

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kathy Crum

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Alternatives in Illinois Education Oral History project

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-073

Kathy Crum, a former principal at Graham Elementary School in Springfield, Illinois which uses a year-round schooling model, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Alternatives in Education* Oral History project.

Interview Date & Location:

Date: Nov 19, 2018 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:11 / 1.18 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on (date).

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

Interview being
processed

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Abstract

Kathy Crum, *Alternatives in Education*, EA-A-L-2018-073

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Kathy Crum was born in St. Louis, Missouri in October 1956. She attended school in St. Louis and graduated from Ritenour High School in 1975. She earned a BS degree in 1979 in education and psychology from Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois and later earned a Masters' degree from Sangamon State (now University of Illinois-Springfield) in educational administration. Kathy began her teaching career in Alexander and Ashland before moving to Wichita, Kansas where she taught 5th and 6th grade from 1984-86. She moved to Springfield in 1986. Her positions in the School District #186 included teaching reading, serving as an administrative intern, principal at Graham Elementary School for eight years, and later as a central office administrator working on curriculum instruction. Kathy retired from District #186 in 2013. Following retirement, she started her own business, Kathy Crum Consulting, Inc. which works with schools nationwide.

Kathy discusses the use of a balanced (year-round scheduling) schedule at Graham Elementary School. Two schools in District #186 have used this scheduling option for many years. She covers how the school went to a balanced schedule after Southern View, another district school, used it. She reviews the study conducted on this type of scheduling, parental involvement in approving this schedule (80% vote), teaching assignment/transfers in or from the school, and establishing a yearly schedule beginning in mid-July (9 weeks on and 2-3 weeks off). She discusses the advantages and challenges of such a schedule, including intense learning time, reduced summer loss of learning, vacation family time, early childhood readiness and out of district transfers. Other topics covered include hiring staff prior to the start date of July, collective bargaining language, the use of summer classes, and the use of intersession classes during break time.

Subject Headings/Key Words: balanced (year-round) school scheduling; Graham Elementary School, Springfield, Illinois; advantages of year-round schooling; challenges of year-round schooling; parental relations with school for year-round schools

Notes to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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