



Warren County Board of Education

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two Warren County Schools' Principals Tapped for 2025-26 Tennessee Rural Principals Network

McMinnville, Tenn., October 28, 2025 - The Tennessee Department of Education, in partnership with Belmont University, has announced Rachael Graves, Hickory Creek Elementary Principal and Chris Hobbs, Warren County High School Executive Principal as participants in the 2025-26 cohort of the Tennessee Rural Principals Network (TRPN).



The statewide initiative brings together 71 school leaders to explore the unique challenges and opportunities of leading rural schools. Participants will engage in professional learning focused on high-quality instruction, effective recruitment and retention of rural educators, and strategies to strengthen support for students and staff.

"Leading a rural school comes with a unique set of challenges, from limited resources to finding ways to meet the diverse needs of our students and families," said Graves. "I'm looking forward to learning from others, trading strategies, and bringing back new ideas to strengthen our own school community. It's always encouraging to be reminded that while every school is unique, we're all in this work together."



"I'm excited for the opportunity to collaborate, exchange ideas, and learn from other principals dedicated to improving student outcomes and strengthening our schools. It is a privilege to represent the Warren County School District and to contribute to advancing excellence in education for all my students," shared Hobbs.

Director of Schools Dr. Grant Swallows commended both principals for their achievement and commitment to rural education and applauded their selection into TRPN. "Mrs. Graves' and Mr. Hobbs' leadership and dedication to student success are evident every day in their schools. This recognition affirms the great work happening in our district and will allow them to bring back valuable insights that benefit students, staff, and our entire community," he said.

The Tennessee Rural Principals Network is designed to strengthen rural school leadership statewide by fostering collaboration and sharing best practices among principals from across Tennessee's rural districts.

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