



Georgia Charter Schools Association
Plant a charter. Grow a kid.

**KEY CHARTER SCHOOLS QUESTIONS FOR
GEORGIA'S GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES**

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Georgia Charter Schools Association is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit membership organization for Georgia's charter school operators and petitioners. Our mission is to be an effective advocate, resource, and service provider for charter public schools in the state.

I understand that Georgia Charter Schools Association may use my responses to all questions as one of several other factors in consideration for endorsement of my candidacy and understand that my answers may be released at any time to the general public.

Name: Nathan Deal

Signature: Nathan Deal

Date: 7 MAY 2010

PLEASE SIGN & RETURN COMPLETED FORM

Return options:

Email: alewis@gacharters.org
Mail to: Andrew Lewis, Chief Programming Officer
Georgia Charter Schools Association
600 West Peachtree Street
Suite 1555
Atlanta, GA 30308

If you have any questions about this survey, please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Lewis at (404) 835-8902.

**GEORGIA CHARTER SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION
KEY CHARTER SCHOOLS QUESTIONS FOR
GEORGIA'S GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES**

NATHAN DEAL

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Parent Choice

5 – Strongly Agree

I believe each parent should have the choice to determine which learning environment best suits the needs of their child. Competition drives quality and success, and added options provide for the benefit of all of those involved.

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Public Charter Schools

5 – Strongly Agree

Charter schools serve a critical role in providing access to public education options for students. Competition drives quality and charter schools are fundamental in giving competition and accountability to traditional public schools. Public charter schools also provide options to thousands of students across our state which have fewer options while fostering innovation through freedom to provide a high-quality education to the student.

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Equitable Funding

4 - Agree

Public charter and non-charter schools, as well as state and local governments, are facing an unprecedented challenge in the midst of funding shortfalls as a result of the current economic recession. As our state works to strengthen its education system, we must ensure adequate resources are provided for all students.

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Charter Facilities

4 - Agree

Like my previous response above, we must ensure limited resources are used for the most necessary purposes for providing a high-quality education for Georgia's students, both through appropriate learning resources as well as a high-quality learning environment. Given the challenges that our state and local governments face with significant budget shortfalls, this will be a critical issue for our next governor, state Legislature and local government officials.

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Quality Charter Authorizing

5 – Strongly Agree

Authorization of charter schools must ensure that rigorous standards are in place to ensure students receive the best education possible. Allowing local boards of education, the State Board of Education and the Georgia Charter Schools Commission to authorize charter schools and ensure that goals are met in order to challenge students to succeed.

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Quality Charter Authorizing #2

4 - Agree

Given the challenges that state and local governments are facing with respect to funding for education, it will be incumbent upon the next governor of Georgia to ensure adequate resources are available to provide the best education we can to all of Georgia's students. We must ensure an appropriate balance is struck to provide equitable funding for charter schools.

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Charter Autonomy

5 – Strongly Agree

Charter schools enjoy a level of flexibility and freedom from bureaucratic control of school operations which leads to their success, efficiency, and ability to best meet the needs of the individual student population. With appropriate standards in place, autonomy in decision-making is an important ingredient to charter school success.