

Candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction

Janet Barresi

Party: Republican

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Vocation: Former Educator, retired dentist

Question #1: List your academic and professional credentials, specific accomplishments and volunteer activities. State why you are running and what qualifies you for this office. (100 words total)

I have a BA in Education from OU, a MS in Speech & Language Disorders from OUHSC, and a DDS from OU College of Dentistry. As a business woman, educator and education reformer of 15 years, I will bring a unique perspective to the Superintendent's office. I will apply to the state the lessons learned from my two public charter schools, one of which is ranked 68th on *Newsweek's* list of the nation's top high schools. Those lessons are local control of schools, accountability and transparency of finances and performance, increased teacher effectiveness, and a focus on teaching and learning.

Question #2: What do you see as the most important issues facing your office and staff? (200 words or less)

The most important reason I am running is to prepare Oklahoma's children for the demands of the 21st Century and to provide the children of this state the best opportunity to be successful. I believe we have a moral obligation to do so. As such, I want to bring my experience in creating schools, involving parents, and using data-proven practices to improve our state's education system. We must realize that we can do better. We can accomplish more. We simply must refocus our goals. But our children are not the only reason I am running for this position. I also believe that our economy demands it. We all know that we must have a well-educated workforce that can think critically in order to attract and retain the job providers we all need and want. I believe I can work in conjunction with business leaders and educators to ensure that we have an educational system that will prepare our students for their careers.