



## **State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox**

Kathy Cox has been State Superintendent of Schools since 2003 and in that time, she has set Georgia's schools on a path toward excellence.

Guided by the GaDOE's Strategic Plan, Superintendent Cox has overseen many improvements to public education in Georgia, including:

- The creation and implementation of the Georgia Performance Standards, a world-class curriculum that has received national recognition for its focus, rigor and clarity.
- A new set of graduation requirements that makes sure Georgia's students graduate from high school ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> century world of higher education and work.
- A re-engineering of the state's Career, Technical and Agricultural Education programs that help students develop job-ready skills in conjunction with a strong academic core of classes
- An increase in public school choice by expanding the number of charter schools in Georgia, overseeing the creation of career academies and implementing the state's on-line learning portal, Georgia Virtual School.

Superintendent Cox, working the State Board of Education, has led Georgia to continued improvement on almost every state and national educational measurement. For instance, Georgia students are, for the first time ever, scoring at the national average of portions of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Additionally, Georgia's graduation rate has risen to its highest level.

Superintendent Cox was a classroom teacher for 15 years and served two terms in the state legislature before being elected to the Georgia's highest educational post in 2003. She was overwhelmingly re-elected in 2006.

In September 2008, Superintendent Cox made national headlines by becoming the first contestant to win \$1 million on Fox's *Are You Smarter than a 5th-Grader?*. She used the money to create the "Go For It! Foundation," which supports students attending Georgia's three state schools.

Superintendent Cox lives in Peachtree City with her husband, John. They are the parents of two boys, John, 18, and Alex, 15.