



**BEST** **FOR**  
**ALL**

#TNBestforAll

**Commissioner Penny Schwinn**

# Forming the Priorities: Input First



Listening  
Tour



Educator  
Survey



Public Input

# Feedback



**500+**

CLASSROOM  
VISITS



**70+**

DISTRICT  
MEETINGS



**35,000+**

SURVEY  
COMMENTS





# We Are Listening

Reflections from the **Educator Survey and Focus Groups**

## Strategic Priority 1: Academics

Tennessee's focus on standards, assessments, evaluation, and turnaround helped the state grow rapidly.





# We Are Listening

Reflections from the [Educator Survey and Focus Groups](#)

## Strategic Priority 2: Whole Child

Over the last five years, the needs of our students have evolved and we must support the **whole child**.





# We Are Listening

Reflections from the [Educator Survey and Focus Groups](#)

## Strategic Priority 3: Educators

If we want Tennessee to be the highest performing state, then we must invest in **educator** growth, provide opportunities for teachers to teach and lead, and better prepare our future educators.







# REFLECTIONS

.....



When we talk to **students**, their favorite thing about school is the **teachers** who see their potential.

When we visit schools, principals want us to observe their strongest **teachers'** classrooms, and see how their **students** are achieving.

When we talk to families, they tell us about the **teacher** who intervened in their **child's** life.



# Vision

We will set all students on a path to success.

IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL, THEN  
TENNESSEE WILL SEE A SUBSTANTIAL  
INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF  
STUDENTS ON-TRACK TO MEETING  
POSTSECONDARY GOALS TWO YEARS  
AFTER GRADUATION

- Two-year college persistence
- TCAT certificate
- Military enlistment
- Or similar paths







# BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

## ACADEMICS

ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL HAVE  
ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION,  
NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE

## WHOLE CHILD

TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL  
BE EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE  
ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC  
NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS

## EDUCATORS

TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH FOR  
THE EDUCATION PROFESSION AND BE  
THE TOP STATE TO BECOME AND REMAIN  
A TEACHER AND LEADER



# Strategic Priority 1: Academics

All Tennessee students will have access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live.

## Early Literacy Supports

Invest in a proven, coherent statewide literacy program that includes high-quality materials, coaching, and shared diagnostics for data review.

This includes support to:

- Purchase high-quality materials
- Select implementation support
- Purchase, use, and report on a shared diagnostic
- Family reading guides





# Strategic Priority 1: Academics

All Tennessee students will have access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live.



## High-Quality Instructional Materials

Invest in high-quality resources and implementation support to districts.

State-level support will include:

- Regional trainings and workshops on high-quality materials selection processes
- Support implementation of high-quality materials
- Online tool to explicitly connect TN standards, assessment items, and high-quality materials lessons



# Strategic Priority 1: Academics

All Tennessee students will have access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live.

## Innovative Assessments

Build free, curriculum-aligned interim and formative assessments for districts to use.

Free state resources will include:

- Free formative assessments with TCAP questions aligned to high quality instructional materials
- Interim assessments aligned to annual TCAP
- Assessment bank of TCAP released questions, with learning progressions, for local use
- Data analytics capacity and recommended professional development supports





# Strategic Priority 1: Academics

All Tennessee students will have access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live.

## Career Exploration

Ensure every student has career exploration in middle school and a high school pathway that aligns to their interests and strengths, focusing on industry demand, STEM, and the arts.

State supports will include:

- Free access to at least one PK-8 career exploration tool
- Professional development on coaching and counseling students based on career interest and capacity
- Supporting the development of innovative high school models aligned to regional and student need



# Strategic Priority 2: Whole Child

Tennessee public schools will be equipped to serve the academic and non-academic needs of all kids.

## Supports

Ensure that schools and districts are able to quickly and appropriately respond to students in need.

The state will:

- Conduct a needs assessment on what resources and supports will be most helpful
- Create tools that match schools and districts with local supports and work closely with other agencies and partners to expedite services
- Identify opportunities to increase in-school resources for whole child needs





# Strategic Priority 2: Whole Child

Tennessee public schools will be equipped to serve the academic and non-academic needs of all kids.



## Character Education

Develop a Tennessee-specific character and citizenship education program that prepares students to make successful contributions to society.

Content will include:

- Personal characteristics
- Financial literacy
- Citizenship and civics

# Strategic Priority 2: Whole Child

Tennessee public schools will be equipped to serve the academic and non-academic needs of all kids.



## Exceptionalities

Create a statewide network that effectively supports students with disabilities.

The state will develop:

- Tools for families and educators to help identify and navigate resources
- Regional hubs with the expertise in special education that districts need
- Stronger regional engagement opportunities so that stakeholders feel connected



# Strategic Priority 3: Educators

Tennessee will set a new path for the education profession and be the top state to become and remain a teacher and leader.

## Recruitment

Recruit and retain future teachers into the profession.

This will include:

- Creating advanced courses for teaching as a profession in K-12
- Launching teacher fellowship opportunities
- Expanding “Grow Your Own” opportunities for prospective educators
- Continuing to support improvements to educator compensation

EDUCATORS



# Strategic Priority 3: Educators

Tennessee will set a new path for the education profession and be the top state to become and remain a teacher and leader.



## Preparation

Ensure educators are prepared to be successful in the classroom upon completion of their educator preparation program.

This will include:

- Educator Preparation Innovation
- Leader Preparation Innovation

EDUCATORS



# Strategic Priority 3: Educators

Tennessee will set a new path for the education profession and be the top state to become and remain a teacher and leader.



## Pathways

Elevate teacher leaders through regional networks, professional development pathways, and state leadership roles.

This will include:

- Regional Teacher Leadership Network
- Articulated Pathways for Tennessee Master Teacher Networks
- Elevation of Teacher of the Year and similar programs

EDUCATORS

# Strategic Priority 3: Educators

Tennessee will set a new path for the education profession and be the top state to become and remain a teacher and leader.

## Development

Support the development of effective leadership structures in every school, and create cohorts of leaders focused on building their degrees, certifications, and professional development.

This will include:

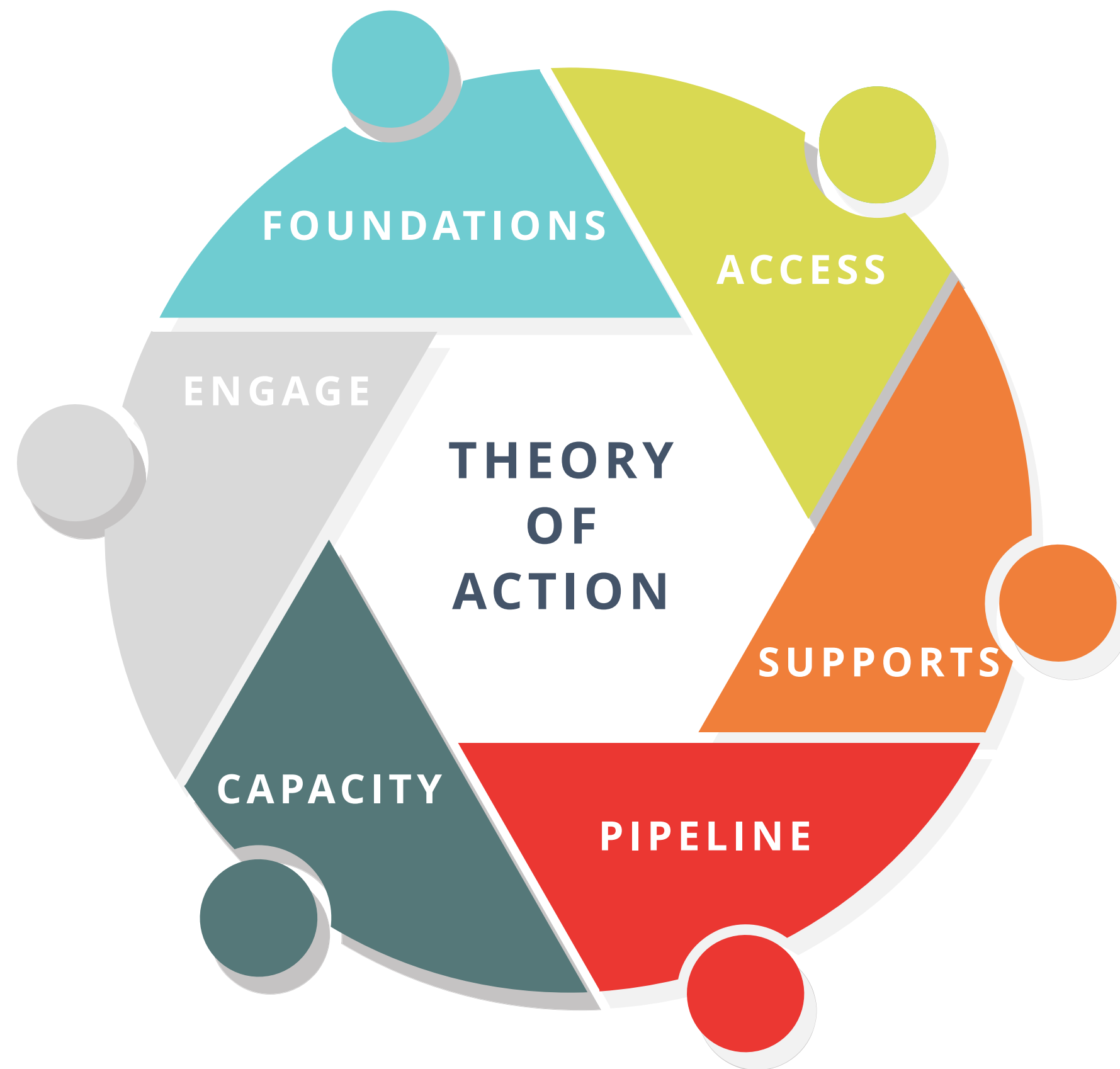
- Rural Principal Network
- Aspiring AP Network
- Principal Supervisor Network
- TN Academy of School Leaders
- Turnaround Principal Network
- District Leader Network

EDUCATORS



# Theory of Action

The department will create meaningful and lasting change for students in Tennessee through:



## Foundations

Build upon the commitment to standards, assessment, evaluation, and turnaround.

## Access

Focus on rigorous academic expectations for all children.

## Supports

Provide whole child supports for schools, teachers, and families.

## Pipeline

Build and maintain a strong educator pipeline and retention strategy.

## Capacity

Build district capacity and consider the needs and realities of each district in our work.

## Engage

Authentically engage with stakeholders to measure what is and isn't working, and provide choices for families.

# THANK YOU

#TNBestforAll

