

To limit undue governmental interference with public colleges and universities, some states, with California and Michigan notable examples, provide special constitutional status to public higher education governing boards. This grant of special constitutional authority is commonly referred to as constitutional autonomy. This article examines the current legal status of constitutional autonomy provisions among the states. In addition to identifying states with legal recognition of constitutional autonomy and classifying states as possessing strong or weak grants of independent constitutional authority, the article also analyzes constitutional autonomy using the concepts of procedural and substantive autonomy derived from the higher education literature.