



*State Uses of Institutional Accreditation:  
Results of a Fifty-State Inventory*

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## *Background to the Inventory*

- Little Current Knowledge of the Relationships between Institutional Accreditation and Various State Regulatory and Policy Activities (Authorization to Operate/Licensure, Ability to Receive Public Funds, Transfer/Articulation)
- Scope Limited to Institutional Accreditation (Mostly) Despite Knowledge that Programmatic Accreditation Frequently Plays a Role in Licensing Individuals to Practice a Profession
- Methodology: SHEEO Contact to Identify Relevant Agencies → Web Scan → Writeup → Verification





## *Agencies that Authorize Institutions to Operate*

- Agencies Identified in 49 States
- 15 States Have More than One Agency (One has 3)
- SHEEO Agency is the Only or One of Several Agencies Involved in All but 14 States
- Some Institutional Sectors Not Authorized or Regulated (and Some are Banned)





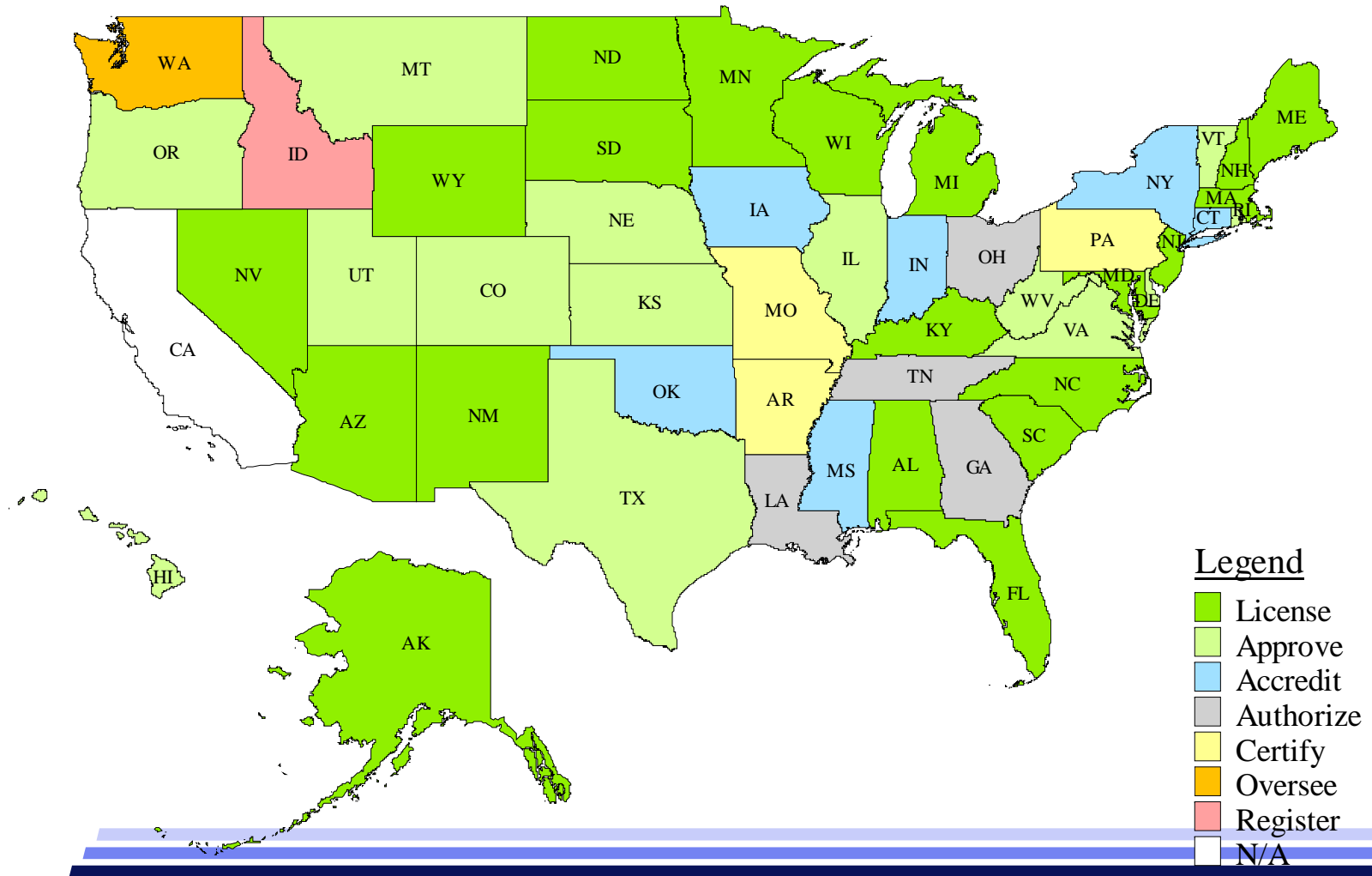
## *What Do State Agencies Do and What Do They Call It?*

- 6 States Say they “Accredit” Institutions, 14 “Approve,” 4 “Authorize, 3 “Certify,” 1 “Oversees,” 1 “Registers,” and the Remainder “License”



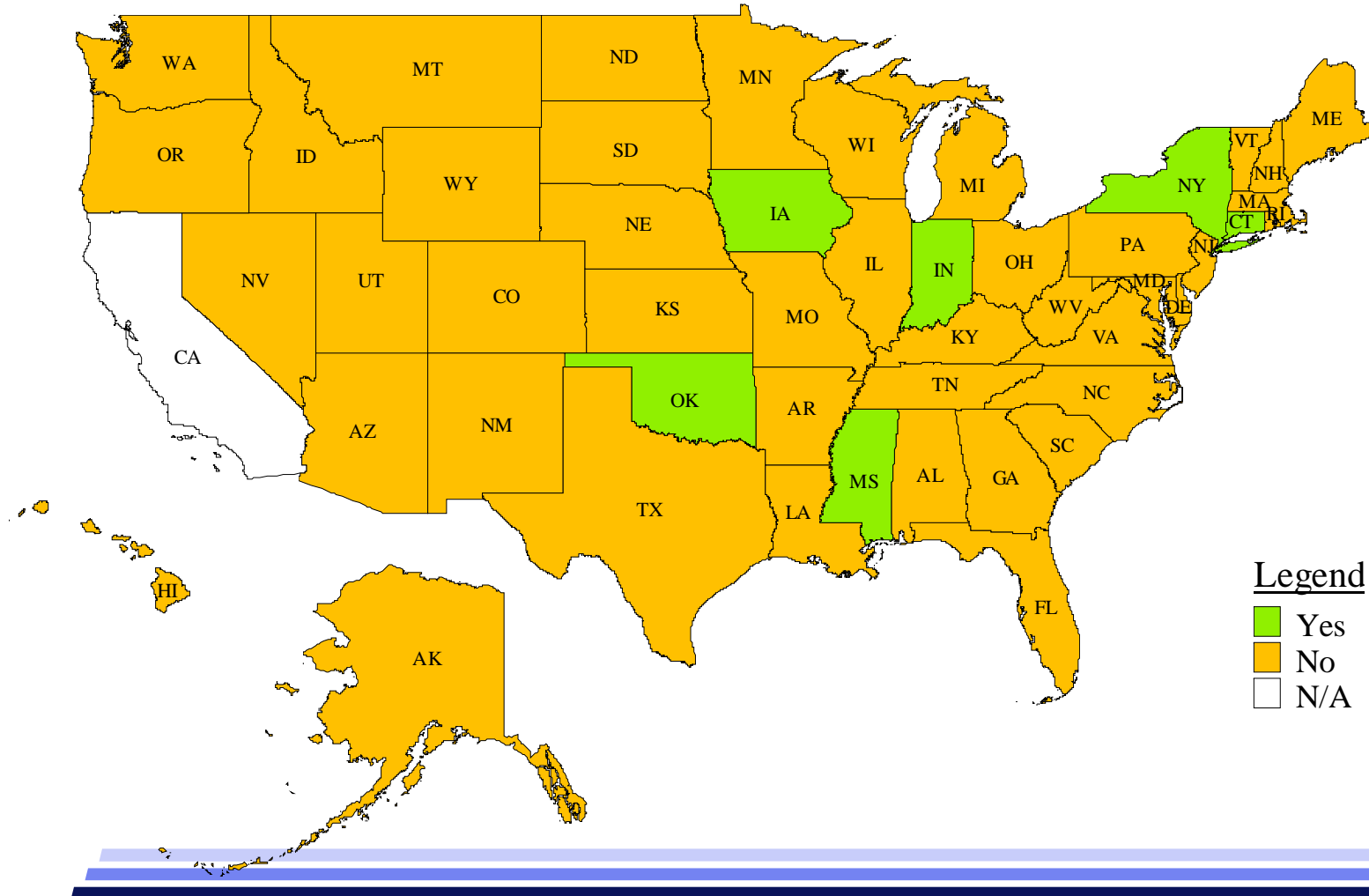


# Terms Used by States in Regulation



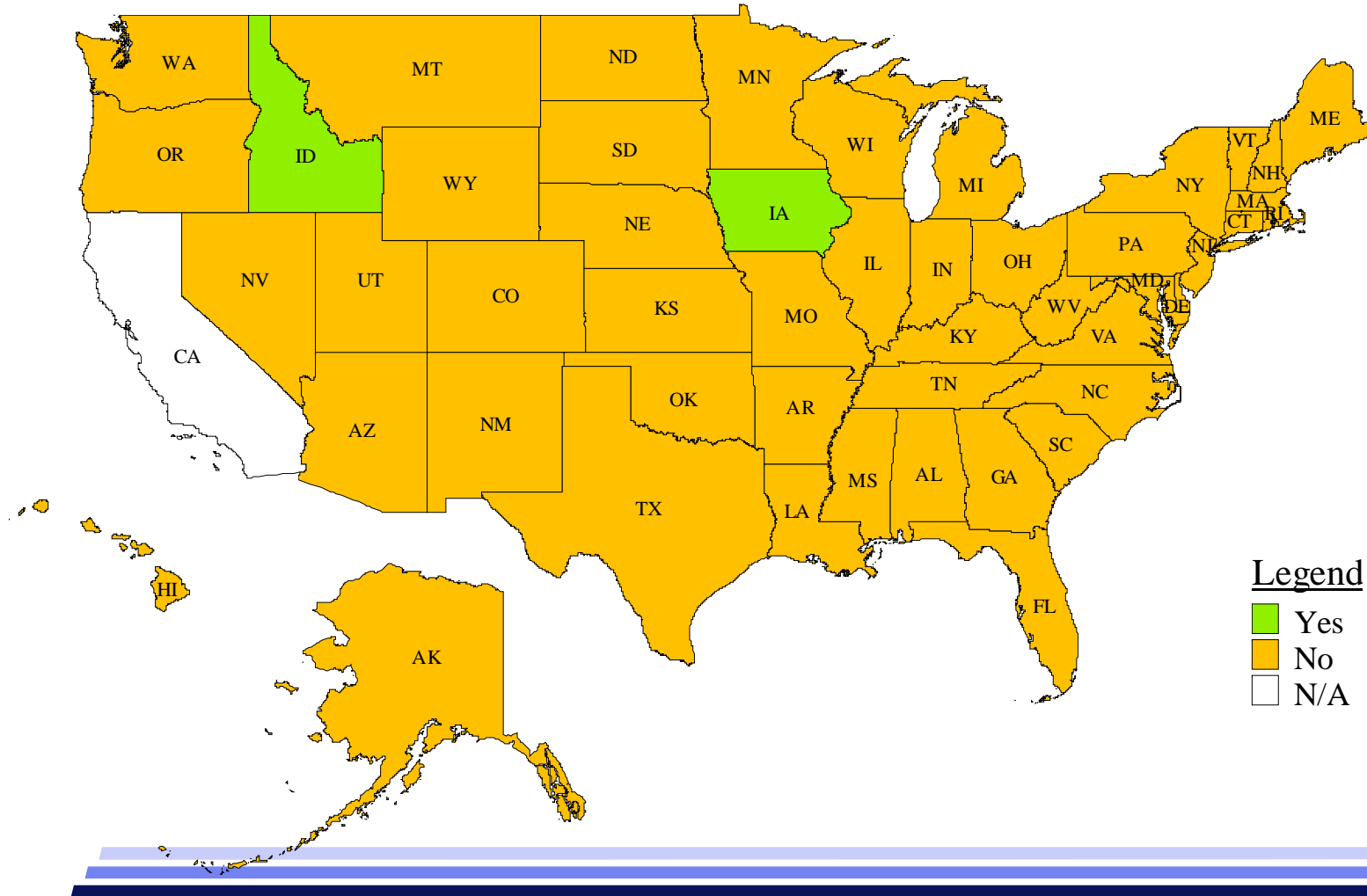


# Does the State “Accredit” Institutions?





# Does the State “Recognize” Accreditors?





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- 6 States Say they “Accredit” Institutions, 14 “Approve,” 4 “Authorize, 3 “Certify,” 1 “Oversees,” 1 “Registers,” and the Remainder “License”
- States that Say they “Accredit” Behave Like Non-Governmental Accreditors, but the Conduct and Time Between Re-Reviews Vary
- Only One of these Agencies is a USDOE-Recognized Accreditor (Regents of the University of the State of New York)







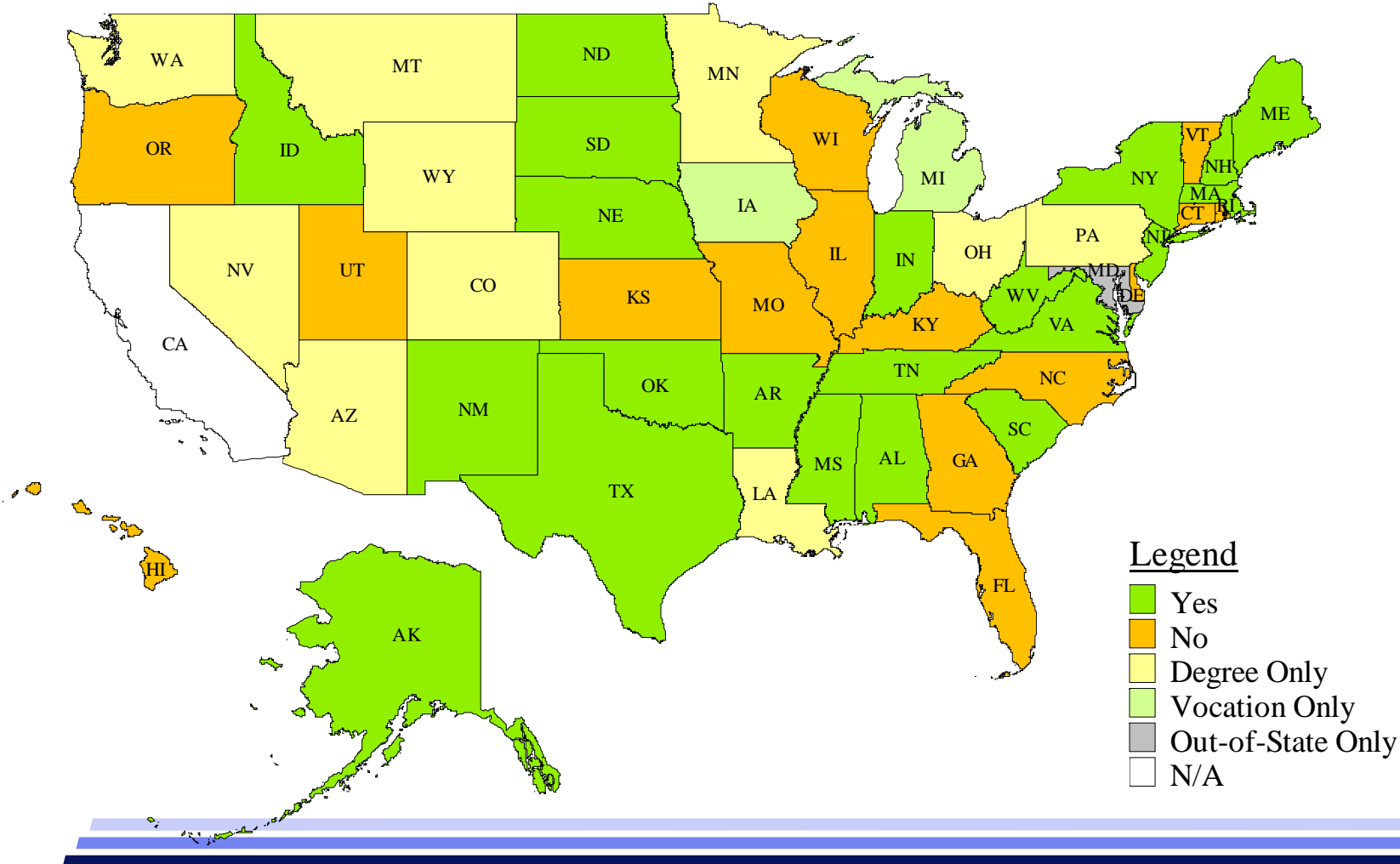
## *Relationship Between Institutional Accreditation and Authorization*

- 21 States Require Non-Public Institutions to be Accredited in Order to be Authorized, 10 More Only for Degree-Granting Institutions, 2 More for Vocational



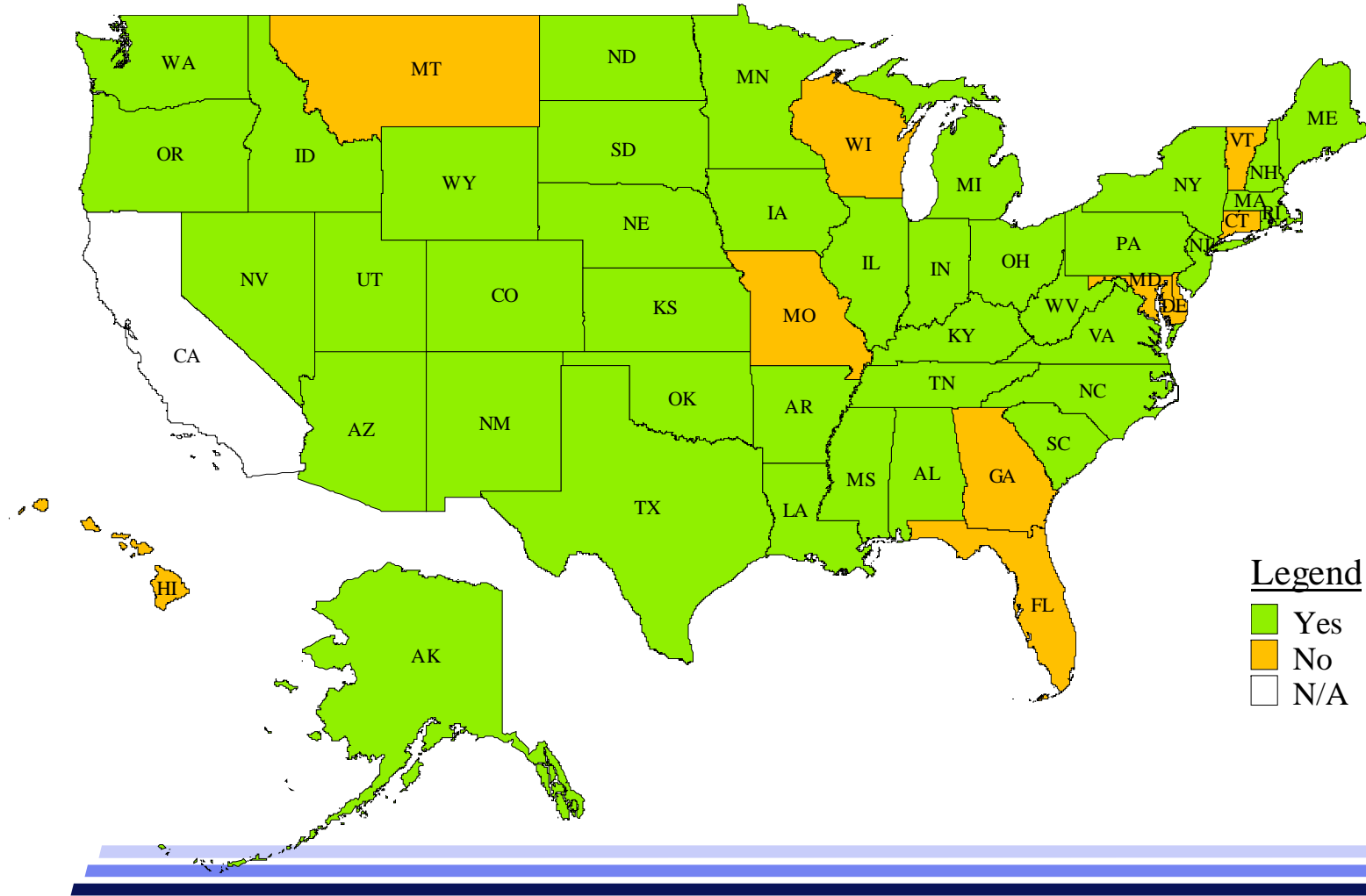


# Is Accreditation Needed for License?





# Is Accreditation Needed to Operate?





## *Relationship Between Institutional Accreditation and Authorization*

- 21 States Require Non-Public Institutions to be Accredited in Order to be Authorized, 10 More Only for Degree-Granting Institutions, 2 More for Vocational
- Requirements Sometimes Differ by Sector
- Varying Rules on How Long a Candidate Institution Can Operate While It Seeks Accreditation
- All but 5 States Require the Accreditor to be USDOE Recognized, 9 Either USDOE or CHEA, and 9 Require Both



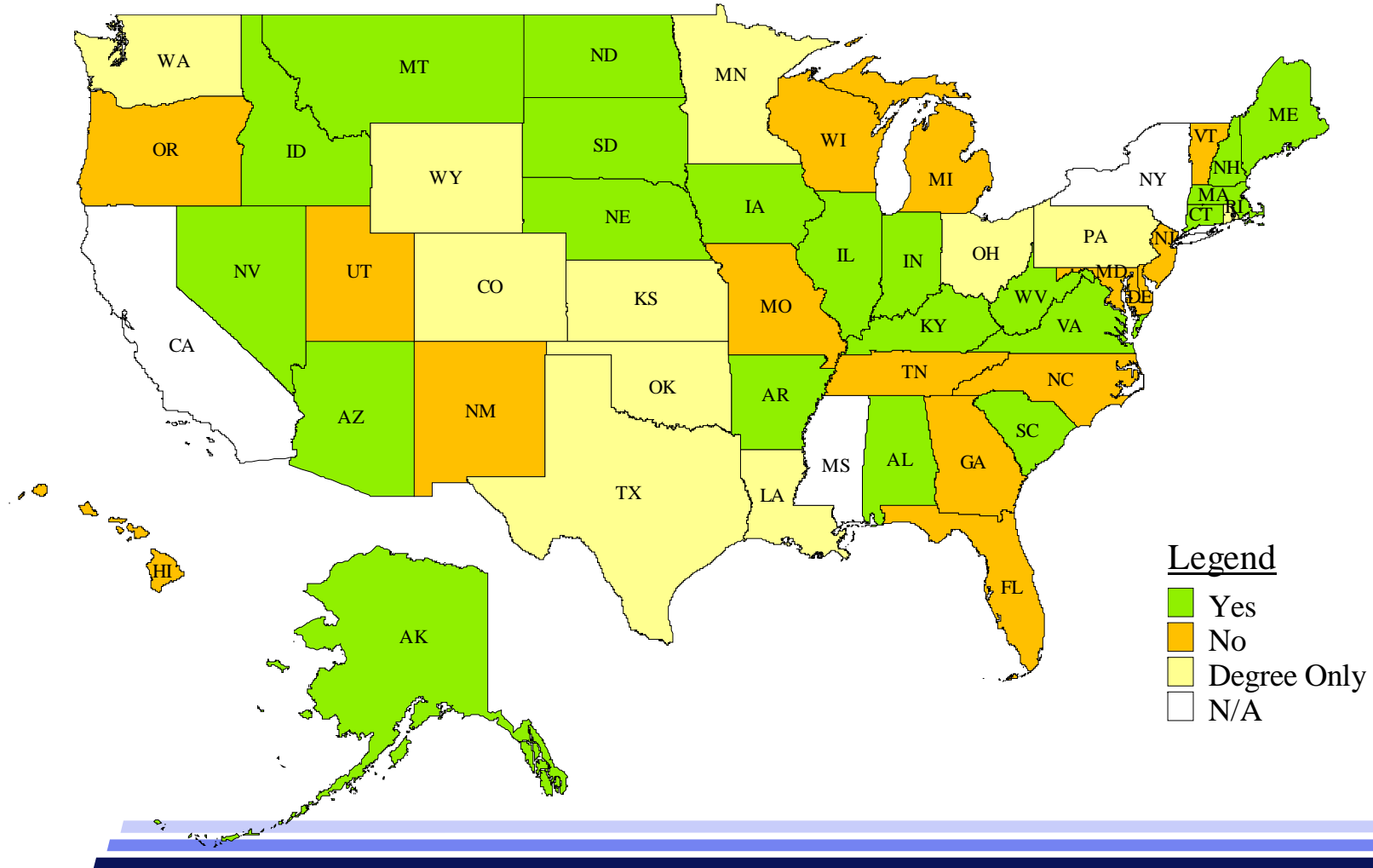


## *Relationship Between Institutional Accreditation and Authorization*

- 21 States Require New Non-Public Institutions to be Accredited in Order to Authorized, 11 More Only for be Degree-Granting Institutions



# Is Accreditation Required for New Non-Public Institutions?





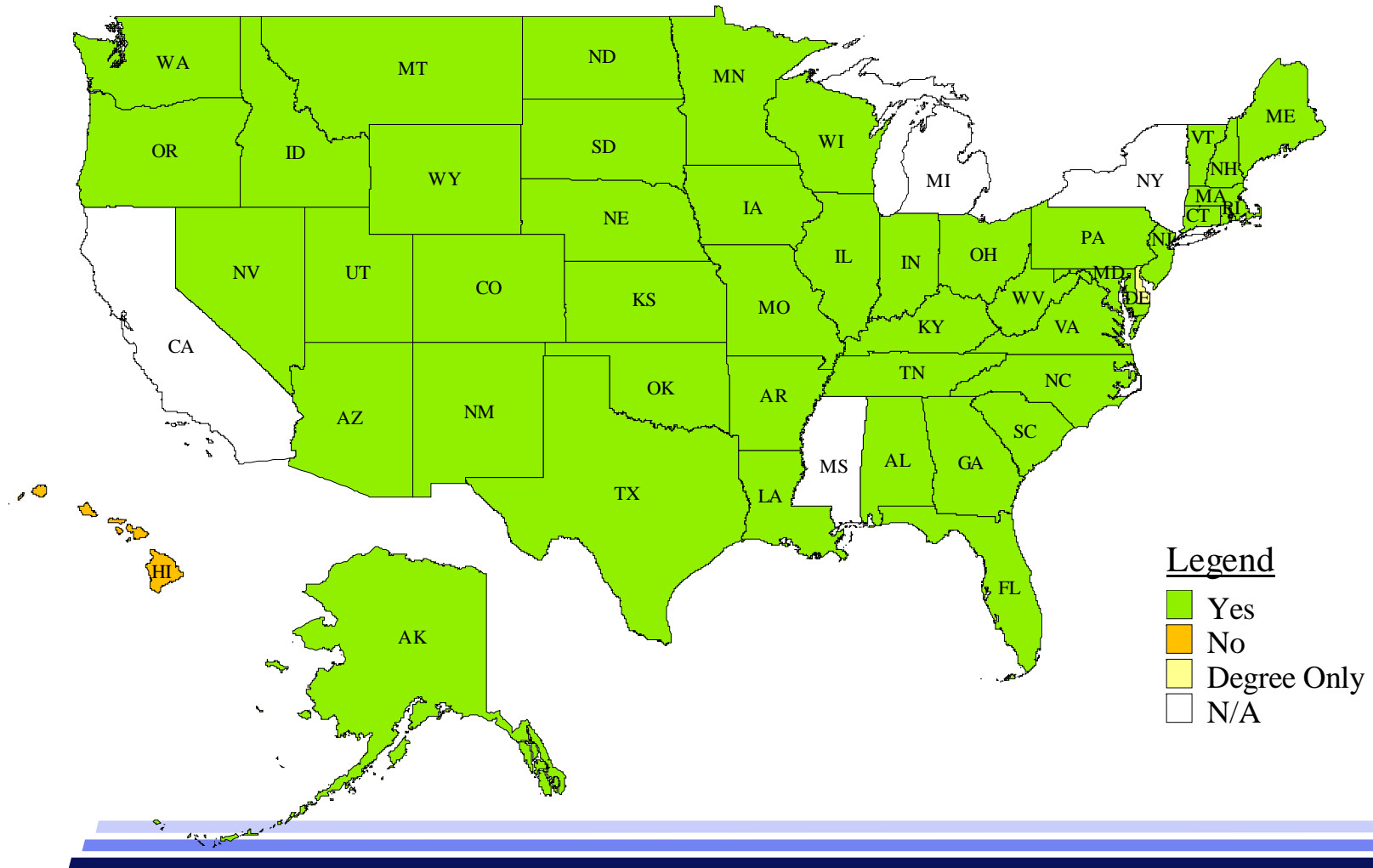
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# Is Accreditation Required for Out-of-State Institutions?







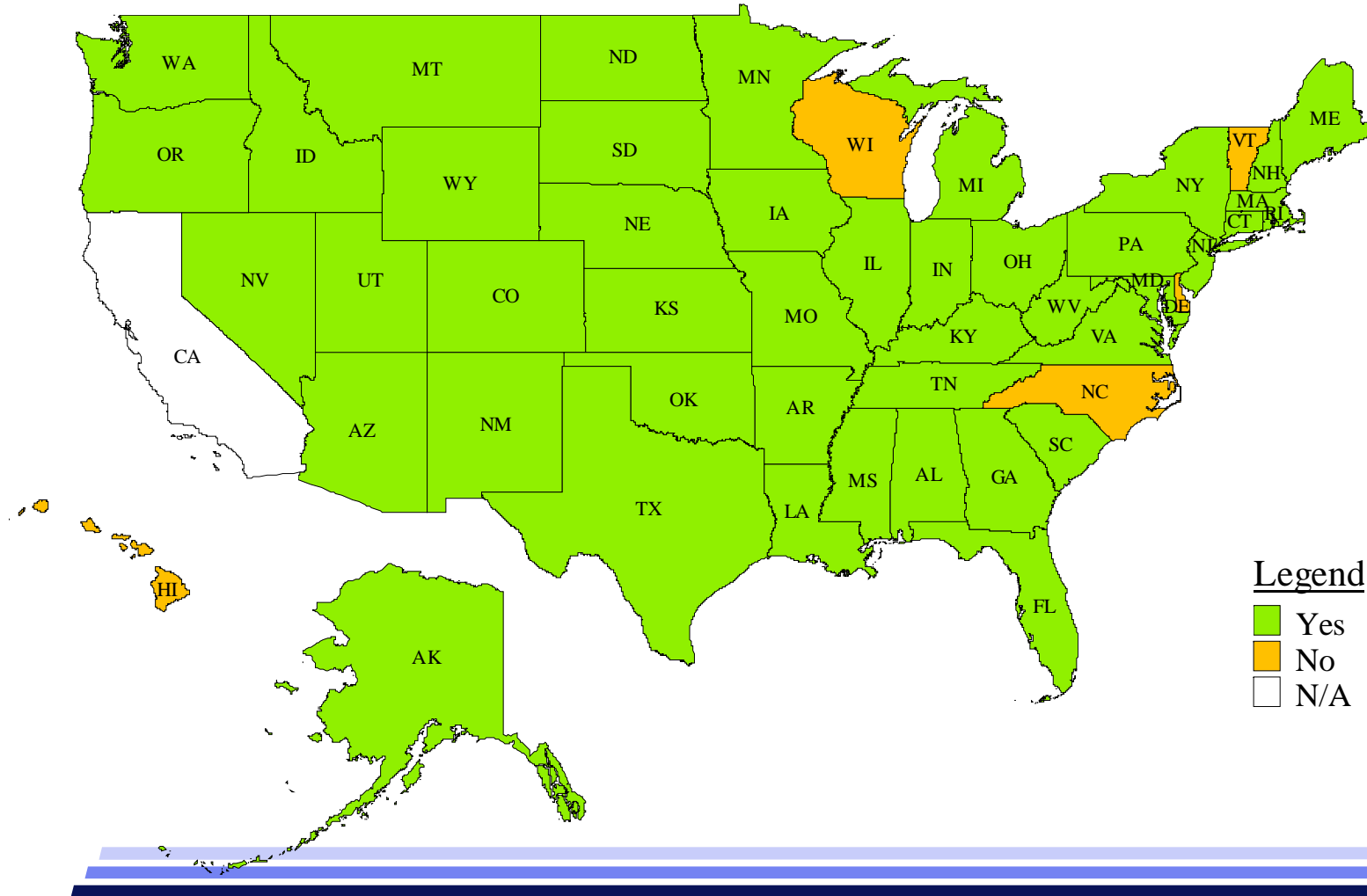
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- Public Institutions are Authorized to Operate by their Charters, but Most Have Additional Regulations or Statutes Requiring them to be Accredited



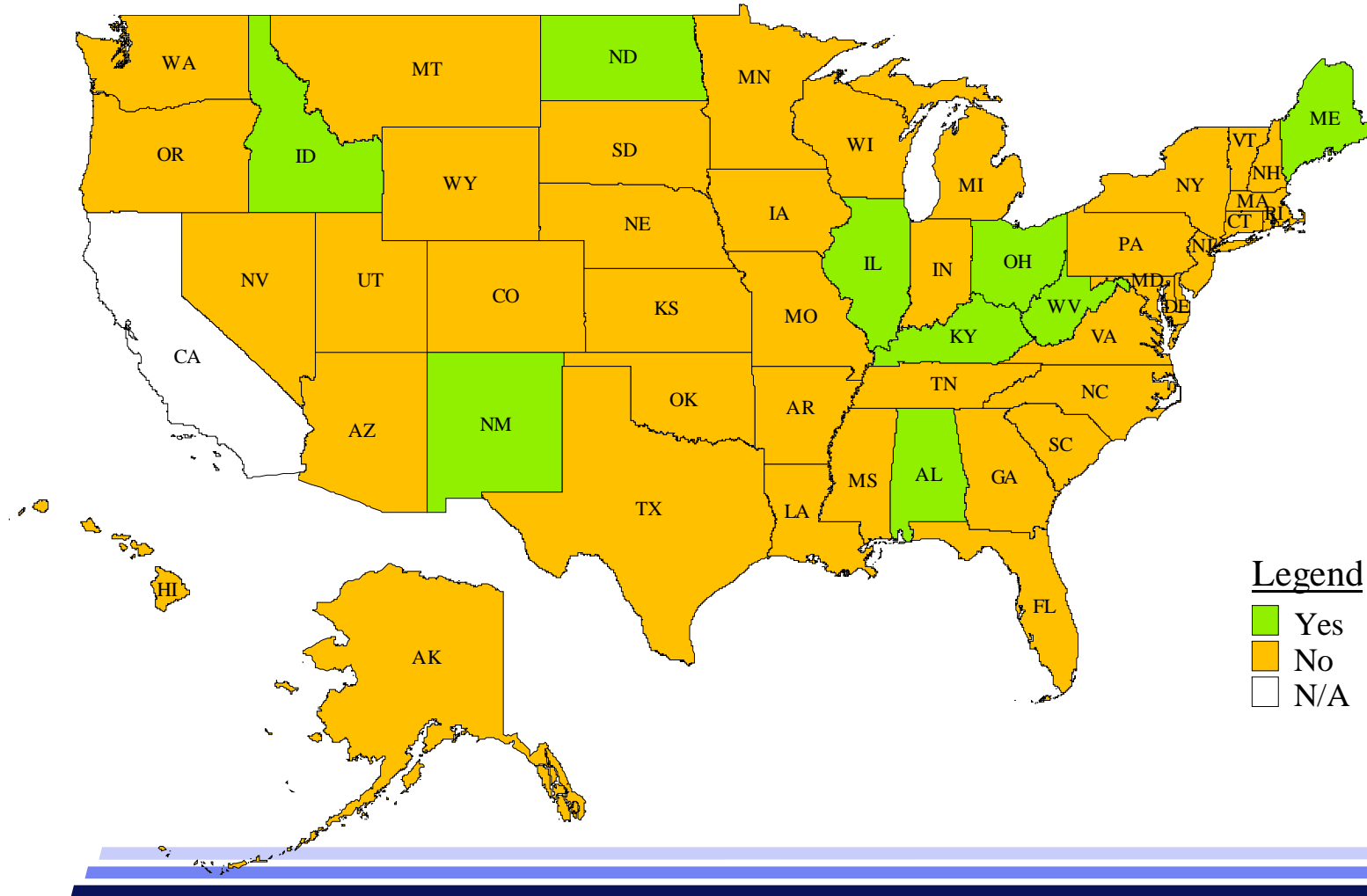


## Accreditor Must Be Recognized by USDOE



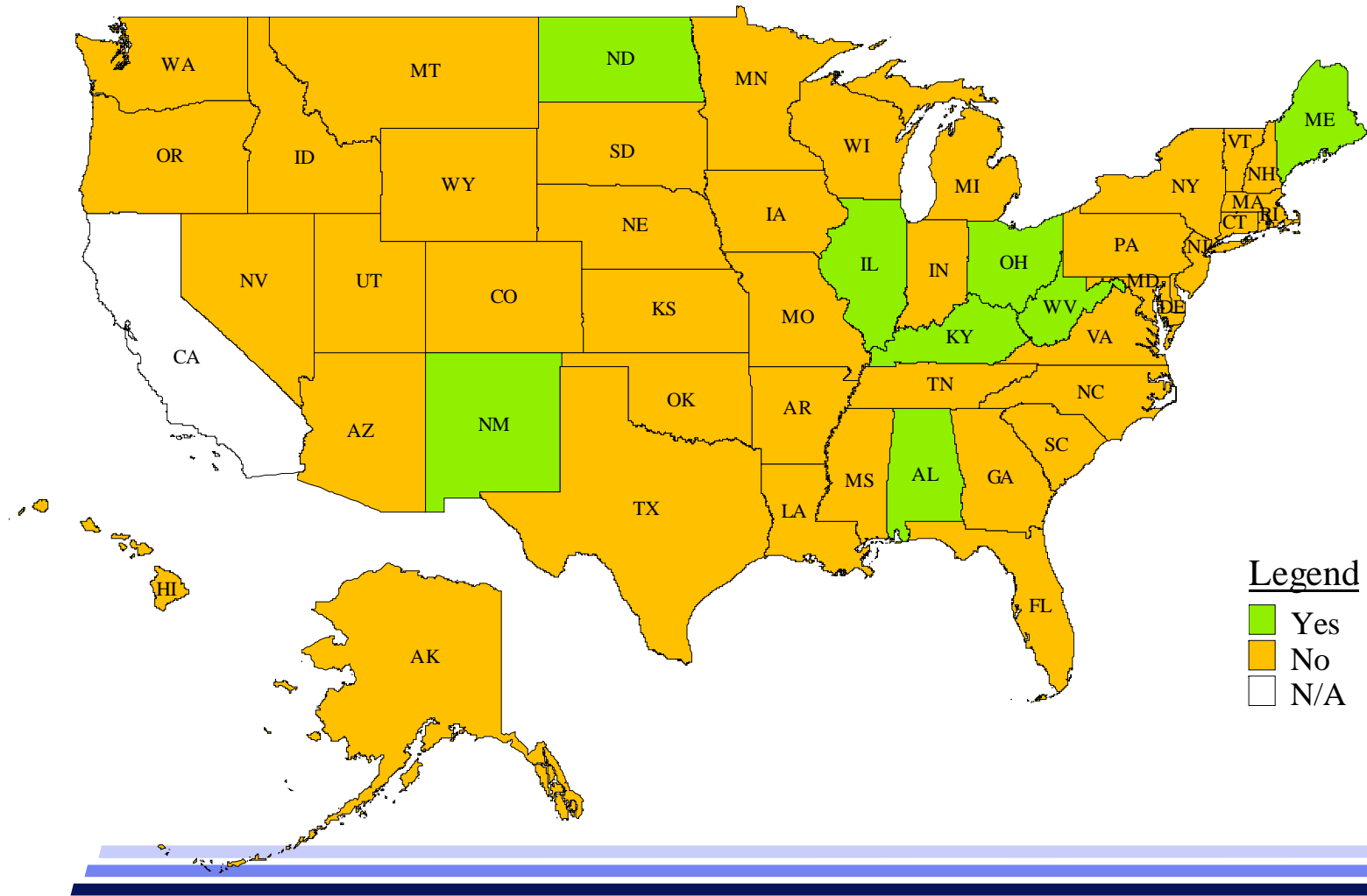


# Accreditor Must Be Recognized by CHEA





## Accreditor Can Be Recognized by Either USDOE or CHEA





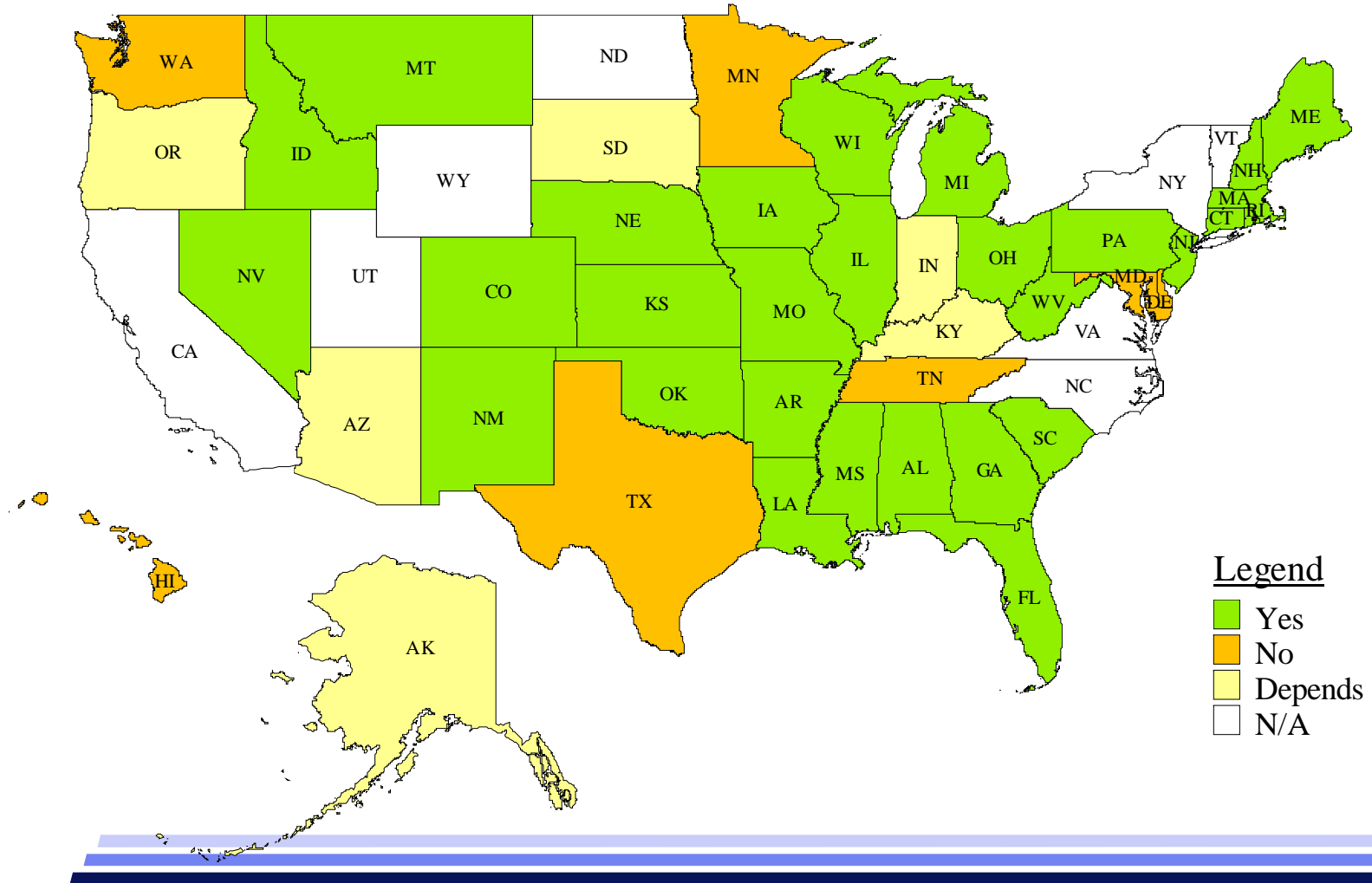
## *Relationship Between Institutional Accreditation and Other State Activities*

- 28 States Require Non-Public Institutions to be Accredited to Receive State Funds, 7 Have No Linkage, 6 Report that It Depends on the Funding Program...the Rest Do Not Provide State Funds to Non-Public Institutions at All





# Is Accreditation Required for Institution to Access State Funds?

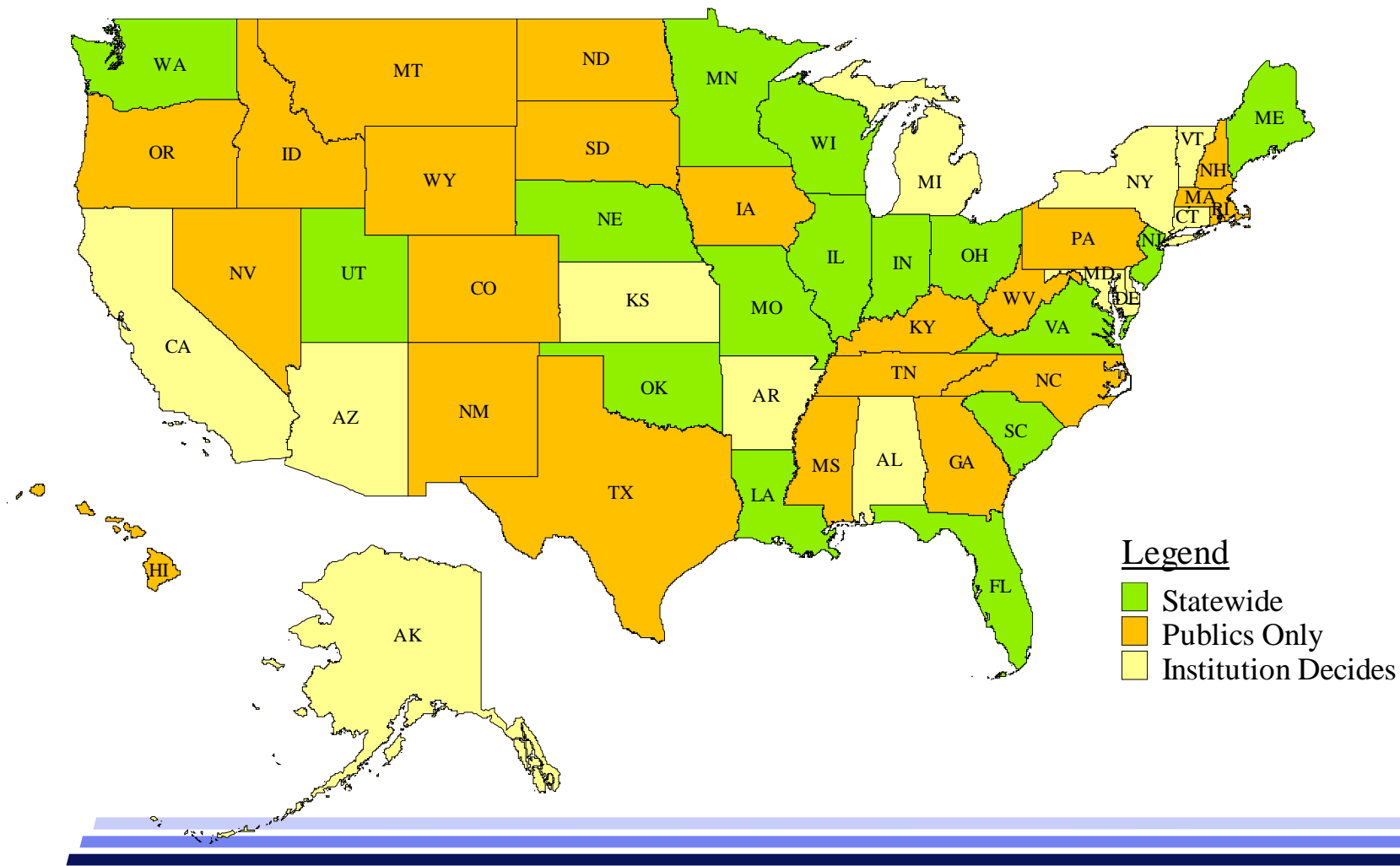




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  - 16 States Have Transfer Policies Affecting All Institutions, Half of Which Require Accreditation
  - 22 States Have Transfer Policies Affecting Only Public Institutions, None of Which Require Accreditation
  - 5 States Require Programmatic Accreditation for Credits to Transfer in Accreditable Disciplines
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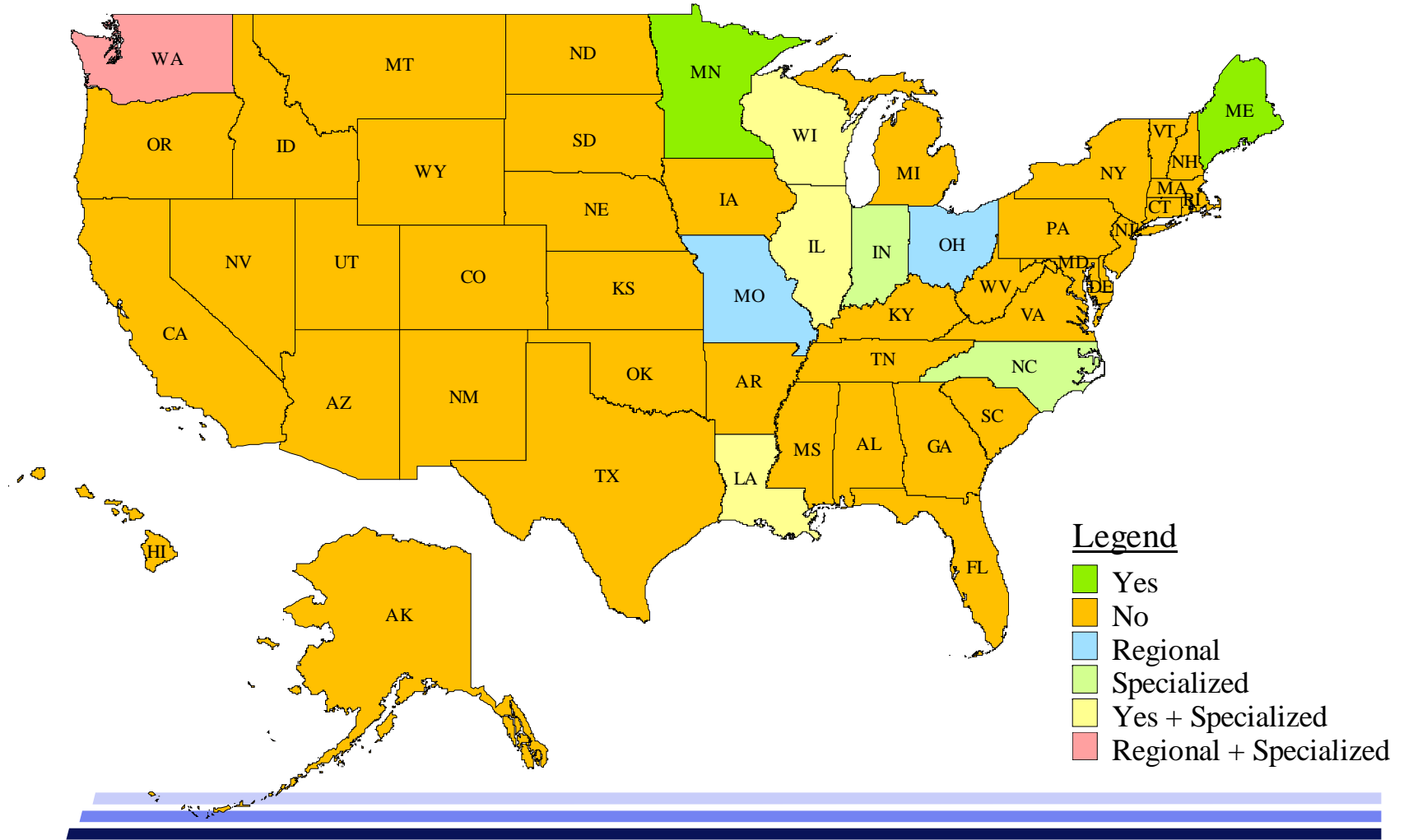
## Type of State Transfer Policy







# Is Accreditation Required by Policy for Credits to Transfer?





## *State Use of Specialized Accreditation*

- Agencies Included in the Inventory for the Most Part Not Involved in Decisions About Individual Licensure to Practice
- Nevertheless, Most Respondents Report that They Believe There Is a Linkage in Regulated Professions
- Specialized Accreditation Required for Single-Discipline Institutions in an Accreditable Discipline to Be Authorized to Operate in 5 States
- 5 States Require Programmatic Accreditation for Credits to Transfer in Accreditable Disciplines





## *Conclusions*

- There Is Huge Variation in Practice Regarding How States Use Accreditation in Authorization and Policy
- This Probably Impedes Efficient Operations for the National “System” of Quality Assurance and Likely Confuses the Public
- More Study and Discussion of this Situation and Its Impacts are Warranted
- CHEA [and SHEEO] are in a Good Position to Coordinate Next Steps

