

NAME: Sam Mosteller
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Superintendent of Schools



Why are you seeking your office?

I am seeking the office of Superintendent of Georgia Schools because I believe I can make the greatest difference in the Georgia education system; and the lives of the students and teachers. Currently, over 60% of Georgia students cannot read at grade level. I gained my education in Georgia public schools and was able to attend one of Georgia's top public colleges. Because I was educated in the Georgia public school system I was able to all over the world and thrive on those academics. I would like to bring that standard back to Georgia Public education.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I expect to accomplish moving the ranking of Georgia schools from 49th out of 50 to the mid 20's. I also intend to reorganize Pre-k thru 5 to emphasize the "Three R's" (reading, writing, and arithmetic) in coordination with all of the varied school systems in Georgia. If the students are not well taught in elementary school, they never catch-up. I want to re-emphasize the importance of the "three R's" because they are the basis for all education. I will also introduce a spectrum of discipline. I will advocate parental involvement in cooperation with the Chambers of Commerce and corporate.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I have the most versatility than any other candidate. I am not a politician, I am a public servant. I have served my country over 20 years in the United States Army as a commissioned officer, retiring as a Major. I have a better international perspective based on my experience. My organizational and management skills have been tested both domestically and internationally. I have spent 7 years abroad, working with the United Nations. I worked with unions for 30 years. I have been on the Congressional staff having veterans and educational responsibilities.

How can we improve school safety?

We can improve school safety in three ways; First, we must retrain resource officers at the school to a tougher standard. We are going to have to hire more resource officers also. Second, we are going to have to re-introduce wrap-around services. (psychologists, nurses, social workers) Third, we are going to have to do better at identifying and assisting students that are being ostracized and bullied. I do not support arming teachers with guns when teachers already have too much responsibility.

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

My main issue is reading. We must improve reading because reading is central to all educational subjects. Increasing vocabulary will help with comprehension and critical thinking. We need to expand the library, the use of technology, and positive social media. The second aspect of reading involves expanding career academy, job training, and job placement. The last aspect of reading improvement would be remediation and helping those who have fallen behind.

Please give a 100-word summary on your background

I was born in Chattooga County Georgia; the 4th of 5 siblings. I graduated from Chattooga County High School and went to West Georgia College and graduated from there as the Distinguished Military Graduate, Who's Who Among Colleges and Universities, Outstanding Young Man of America, nominated to Phi Beta Kappa, and the Presidential Scholar. I met my wife when we were students at West Georgia college and we have been married 37 years. We have two sons and two grandchildren.