

EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARDS

Current System for Regulating Educators

- The State Board of Education and its administrative arm, the State Department of Education, are charged with setting and overseeing educator standards and certification.
- Connecticut has two standing educator advisory councils – one each for teachers and administrators – which is considered a form of a standards board.
- The advisory councils' roles are limited to developing codes of professional responsibility (i.e., ethics), and to making recommendations on proposals affecting educators.

Educator Regulation Models in Other States

- Among the states, educator professional standards boards vary in terms of authority, scope, and composition; a handful of states do not have any type of board.
- Some boards directly handle the functions that, in Connecticut, the state board and education agency complete; others have one or a few of the functions, or, like Connecticut's councils, no decision-making authority.

State Characteristics

- Model states were determined by finding states with similar characteristics regarding student demographics and performance, and teacher and education system features.
- The seven states whose educator professional standards boards will serve as case studies are: Kentucky; Maryland; Massachusetts; New Jersey; Oregon; Rhode Island; and, Washington.

Other Licensed Professions in Connecticut

- Of the 34 other Connecticut licenses issued by the executive branch that require at least a bachelor's degree, 20 (59 percent) are regulated by a professional standards board and, except for one, a state agency.
- Firefighters and police, like educators, are mainly public unionized employees, but each is governed by an independent standards board.