

## NIEDERLANDE

### Minister of Primary and Secondary Education

Ministry for Primary and Secondary Education

#### Dennis WIERSMA

Born on 19 February 1986 in Franeker, married, 2 children

Party: People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD)

#### Education

1998-2002	Junior general secondary education (MAVO), Simon Vestdijk School, Franeker
2002-2004	Senior general secondary education (HAVO), Anna Maria van Schurman School, Franeker
2004-2005	Teacher training (history), Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, Zwolle
2005-2009	Sociology, University of Groningen
2010-2012	Organisation and Management Studies, University of Utrecht

#### Career

2008-2009	Student member of the Behavioural and Social Sciences Faculty Board at the University of Groningen
2009-2010	Vice chair of the Dutch Student Union (LSVB)
2011-2013	Chair of the youth wing (FNV Jong) of the Trade Union Confederation FNV and in this capacity member of the Social and Economic Council (SER)
2013-2017	Programme manager for the social agenda (responsible for sustainability) at PGGM, a pension fund service provider
2013-2015	Project manager for tackling youth unemployment at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment
2016-2017	Working at Start Foundation, a venture philanthropy fund
2017-2021	23 March 2017 – 3 September 2021: Member of the House of Representatives for the VVD; party spokesperson on issues including social affairs and employment, economic affairs, innovation, top sectors and industry, and higher education and research

- 2021 – 2022      10 August 2021 – 10 January 2022: State Secretary for Social Affairs and Employment in the third Rutte (caretaker) government
- 10 January 2022      Appointed as Minister for Primary and Secondary Education in the fourth Rutte government

**Party political positions and outside activities**

- 2020-2021      Member of the temporary parliamentary committee of inquiry and the parliamentary committee of inquiry on natural gas extraction in Groningen for the House of Representatives
- 2011-2013      Board member of the Knowledge Centre for Trade and the Education-Business Alliance
- Co-founder of the PensioenLab, an organisation that encourages young people to join the debate on pensions
- Initiator of the Startersbeurs, a work experience scheme for newly qualified young people