

Governance of the Southern Regional Education Board

The Southern Regional Education Board, established in 1948, is an interstate education compact of 16 states. It is the oldest regional education compact in the nation and the only one that focuses on all levels of education from pre-kindergarten through workforce. SREB's mission is to guide and support states as they advance all levels of education to improve the social and economic vitality of the region. SREB publishes research, convenes and engages policymakers and education leaders, and supports actions by states to improve learning environments, strengthen college and career readiness, increase postsecondary attainment, and raise economic prospects.

The Board

The Board guides the work of SREB as it leads efforts to improve education in the South.

Responsibilities

- SREB staff plan a visit to each capitol, generally during the legislative session, and may contact Board members in advance to schedule an appointment and seek advice on any other visits that should be scheduled.
- The Board is responsible for adopting the annual budget for SREB, and members are copied on the appropriation request for their state.
- Members of the Board may also be invited to participate in commissions or advisory groups that examine education issues in depth.

Membership

All 16 governors of SREB states are members of the Board, and one chairs SREB on an annual basis. Four other Board members from each state are appointed by the state's governor. One member from each state must be a legislator and one member be an educator. Board terms are for four years. Each year the term of one Board member in each state expires.

Meetings

The Board meets each June in person. SREB covers all expenses for members to attend.

Executive Committee: One member of the Board from each state is selected by SREB, with the approval of the governor of that state, to serve on the Executive Committee. This body serves several functions, including that of a finance committee making recommendations as the Board considers the SREB budget.

The Legislative Advisory Council

The Legislative Advisory Council serves an important advisory function to the Board as members help set priorities for SREB work.

Responsibilities

- SREB staff plan a visit to each capitol during the legislative session and may contact Council members in advance to schedule an appointment and seek advice on any other visits that should be scheduled.
- LAC members are notified of their state's compact appropriation payment request.
- Members are asked to encourage other legislators to attend the Legislative Work Conference.

Membership

Any legislative member of the Board is also a member of the Legislative Advisory Council during their time on the Board. Additional members of the LAC are appointed by the governor, or in Kentucky by the presiding officer of their chamber, and serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. LAC members must be serving state legislators. There is no set number of LAC members from each state, though SREB encourages representation from both legislative chambers.

Meetings

The Legislative Advisory Council generally meets twice a year — at the LAC Winter Meeting, typically in November or December, and at the Annual Meeting in June. SREB covers all expenses for LAC members to attend both meetings.

Legislative Work Conference

The Legislative Work Conference, an annual convening in existence for over 70 years, allows legislators to come together to discuss education issues with a focus on cooperative programs. This meeting now runs in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Board, and designees to the Work Conference have the same meeting experience as Annual Meeting attendees.

Designation to Attend the Legislative Work Conference

Legislative Work Conference designees are chosen to attend that meeting either by their governors (in Georgia, Delaware, and North Carolina) or by the presiding officers of their chambers (in the other 13 SREB states). This designation is only for the current year's Work Conference meeting. SREB covers expenses at the meeting, and attendees seek reimbursement for their travel costs according to their state's procedures.

LWC designees are both new and veteran legislators — some of them have attended the meeting for years — and may include committee chairs, vice chairs and others who are not LAC members but work on education issues in their states. In early spring, the SREB Chair asks appointing authorities in each state to make designations. There is no limit on the number of LWC designees, although SREB suggests that five legislators from each chamber be selected to attend. Interested legislators should contact their governor, speaker or senate president about attending.