Dr. Donna Cox Peters has spent the majority of her career serving North Carolina’s public school children. She served as an educator in Guilford County Schools for 20 years at the elementary, middle, and high school levels as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal. At the district level, she served as assistant superintendent in Moore County Schools and superintendent of two additional North Carolina districts--Rutherford County Schools and Montgomery County Schools. She served as executive director of Sandhills Leadership Academy, an innovative program preparing highly effective turnaround principals for high need schools in the Sandhills region of North Carolina. She has also taught in the School of Education at UNC Greensboro. Dr. Peters currently provides coaching for principals and aspiring principals. She is a John Maxwell certified coach, teacher, and speaker and is passionate about providing services to others that will add value to those individuals and organizations she serves.

Dr. Peters received her undergraduate degree in business education from Pembroke State University (UNC-Pembroke). Upon graduation, she was awarded a teaching assistantship at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she received an M.S. in business education the following year. She also received an M.S. in school administration from North Carolina A and T State University (Greensboro, NC) and a Ph.D. in curriculum with an educational leadership focus from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dr. Peters was a highly effective teacher leader in the schools she served prior to transitioning into school administration. While serving as principal of McLeansville Middle School, Dr. Peters and her team successfully turned around the school, utilizing Yale Child Study’s School Development Program. She was recognized as a Patrick Francis Daly Memorial Award recipient by the Yale Child Study Center in 1998 as a result of that school’s success. As superintendent, Dr. Peters was named the 2010 A. Craig Phillips Superintendent of the Year (NC SOY) by NCASA and NCSBA in recognition of her transformational leadership in the two school districts she led as superintendent. Dr. Peters was recently honored by the UNCG School of Education as an Inspirational Educator.

Dr. Peters has served on numerous community-based boards, including the UNC Pembroke Foundation Board, and she currently serves as chair of the UNCG School of Education Advisory Board. She resides in Pinehurst, NC, with husband, Rick, granddaughters Chloe (15) and Sarah (13), and Gracie, their labradoodle.