



Tracey Severns has dedicated her career to the service of students, teachers, administrators, and school communities since 1992. She has served as a paraprofessional, special education teacher, vice principal, principal, director of student performance, superintendent, adjunct professor, and Chief Academic Officer for the New Jersey Department of Education. Severns has a B.S. in Psychology, a M.A.T. in Teaching, and an Ed.D. in Educational Administration and Supervision.

Severns is a nationally recognized presenter who has provided professional development on evidence-centered leadership, data analysis, systems thinking, professional learning communities, assessment literacy, student engagement, special education, educational equity, and school improvement on the state, national and international levels. In 2009, she was selected as one of eight principals to represent the United States in Brazil as part of an educational exchange program sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the US Department of State, the American Councils for International Education, and the National Council of State Secretaries of Education.

Over her career, Severns has received many awards for outstanding service and achievements. In 2011, Severns received the Middle Level Leadership Award and was selected as New Jersey's Visionary Principal of the Year. In the same year, Severns was named a National Distinguished Principal. In 2012, while Principal of Mt. Olive Middle School, her school was named a National School of Change, one of only six schools in the United States to receive this distinguished honor. In 2014, Severns was named Educator of the Year by the Peace Islands Institute and was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Public Service from Georgian Court University.

In 2018, became the host of DisruptEd TV, a program dedicated to challenging the status quo in education through courageous conversations with change leaders from various fields. When the pandemic shuttered schools in March 2020, Severns created Wins and Wonderings, a daily Zoom forum for educators to raise questions and share solutions to address the unprecedented problems facing the nation's schools. To deepen the dialogue, Severns interviewed such prestigious thought leaders as Heidi Hayes Jacobs, Rick Wormelli, Ted Dintersmith, Pam Moran, Warren Berger, Thomas Guskey, Dan Willingham, Russ Quaglia, Doug Reeves, Susan Scott, Mike Schmoker, and John Saphier.

In 2024, in response to growing concerns about the increasingly negative emotional tone in schools, Severns started taking comedy lessons. Since then, she has done stand-up for various educator audiences. Her newest presentation, "Let's Laugh: How to Bring Joy Back to Schools" has quickly become one of the most sought-out sessions at professional conferences.

Severns is a published author who has written articles about leadership and learning. Her first book, *Mistakes, Missteps, Missed Opportunities: Lived Lessons from the Real World of Educational Leaders*, is currently in publication.

Severns continues to serve individuals, schools, districts, organizations, and state agencies through Teach4Results, an educational consulting company she began in 2006. Her services include strategic planning, leadership training, team building, professional development, and coaching.