

## Introduction

### *My ABC's...*

*I shall pass through this world but once.  
Any good, therefore, that I can do or any  
kindness I can show to any human being,  
let me do it now . . . for I shall not pass  
this way again.*

Etienne De Grillet

All of my life I have been blessed. All I have ever attempted to accomplish is to work hard, set high expectations for myself and always treat others the way I expect to be treated. Throughout my life, I have been fortunate to be recognized by my friends and colleagues for doing the very best possible work regardless of the endeavor.

In the early part of 2008, I began to consider seeking the office of Escambia County Superintendent of Schools. Running for elected office poses considerable personal and professional sacrifices. Consequently, I had to find answers to the most fundamental questions: Why should I, Malcolm Thomas, run for Superintendent? What would I want to accomplish if I were

elected? Seeking answers to those fundamental questions, I have reviewed and reflected upon both my personal and professional past, including my values and experiences. This intense personal analysis of motivations and career accomplishments, coupled with the enthusiastic encouragement of colleagues I know and respect, convinced me to seek this office.

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This book is divided into two sections. The first section will give you an up-close look at who I am, where I came from, why and how I became an educator and my educational experience. The second section will outline my vision, goals and specific plans for a better Escambia County School District.

I believe that the best indicator of one's future success is what one has done in the past. An examination of my past will reflect my journey toward excellence. After you have read this book, I think that you will see that I have the *Ability, Background, Competence, Dedication and Experience* to lead the Escambia County School System as Superintendent.