

**Dr. Penny Schwinn, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Education, Nashville, Tennessee.** Dr.

Penny Schwinn has served as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Education since February 2019 when she was selected by Governor Bill Lee. As Commissioner, Dr. Schwinn focuses on accelerating growth through excellence in achievement, empowerment of students and teachers, and engagement of stakeholders. Dr. Schwinn began her work as a high school history and economics teacher in Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to serving as commissioner, Dr. Schwinn served as Chief Deputy Commissioner of Academics at the Texas Education Agency. Dr. Schwinn has also served in other state and district roles, including as Assistant Secretary of Education at the Delaware Department of Education and as Assistant Superintendent of performance management for the Sacramento City Unified School District in California. Dr. Schwinn is also the founder and former superintendent of Capitol College Collegiate Academy, previously one of the country's highest performing charter schools serving low-income students. Dr. Schwinn holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California-Berkley, a Master of Arts in teaching from John Hopkins University, and a PhD in Education Policy from Claremont Graduate University in California.