

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Douglas (Doug) Henning

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key – Public School Funding Oral History project

Interview #EF-A-L-2019-050

Douglas Henning, an employee of the Chicago Public School district, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key—Public School Funding* Oral History project.

Interview date: July 15, 2019 Location: Chicago, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:26 / 1.43 hrs.

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

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Abstract

Doug Henning, *Education is Key*, EF-A-L-2019-050

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Doug Henning was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1976. He graduated from Evanston Township High School in 1994, and then went to college at the University of Illinois, where he majored in the humanities. He attended John Marshall Law School in Chicago, where he earned his J.D. in 2005. Upon graduation, Doug worked for the law firm of Ice Miller in Indianapolis for seven years. In 2012, he returned to Chicago to work for the Chicago Transit System (CTA). In 2016, he joined the legal department at the Chicago Public Schools (CPS).

Henning discusses the 2017 CPS lawsuit against the Illinois State Board of Education, arguing that Chicago Public Schools were being treated differently regarding school funding than other Illinois School Districts. This suit was filed following the veto of Senate Bill 2822, which would have provided increased state funding for Chicago Public Schools, including pensions. This veto resulted in an unbalanced CPS budget which caused the District to implement money-saving policies that were detrimental to students. The suit requested an injunction to hold the state funding at its appropriated levels with plans to create a new distribution method. The suit referenced the Illinois Civil Rights Act (2003) and the U.S. Civil Rights Act (1964). CPS argued that the district had made academic gains in ACT scores, state tests, and NAEP testing, which CPS could lose due to funding cuts. The Chancery Court dismissed the suit but allowed CPS to file an amendment pertaining to the pension issue. In 2017, the General Assembly passed a new Evidence Based school funding model which would provide more state funding for CPS pensions. As a result, an agreement was reached to drop the suit.

Subject Headings/Key Words: CPS school funding; Illinois State Board of Education; State of Illinois; SB 2822; Illinois pensions; Cook County Chancery Court; Urban League Case (2008); Brown (1954); Illinois Civil Rights Act (2003); Sandoval Case (2001)

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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