

is the chief executive officer of that institution. Consistent with Chapter 16-59 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, the presidents report to the Board through the Commissioner but have direct access to the Board. The Commissioner and presidents are expected to maintain a close and effective working relationship. The responsibilities of the Commissioner are governed by the Education Act of 1981. Specifically, the duties of the Commissioner shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- * to enforce standards and to exercise general supervision over public higher education in the state and over independent higher education in the state as provided by law;
- * to recommend to the Board, after consultation with the presidents, a mission for each public institution of higher education;
- * to chair the Operating Executive Committee (PEEC: Postsecondary Education Executive Council), which is composed of the presidents and the Commissioner;
- * to develop and implement a systematic program of data collection;
- * to prepare a master plan for higher education within the state;
- * to assist the Board in the preparation and presentation of the annual budget for higher education;
- * to recommend to the Board, after consultation with the presidents, tables of organization for the public institutions of higher education;
- * to communicate with and seek the advice of those concerned with and affected by the Board of Governors' determinations;
- * to annually recommend to the Board of Governors, after consultation with the presidents, the creation, abolition, retention or consolidation of departments and courses of study within the public colleges and universities;
- * to be responsible for the coordination of the various higher educational functions in the state so that maximum efficiency and economy may be achieved;
- * to carry out the policies and directives of the Board of Governors and to perform such other additional duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board from time to time.