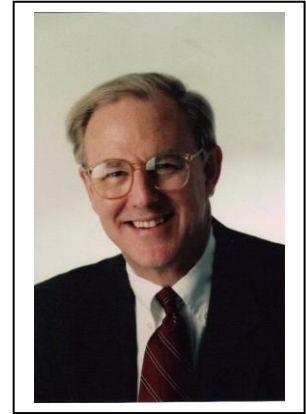


# 2010 candidate questionnaire

NAME: **Joe Martin**

PARTY: Democratic

SEEKING: State School Superintendent



## 1. Why are you seeking your office?

Great harm is being done to Georgia's schools. It is crucial to have a State School Superintendent who will stand up for our students and educators. We need a leader in this position who can be effective in opposing the actions that are damaging our schools and knows how to make the changes that are needed.

## 2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

Nothing is ever accomplished by one person alone, but I will work to improve the financing of our schools, enhance the teaching profession, and raise the academic performance of all students. I will insist on a functioning student information system, reduce the time spent on state tests, and increase the range of alternatives for our students within the public schools. I will work to improve the relationship between the State and local systems, expand the opportunities for all of our students, and involve parents and the broader community.

## 3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

As the only candidate for this office who has been directly involved in setting policy and budgets, I am ready and able to fill this role. Because of my experience in decision-making at the state and local levels for over thirty years, I have the knowledge and relationships to be an effective leader for our schools and make education a priority for our state. My skills in business and understanding of school finance can also be very helpful in stretching the limited resources to do the most good for our students.

## 4. What are the key issues in your race?

The key issues are the financing of Georgia's schools, the lack of support for our educators, and the over-emphasis on testing. We must involve parents as full partners in our schools and treat our educators with the respect they deserve.

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

I will work with teachers and school leaders to establish a performance- based career path for teachers, not only to enhance the teaching profession but also to improve the evaluation process. This approach would consider a broad range of student achievement without being limited to standardized tests. As one example, a new teacher would receive mentoring and other support, move when ready to a professional status on the basis of demonstrated competence, later assume the duties of a mentor to new teachers, and ultimately become a master teacher if he or she chooses to move to the next level.

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

I grew up in Georgia, graduated from Vanderbilt, was awarded the Bronze Star in Vietnam, attended the Harvard Business School on the G.I. Bill, have been a trustee of my church for many years, and have a wonderful wife, two children, and a grandson. I have been a business and civic leader, but am best known as a champion for public education. I served on my local school board for twenty years, played a key role on three state commissions on education, and headed a statewide organization during the last six years to improve all of Georgia's schools.