

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Thomas Kerins

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Education is Key-1985 Educational Reform Act* Oral History project

Interview # E85-A-L-2014-042

Tom Kerins, a career educator who discusses the Illinois state learning goals and the Illinois State Assessment Program, parts of the 1985 Educational Reform Act, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Educational Reform Act of 1985* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Nov 12, 2014 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:30 / 1.5 hrs

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

Transcript  
being processed

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# Abstract

## Thomas Kerins-1985 Education Reform Act, E85-A-L-2014-042

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Thomas (Tom) Kerins was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1944. His family lived in Chicago, and he graduated from St. Mel High School in 1962. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Loyola University in Chicago in 1966 and an MA from there in 1968. He earned a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1983. Kerins started his career as Director of a Gifted Demonstration Center at Hawthorne School, Oak Park, Illinois. He then worked at CIRCE, a research and evaluation center at the University of Illinois." In 1971, Tom went to the Office of Public Instruction (now Illinois State Board of Education). His responsibilities included doing evaluations of the federal programs implemented by Illinois Public Schools. In 1985, Tom was given the responsibilities of being in charge of several of the reforms including 1) the definition of schooling, 2) assessment programs for grades 3,6, 8, & 10, 3) Learning Goals, and 4) the Consumer Education Proficiency test. Upon leaving the State Board of Education, Tom did data analysis for Springfield District #186 and later was a professor at the University of Illinois Springfield.

This interview details the development of the Illinois State Learning Goals and the Illinois State Assessment Program which were part of the 1985 Education Reforms. These reforms were carried out by the Department of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (Illinois State Board of Education). The interview also covers the modifications of the existing assessment and learning goals and how it was implemented by the local public school districts. Also, discussed is the legacy of this legislation.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** 1985 Educational Reform Act; evolution of the Office of Public Instruction into the Illinois State Board of Education; nationwide climate for educational reform in the 1980's; IL Department of Planning, Research, and Evaluation; Illinois' first state testing program; implementing the Educational Reform Act reforms

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