

**NAME: Tanisha Banks**  
**PARTY: Democratic**  
**SEEKING: School Board, District 3**

**1. Why are you seeking your office?**

It is time for the rich diversity in our community to be reflected on our school board. My mission and vision as a board member is to bring fresh ideas and 21st Century solutions to the challenges that confront our school system. I will offer a threefold perspective to these challenges as follows:

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- I am currently employed as a certified Special Education Teacher in GCPS. I am keenly familiar with the “barriers” that impact teaching (100)...

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

- Protecting taxpayers by making sure to keep overhead costs low and maximizing dollars that go into the classroom that will directly impact teaching and learning.
- Accountability and Transparency for my constituents by keeping them informed through public disclosures and written discourse.
- Revamp pay for performance for teachers to ensure special education teachers and teachers at title one and special entity schools are able to qualify based on their special circumstances.
- Increasing the availability of early childhood education by piloting a universal Pre-K program in GCPS schools.
- Reduce the amount of high-stakes testing

**3. What distinguishes your candidacy?**

When third graders fail to reach their reading standards, they are immediately at a disadvantage. If we could make a significant impact at the Pre-K level our students would be better prepared for kindergarten. I am an advocate for universal Pre-K in Gwinnett County schools. I am also the only person who currently teaches in the GCPS school system, certified in Special Education, teaches at a Trauma Informed Alternative School and have children who currently attend school

in my district. I have a unique perspective and wealth of knowledge concerning issues experienced by students, parents and teachers.

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

The pandemic has exposed financial and resource disparities between districts, schools, and individual students. In order for Gwinnett to be a true "world class" school system we need to do better at meeting the needs of students. We must acknowledge the inequities in education before we expect ambitious student achievement. We must close the digital learning gap by giving students educational technology for those who need it. We must be proactive in decision making for this coming Fall school year due to the possibility of extending digital learning until it is medically safe to return to classroom instruction.

**5. Suggest ways to jump-start the economy after COVID-19.**

N/A

**6. Please give a 100 word summary on your background.**

My educational journey began with me graduating from Clark Atlanta University with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Currently, I am pursuing my Masters Degree in Counseling. I am certified in English as a Second Language (ESOL) and Special Education. I have been teaching in GCPS for over a decade. I am a member of many community organizations which keep me aware of Legislative policies that affect our schools and communities.

My unique perspective and wealth of knowledge concerning issues experienced by students and teachers constitutes my value-added competence for the Gwinnett County School Board.