

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Sylvia Puente

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

Interview # EF-A-L-2019-034

Sylvia Puente, 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 dates & location:

Date: June 19, 2019 Location: Chicago, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:20 / 1.33 hrs.

Interview being
processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 20, 2019.

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

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Abstract

Sylvia Puente, *Education is Key – Funding*, EF-A-L-2019-034

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Sylvia Puente was born in Chicago in September 1958 and attended Proviso East High School in Maywood for two years before transferring to Oak Park-River Forest High School, where she graduated in 1976. Sylvia graduated from the University of Illinois, majoring in Economics. She later earned a MA degree from the Irving Harris School of Public Policy Studies from the University of Chicago in 1998. Her work experiences began with a year-long fellowship program in the Illinois Bureau of Budget. In 1993 Sylvia joined the Latino Institute, serving as Director of Public Policy and later as Director of Research. She then became the New Community Initiatives Director for the Resurrection Project-Chicago, and in 2001-2008 as the Director for Center for Metropolitan Chicago at the University of Notre Dame Institute for Latino Studies. At the time of the interview she served as the Executive Director of the Latino Forum of Chicago, IL. Puente has served on a variety of boards and commissions, as well as on Gov. J.B. Pritzker's Education Transition Team. She has received numerous awards during her career in education.

During this interview Sylvia discusses the legal role of the Education Funding Advisory Board (EFAB) created after the Governor's Commission (Gov. Jim Edgar) of 1996. This board made recommendations as to the amount of funding needed to provide for adequate education in Illinois's public schools. This model was replaced by the new Evidence Based School Funding Model in 2017. Puente talks about the state's Early Learning Council, made up of both private and public stakeholders, the efforts in bilingual education and how bilingual funding fits into the new state funding model. She also discusses the push for higher academic standards and opportunities for minority children in Chicago and statewide. Other areas discussed include Illinois teacher shortages, the movement of Hispanic students to the suburbs, the research on quality education for all children, and the importance of having a policy which promotes quality education. She reviews the role of the Latino Policy Forum in education community leadership, immigration, cultural/linguistic literacy and affordable housing.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Latino Policy Forum; Education Funding Advisory Board (EFAB); state of Illinois Early Childhood Council; 1995 Chicago Reform Act; Evidence Based School Funding Model of 2017; minority student education in Chicago;

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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