
INTRODUCTION

Scope and Acknowledgements

Scope

W.S. 28-8-107(b) authorizes the Legislative Service Office to conduct program evaluations, performance audits, and analyses of policy alternatives. Generally, the purpose of such research is to provide a base of knowledge from which policymakers can make informed decisions.

In June 2005, the Management Audit Committee directed staff to review K-12 education governance at the state level, with a focus on the working relationship between the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education. We addressed the following questions:

- What is the history of the Superintendent position and the Board, how were they originally intended to share authority at the state level, and how has that relationship evolved?
- Do barriers to cooperation exist between the Superintendent and the Board?
- How do other states with similar governance structures reconcile superintendent/board differences?
- What options does the Legislature have in adjusting state-level education governance responsibilities?

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