

Table 2
Levels of control and administrative organisation

| | National level | Second level | Third level | Institutional level | Notes |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--|
| England | Ministry | 152 local authorities (LAs) | | School governing bodies | Devolved responsibility to schools/school governing bodies. Legislation allows for the creation of integrated children services departments, at local (second) level, responsible for education, children and young people's health and social services. |
| Ireland | Ministry | | | Boards of management | Ministry formulates policy, monitors quality, allocates resources and is responsible for some organisational and administrative functions. Boards of management are an initiative to devolve more responsibility to schools. |
| Northern Ireland | Ministry | 5 Education and Library Boards (ELBs) | | School governing bodies | In January 2010, a single Education and Skills Authority (ESA) will replace the five ELBs. |
| Scotland | Ministry | 32 local authorities | | School boards | Devolved responsibility to local authorities/schools. |
| Wales | Ministry | 22 local education authorities (LEAs) | | School governing bodies | Devolved responsibility to schools/school governing bodies. |

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| | National level | Second level | Third level | Institutional level | Notes |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| France | Ministry | Académies | Régions, départements or communes | | Ministry defines national policies, guidelines and curricula. Devolved responsibility (via académies) to régions for upper secondary education, départements (lower secondary) and communes (pre-primary/primary). |
| • Germany | (National) federal government | 16 Länder | Local school districts | | Länder set guidelines; local school districts recruit staff, determine curricular content, choose texts etc. Standing Conference of Ministers of Education & Cultural Affairs of the 16 Länder is main instrument of cooperation at national level. |
| Hungary | Ministry | 3000+ municipalities or counties (local authorities) | | Schools | Policy determined at national level; organisational decisions at local and school level. |
| Italy | Ministry | 20 regions | Provinces and municipalities/communes | School councils | Centralised policy making. Increasing delegation of administrative powers from central government via regions, provinces and municipalities/communes to schools. |
| Netherlands | Ministry | Provinces | Municipalities (local authorities) | c. 6300 competent authorities (school boards) | Devolution of financial and management responsibility to the competent authorities. |
| Spain | Ministry | 17 Autonomous Communities | Local (municipal) authorities, e.g. Municipal School Councils | Governing/educational coordination bodies, e.g. school councils of individual schools | Ministry responsible for general regulation of system, policies and guidance. Autonomous Communities oversee implementation of nationally defined standards, adapt these to local situation, set up teaching establishments, administer personnel etc. Schools are autonomous in organisational, educational and financial affairs. |
| Sweden | Ministry | 2 national agencies, plus county administrations | 289 municipalities | School principals | Municipalities decide how schools are run, following national Ministry guidelines. |
| • Switzerland | Confederation | 26 cantons | c. 3000 municipalities | School board/teachers | Educational goals defined by cantons. Very few national agreements, although there are national standards for the general and vocational leaving examinations (around age 18). Recent increased movement towards further harmonisation of the education system; ongoing discussions. The Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) is the main instrument of cooperation between cantons. Most cantons mandate municipalities to set up schools. |

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|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| • Australia | National (commonwealth) government | 6 states and 2 territories | Districts | School councils | Responsibility for education rests with the states and territories. The commonwealth (federal) Government promotes national consistency and coherence. Collaboration takes place through the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA). |
| • Canada | Confederation | 10 provinces and 3 territories | Local school boards/districts | | Responsibility for education rests with the provinces and territories. The Council of Ministers of Education Canada, CMEC, ensures national-level communication, but has no direct control. |
| Japan | Ministry | 47 prefectures | 3400+ municipal/local boards of education | School principals | Ministry oversees; prefectures operationally responsible for upper secondary, municipalities for compulsory education. |
| Korea | Ministry | 7 Municipal and 9 Provincial Education Authorities (MPEAs) or Metropolitan Offices of Education (MPOEs) | Around 180 local offices of education (LOEs) (school district offices of education) | 'School management committees' | Gradually increasing budgetary, administrative and curricular powers delegated to MPEAs and MPOEs. |
| New Zealand | Ministry | | | Boards of Trustees | Ministry provides policy advice, allocates resources, develops curriculum and monitors effectiveness. Boards of Trustees (elected by parents) develop school charter including aims/objectives. |
| Singapore | Ministry | | | School principal or, increasingly, superintendent in charge of 'cluster' of 13/14 schools. | School principal determines institutional programme/structure, based on national Ministry guidelines. Development of school clusters aims to confer greater authority to school superintendents. |
| • South Africa | National ministry | 9 provinces | | School governing bodies | The National Ministry has exclusive responsibility for tertiary education and shares responsibility with the provinces for all other levels of education. The nine provinces implement education policy devised nationally and make funding decisions. Significant responsibility is devolved to school governing bodies. |
| • USA | Federal government | 50 states | Local district school boards | School | Individual states provide policy guidelines; local districts operate schools within these guidelines. Some national (federal) initiatives influence state policy guidelines. |

Sources/Further information

For further information about the contents of this table, see the following sections and their subsections of the full archive:

Levels of control and administrative organisation

Organisation/control/funding ⇒ 2.1 Organisation and control of system/structure and 2.1.1 Control