BIOGRAPHY

Stephen L. Pruitt, Ph.D.

Stephen Pruitt started his education career as a high school chemistry teacher in Fayetteville and Tyrone, Georgia. During his career, Dr. Pruitt has amassed an extensive policy, assessment and instructional background in education at the local, state, and national levels.

In May 2018, the Southern Regional Education Board unanimously voted to hire Dr. Pruitt as President.

Prior to this appointment, Dr. Pruitt served as Kentucky's sixth commissioner of education. Before coming to Kentucky, Dr. Pruitt served as senior vice president for Achieve, Inc., a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit education reform organization based in Washington, D.C. During his tenure with Achieve, he coordinated the development of the Next Generation Science Standards. Additionally, Dr. Pruitt served as the science and mathematics program manager and director of academic standards with the Georgia Department of Education. Subsequently, he was named associate state superintendent for assessment and accountability and ultimately chief of staff for the Georgia Department of Education.

Pruitt also served as a board member to the Council of Chief State School Officers, president of the Council of State Science Supervisors, and a member of the writing team for the College Board Standards for College Success (Science). In addition, he served on the National Academies of Science Committee on Conceptual Framework for New Science Education Standards that developed the *Framework for K-12 Science Education* – a foundational document for the Next Generation Science Standards.

A native of Georgia, Dr. Pruitt holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from North Georgia College and State University, a master's degree in science education from the University of West Georgia, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in chemistry education from Auburn University.

Dr. Pruitt and his wife are the parents of two children. Their son attends the University of Colorado-Boulder; their daughter attends the University of Kentucky.