

**NAME: Richard L. Woods**  
**PARTY: Republican**  
**SEEKING: State Superintendent of Schools**



**Why are you seeking your office?**

I am seeking the position of state superintendent to raise my ability to serve and to build on the positive impact that I have made on the lives of thousands of students and teachers.

I personally know the value of education and its ability to open locked doors of opportunity. I attended vocational schools, an engineering university, and receive two degrees from Georgia universities. Education permitted me to work in both industry and education.

Many examples of service in education afforded me the chance to be successful. It is my desire to extend this opportunity to Georgia's next generation.

**What do you expect to accomplish if elected?**

To establish a student centered, fiscally responsible educational department that operates to serve our local school systems as they provide our students with the skill set to have the following opportunities upon graduation:

- Continue learning via technical college, university system, military, and/or business training.
- Become innovative thinkers with the skills and work ethic needed to gain employment with the goal of becoming future business leaders.
- Be independent, informed, and engaged citizens.
- Make financial and personal decisions that allow them to be independent from and not dependent on government.

Student preparation for life must be the priority!

**What distinguishes your candidacy?**

I have over twenty-two years of educational experience spanning from pre-k through 12th grade. I have experience in the private sector as a purchasing agent and small business owner.

In 2010, I expressed concerns over Georgia adopting the Common Core standards and accepting federal Race to the Top money. Long before these two issues became popular talking points, I was talking about them because my deep educational experience coupled with my conservative principles knew it was the right thing to do for Georgia's students.

This record of wisdom, consistency, and integrity is what distinguishes me from the other candidates.

**What are the key issues in your race?**

The key issues facing Georgia education are governance, graduation rate, funding/spending, standards, testing, educational choice, departmental transparency, and teacher instructional time.

**Pick one issue. Expand on how you will address it.**

Georgia's graduation rate will be addressed as follows:

- Provide a primary focus on reading, math, and writing proficiency prior to leaving 5th grade.
- Addressing literacy needs prior to entering school through partnerships with public libraries, profit groups and non-profit groups. A high literacy level is critical to performance in all classwork and overall life success.
- Provide multiple paths for graduation. One-size-fits-all does not work.
- Expand course offerings that provide balance and challenging, real world application.
- Increase teacher instructional time by eliminating unnecessary data collection, paperwork, testing and documentation.
- Evaluate to educate. Incorporate a diagnostic...(100)

**Give a 100 word summary of your background.**

- Classroom Experience
- Social Studies Teacher, 14 years
- Department Chairperson
- Teacher of the Year
- Statewide and regional recognition for teaching strategies
  
- Administrative Experience
- Assistant Principal
- Principal
- K-5 Curriculum Director
- Pre-K Director
- Home School Director
  
- Business Experience
- Small Business Owner
- Purchasing agent for a domestic and international laser company.