

**NAME: Currey Hitchens**  
**PARTY: Democratic**  
**SEEKING: State School Superintendent**

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

I am running for State Superintendent of Schools because students and teachers need a strong advocate to stand up and fight for public education in Georgia. I have represented students and was a teacher, and realized I could do the most good for both groups by highlighting their issues in my campaign and fighting for them as the Superintendent.

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

As Superintendent I will work to fight:  
against banning books in schools;  
to empower educators to teach the truth to students and to stand up without fear of retribution;  
to increase educator pay to be equal to the pay of similarly educated professionals in other fields;  
for services and accommodations to keep children home schools;  
to end exclusionary discipline;  
to get mental health and social worker services in schools; and  
to get schools to use community school strategies.  
I will work to soften bad laws with policy and lobby the legislature to work on laws that will improve public education.

**3. What distinguishes your candidacy?**

My teacher days are years in the past, but I never really left education. My year of service through AmeriCorps was in an alternative educating setting, now called Youth Villages. I finished my Masters in Education at UGA while in law school at Emory and kept being pulled back to public education in my casework at Georgia Legal Services and Atlanta Legal Aid.

I am a part of a community of student advocates and I have always been surrounded by Georgia educators. I care about both groups and believe they can work together to improve schooling in Georgia.

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

No K-12 public school is teaching CRT to its students. The best way to understand CRT and not speak from ignorance is to fully train educators statewide. Educators may find strategies in CRT that will help increase equity in the schools, classrooms and

communities. They will also then understand that critical race theory does not put blame on today's children for past events and atrocities. Educators who have learned CRT might be able to better discuss historical and current events with appropriate care. Ending exclusionary discipline is part of what is needed to increase equity in schools.

**5. What are your ideas on curbing all the many area-wide shootings?**

Preventive measures and mental health for students, youths and teachers must be funded immediately. American Rescue Plan funds should be used now, not held in reserve until they are close to expiration. Georgia schools must use evidence-based practices like community school strategies and restorative justice to make schools a part of their communities again, instead of making them the adversaries of students in minority groups, those with disabilities, and those living in poverty.

Schools are in the best position to help children choose a different path from violence through opportunities, preparing for the future, and meeting students where they are.

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

I grew up in Tunnel Hill. I attended public schools in Whitfield County. I attended Agnes Scott College for my undergraduate studies, and earned a teaching certification there the year after I graduated. I then taught fourth grade for two years in the City Schools of Decatur before deciding to go to law school. While preparing to attend law school, I did a year of service through AmeriCorps in Douglasville. As an attorney, I fought for low income Georgians in many counties. I kept returning to education. I represent students in cases for accommodations for disabilities and school discipline cases.