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Dr. Beth Farokhi announces campaign for Georgia State School Superintendent

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Retired educator and part time Gilmer County resident Dr. Beth Farokhi has announced she will mount a campaign in the 2010 Democratic race for Georgia State School Superintendent. Farokhi says she understands the importance of the state's educational system, both in her own life and in the success of all Georgians. She earned a doctorate degree (Ed.D.) in higher education from the University of Georgia, a master of arts in teaching (M.A.T.) from Emory University, and a bachelor of arts in elementary education and health and physical education from LaGrange College. She is an eighth generation Georgian from Augusta, who now resides in Marietta and Gilmer County.

For over 35 years she has served in Georgia's schools, first as a teacher in the Cobb County school system and then as an administrator in the College of Education at Georgia State University. Her dedication to education led her to become involved in strategic planning and curriculum development for various school settings, as well as local, statewide, and national boards and organizations focused on educational equity.

The candidate fervently believes that "our schools are more than test scores, buildings, and partisan politics; they are our teachers, our school personnel, our children, and our community."

As Georgia State School Superintendent, she pledges "to use the tremendous resources we have in Georgia to give our teachers the support they need and to develop a curriculum that embraces excellence so that Georgia provides the best public education in the country." Farokhi says the three main issues that drive her campaign are:

- overtesting;
- lack of support for teachers; and,
- an imbalance of a strong curriculum across disciplines.

First, the pressures of excessive and often unnecessary testing overburden Georgia's students and teachers. Secondly, our system too often fails to provide classroom teachers with the resources they need to reach the level of excellence for our children. Finally, the current curriculum should be scrutinized to ensure Georgia's students are enabled to become productive global citizens. She said it is essential that high standards of accountability are maintained while implementing these changes.

Farokhi says the adage is true: "change is certain; progress is not." She believes that "progress depends on our working together to make the right choices today for the best outcomes tomorrow. We must collaborate with one another so that we can meet the challenges we face while protecting our values. To that end, we cannot allow partisan politics to prevent schools from be. As Georgia State School Superintendent, I pledge to help implement these very important changes to improve our schools."

The educator concluded by explaining, "My campaign for Georgia State School Superintendent is not about slogans; it is about the ideas and ways that we can work together to achieve solutions for education in Georgia for all our children."

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