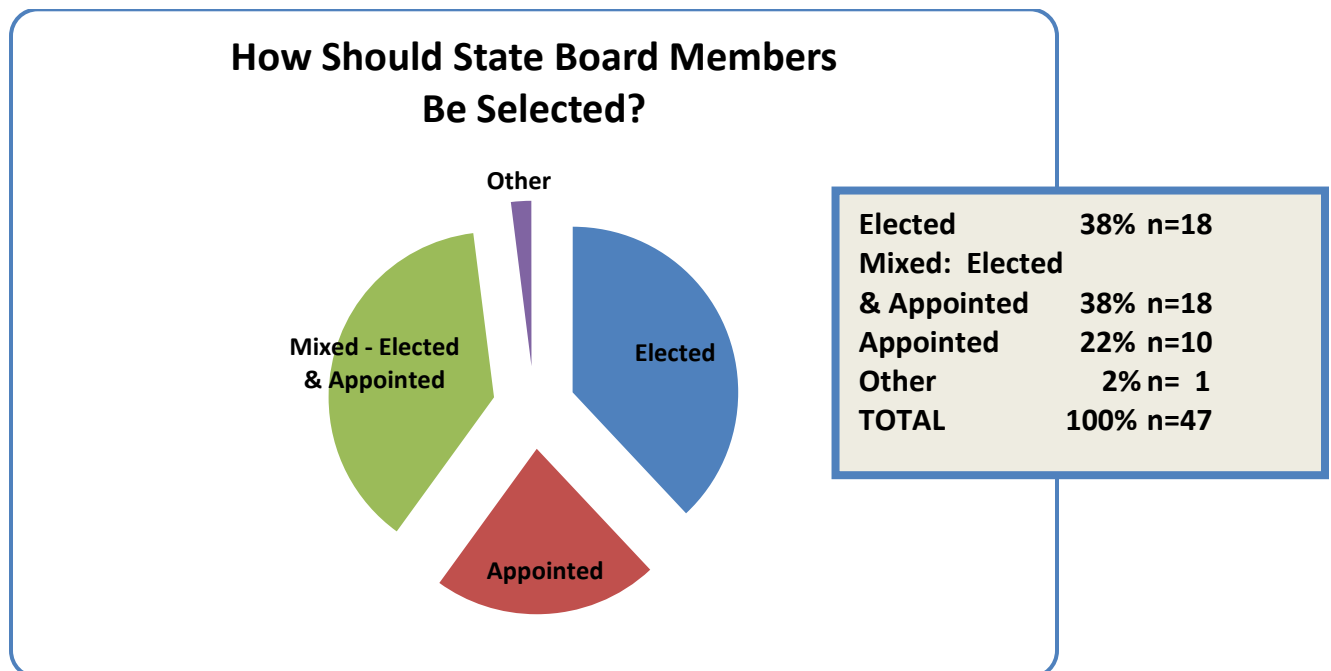
SELECTION PROCESS FOR STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Current Membership: The State Board of Education is comprised of ten members and a nonvoting student representative. Members are elected on a nonpartisan ballot for four-year terms and are limited to three consecutive terms.

How satisfied are you with the selection process for State Board members? (n=46 Surveys)



Within your ideal system for public education governance, what process should be utilized to select members of the State Board of Education? (n=47 Surveys)



Within your ideal system for public education governance, how many State Board members should there be? (n=42 Surveys)

MEMBERS	PERCENT
9	31% (n=13)
7	24% (n=10)
11	19% (n=8)
13	10% (n=4)
Other (12, 15 &17)	9% (n=4)
10 (current system)	7% (n=3)
	100% (n=42)

Comments Concerning the Selection Process for State Board Members:

Elected Process

- The election of members of the State Board is irrelevant to most Nevadans. (n=3) [People do not know who the candidates are or what the State Board does.] [I doubt Nevadans will miss State Board members on the ballot.] [The average voter is uninformed about State Board candidate backgrounds.]
- There should be a member elected from each county. (n=1)
- The State Board should be a full-time board. Members should be elected and paid, accordingly. (n=1)
- The members should continue to be elected. If appointed, there will be no check on decisions made. The members will follow the wishes of those who appoint them. (n=1)

Appointed Process

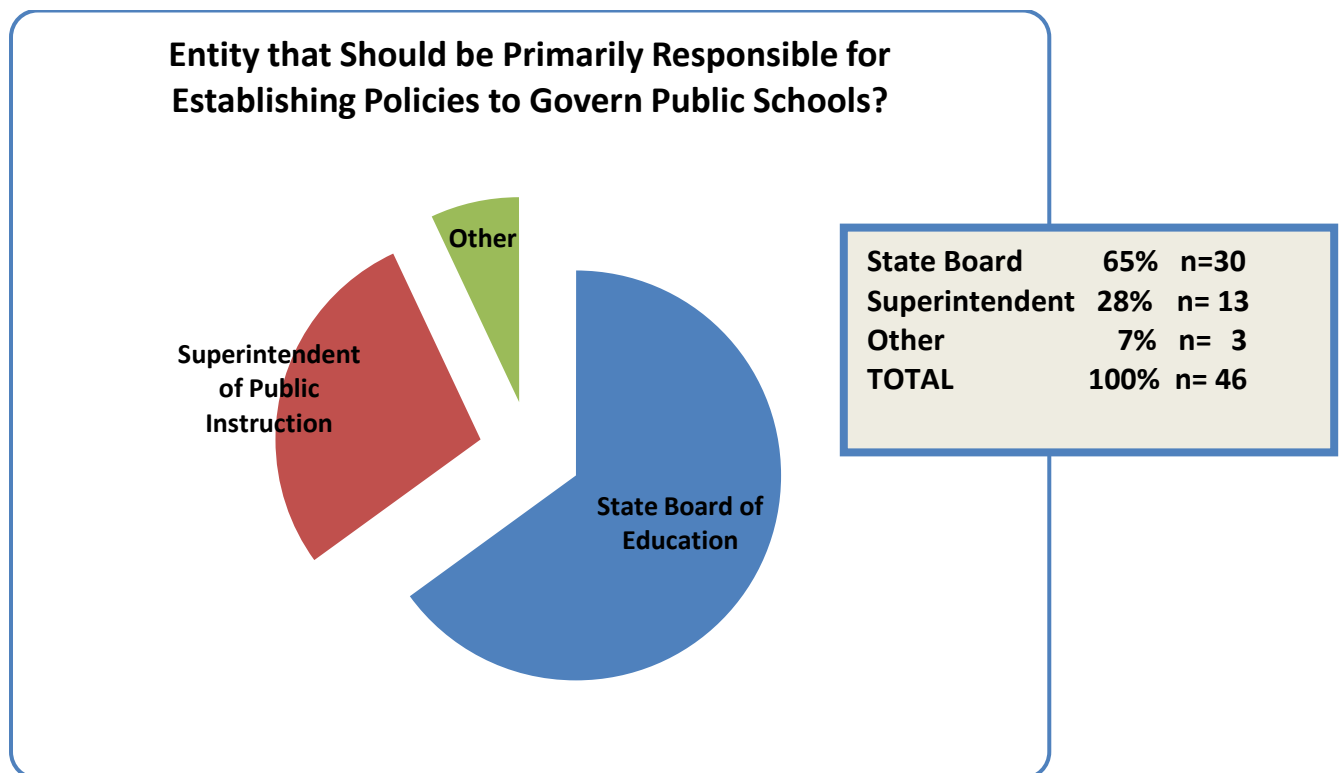
- Appointments should be split between the Executive and Legislative Branches. (n=6)
- Members who are knowledgeable of education should be appointed. (n=4) [Membership should include business representatives, practicing teachers (rural and urban), and practicing school administrators.] [Leadership skills and political knowledge are a must.]
- The Governor should nominate the members and the Legislature should confirm the members. (n=2)
- Possibly allow for nominations from certain groups. (n=2) [The Governor and Legislature should not be bound to the recommendations.]
- Appointments should be split between the two Legislative Branches. (n=1)
- The members should be local school board members, who have at least two years of local board experience; the appointments should be made by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Association of School Boards. This way, you have members who are elected by the public (locally) but who are appointed to the State Board by their peers. (n=1)

- The Superintendent of Public Instruction should appoint some members. (n=1)

Mixed Process (elected and appointed)

- More than half should be elected. Appointments should be split between the Executive and Legislative Branches (n=2) [One-third of the members should be appointed.]
- More than half should be elected. Appointments should be made by a bipartisan group of legislators. (n=1)
- More than half should be elected. The Governor should nominate the appointed members and the Legislature should confirm the members. (n=1)
- There must be fair representation from the north and south. (n=1)
- The appointments should be made from key stakeholders in education, parents, educators, researchers, and key minority groups. (n=1)
- The appointments should be made by the Governor. (n=1)
- Five elected members (statewide) and four appointed members (by Governor and Legislature). (n=1)

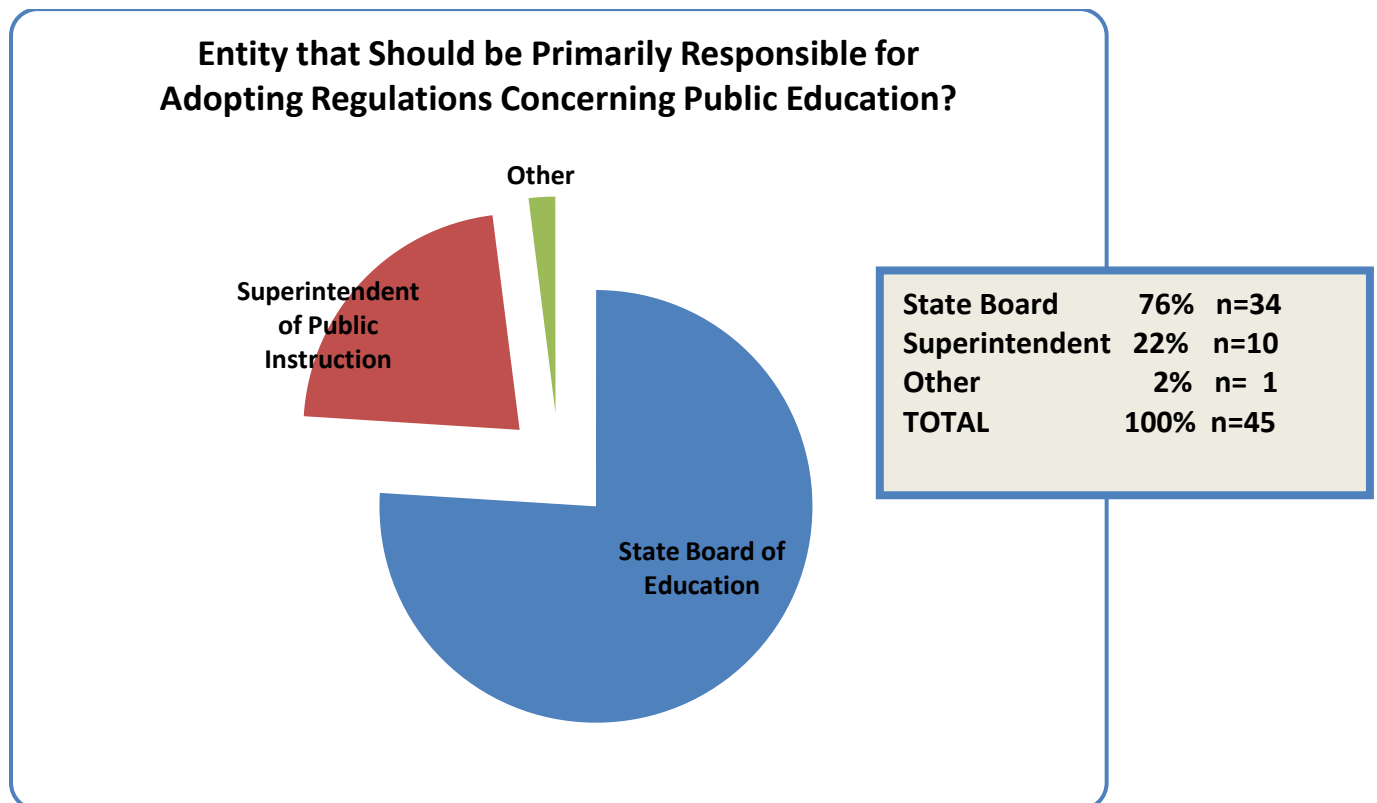
Within your ideal system for public education governance, which entity should be primarily responsible for establishing policies to govern the administration of all functions of the State of Nevada relating to supervision, management and control of public schools? (n= 46 Surveys)



Comments:

- Need checks and balances. (n=3) [No one entity should be able to change policy at will.] [Input is needed from affected entities.]
- The Superintendent should establish policies, using the expertise of the Department. (n=2) [Decisions should not be based on politics.] [The Superintendent knows the nuances of the Nevada educational system and is best equipped to establish meaningful and efficient policy that will positively influence student learning.]
- See the State of Florida's policies. (n=1)

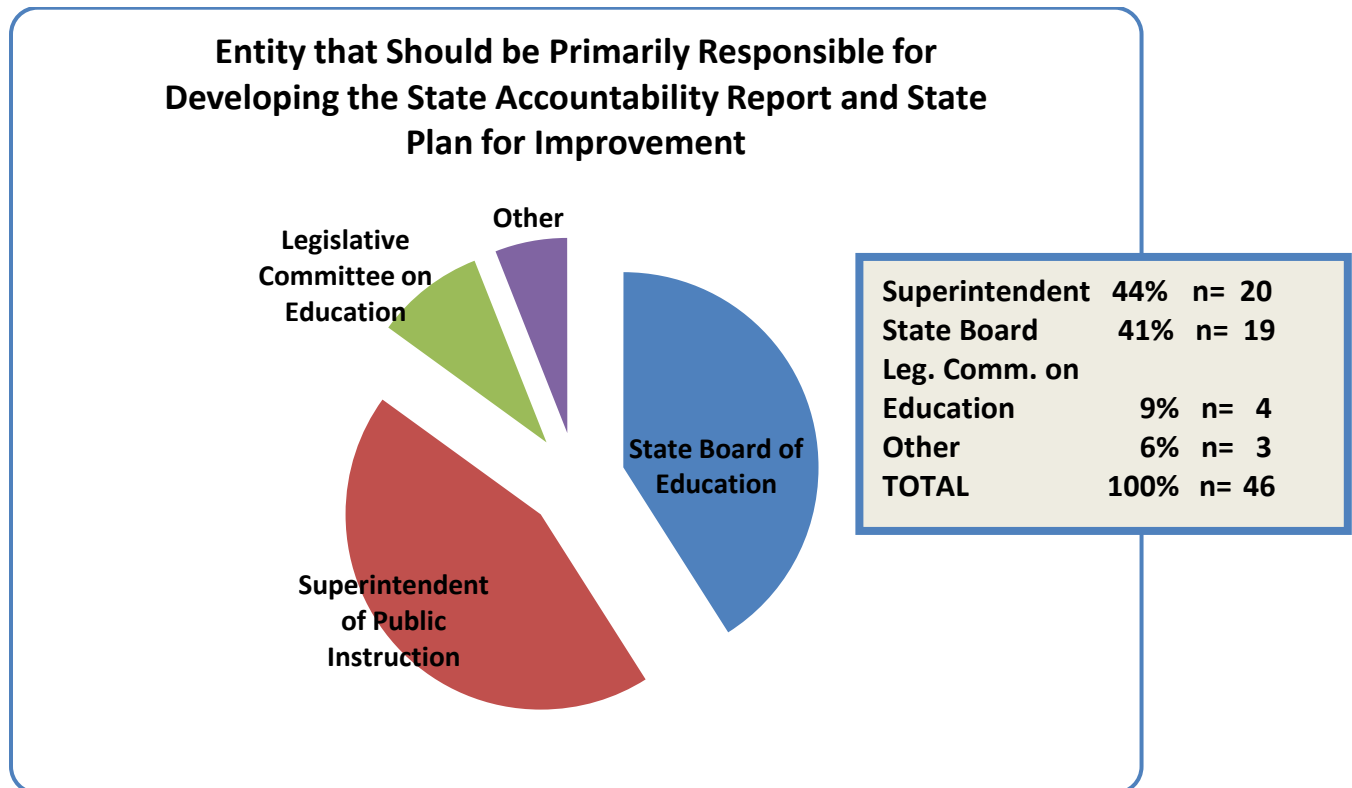
Within your ideal system for public education governance, which entity should be primarily responsible for adopting regulations concerning elementary and secondary education in the State of Nevada? (n= 45 Surveys)



Comments:

- The State Superintendent proposes the regulations and the State Board approves. (n=2)
- The State Board needs to be knowledgeable of the diverse community needs for which regulations are being proposed. (n=2)
- Should have input from school districts and the School Board's association. (n=1)

Within your ideal system for public education governance, which entity should be primarily responsible for preparing a report of accountability and a corresponding plan to improve the achievement of pupils in the State of Nevada? (n=46 Surveys)



Comments:

- The State Board should develop the State Plan for Improvement with input from the State Superintendent, Department staff, and the educational community. (n=6)
- The Legislative Committee on Education should be involved. (n=2)
- The local boards should be involved. (n=1)
- The State Superintendent should develop and approve the reports. (n=1)

If the State Board is continued, the following ideas represent revisions to increase the Board's effectiveness.

- The makeup of the State Board must be revised. (n=18) [Improve efficiency by having one Board oversee all functions of education. Eliminate all of the other commissions and councils. (n=8)] [The revised Board's responsibilities and authority should be clearly defined by the Legislative Committee on Education, with input from key stakeholders.] [Some members of the Board must have extensive expertise in the theory and practice of education, as well as educational administration.] [Need a smaller Board, with a strong State Superintendent.] [Members must know the legislative process.] [Members must be leaders in education and be able to express the education needs of Nevada to the Governor and Legislature, not the other way around.] [The State Board needs to be more accountable and active.]
- Improve communication between the State Board and key stakeholders in education. (n=3) [The State Board needs to listen to the various committees that are creating education documents. The Board also needs to listen to teachers and district superintendents.] [The State Board needs a stronger relationship with the local school districts.]
- The State Board should be advisory, made up of local school board trustees to recommend policies to the Legislative Committee on Education and the State Superintendent. (n=1)
- Appointed State Board members should promulgate regulations and appoint the State Superintendent. All commissions and councils should become advisory to the Superintendent and should meet regularly. The Superintendent should take the recommendations to the State Board for discussion. (n=1)
- The State Board needs to hold monthly meetings, which will require additional funds. (n=1)