

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Susie Morrison

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

Interview # E85-A-L-2014-39

Susie Morrison, a teacher and State Board of Education administrator involved with implementing the 1985 Educational Reform Act, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-1985 Educational Reform Act* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Nov. 5, 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: 1:07 / 1.12 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 26, 2015.

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

Transcript
being processed

© 2014 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Susie Morrison-Education is Key, E85-A-L-2014-039

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Susie Morrison was born in Aledo, Illinois in 1956, and graduated from Aledo High School in 1974. She earned a BS degree from Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, and then began her career as a social studies teacher at Homer, Illinois. She spent eight years teaching at Homer, from 1978-86. In 1986, she moved to Girard to teach there for two years. While at Girard she earned a Masters degree and a Type 75 administrative certificate from the University of Illinois-Springfield. Later she earned a Masters in Educational Administration, including a Superintendent endorsement. In 1990, she started an eleven year tenure with the state of Illinois in the area of health education. Later, she worked in the fields of gifted programs, the Administrators Academy, and educational Service Centers. Leaving the State Board of Education, Susie served as a local school district principal and then Director of the North Central Association. She returned to the State Board of Education in 2006, serving as [the](#) Special Assistant to the State Superintendent. At the time of the interview, she was one of the Deputy Superintendent/Chief Education Officer.

This interview covers the origins of the 1985 Educational Reform Act and its early impact upon school districts. In addition, the role of the State Board of Education in the evolution of several of the reforms, including school improvement, learning objectives, school reports cards, staff development, truant intervention, optional education programs and gifted education are explored. Comparisons with the North Central Accreditation and Quality review are discussed. Finally, the interview covers what legacy still exists from the 1985 Educational Reforms.

Subject Headings/Key Words: 1985 Educational Reform Act; school improvement stemming from the Educational Reform Act; educational staff development in Illinois schools; Illinois Administrators' Academy; educational Service Centers; School to Work program in Illinois; specialized reforms, gifted education and truant education in Illinois

Note 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.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955