

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Warren County Schools Among Select Districts to Join U.S. Department of Education Roundtable in Tennessee



Photo Courtesy: U.S. Department of Education

McMinnville, Tenn., August 14, 2025 - Warren County Schools was among just four Tennessee school districts represented this week for a roundtable discussion with U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon on how the federal government can better support local schools.

Secretary McMahon's visit was part of her *Returning Education to the States Tour*, a nationwide initiative directed by President Trump to return more decision-making authority to states and local communities. Through the 50-state tour, Secretary McMahon is meeting with families, educators, and community leaders to hear directly about best practices and ways to equip parents with more options for their children's education.

The Tennessee stop brought together national, state, and local leaders, including former Tennessee Education Commissioner and current U.S. Department of Education advisor Dr. Penny Schwinn, U.S. Representative Tim Burchett, Tennessee Commissioner of Education Lizette Reynolds, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, Knoxville Mayor Glenn Jacobs, University of

Tennessee President Randy Boyd, University of Tennessee Chancellor Dr. Donde Plowman, Knox County Director of Schools Dr. Jon Rysewyk, Robertson County Director of Schools Dr. Danny Weeks, Lenoir City Director of Schools Dr. Millicent Smith, and other education leaders.

Warren County Schools Director of Schools, Dr. Grant Swallows, attended on behalf of the district during the hour-long conversation, which centered on literacy gains in Tennessee and ways local flexibility could help districts address unique challenges.

“It was an honor to represent Warren County and our school district in what turned out to be a great conversation with national, state, and local leaders,” said Dr. Swallows. “I appreciate very much Secretary McMahon and Dr. Schwinn inviting me to share thoughts on what we are doing well in our county and state.”

Participants discussed reading proficiency rates and the role of schools, families, and communities in improving student outcomes. Mayor Jacobs noted that literacy is “more than just a school issue, it’s a family issue and a community issue as well.”



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At the conclusion of the discussion, Dr. Schwinn asked the group what they wanted Secretary McMahon to know about education in Tennessee and how the federal government could assist.

“The work that has been done by our teachers over the last several years is nothing short of amazing,” said Dr. Swallows. “They have been challenged and will continue to be because we want what is best for our students. Our teachers are my heroes.”

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For additional information, please contact:

Sarah Cantrell

Communications Coordinator

Warren County Schools

cantrells2@warrenschoools.com

931-668-4022 Ext. 11402