

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Larry Frank

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Illinois Public School Funding* Oral History project

Interview # EF-A-L-2019-009

Larry Frank, an IL Education Association administrator discusses the Committee for Educational Rights v Edgar IL Supreme Court case, 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 & Location:

Date: Apr 16, 2019 Location: Abraham Lincoln Pres. Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:29 / 1.48 hrs.

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

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## Abstract

### Larry Frank, *Public School Funding*, EF-A-L-2019-009

**Biographical Information Overview:** Larry Frank was born in Mendota, Illinois in 1951. He grew up on a farm and attended Mendota public schools, graduating in 1969. He attended Illinois State University (ISU), earning a BS in music education in 1974. His first band teaching position was in Plano, Illinois where he worked with two schools, grades 4-6. In 1977 Larry returned to ISU and worked on a masters in conducting (1980). He also served as the marching band director from 1978-1988 while teaching in the music department. In 1990, Larry earned a PhD in higher education administration from ISU in the field of statistics and public finance. In 1990, he joined the Coalition for Educational Rights, working on litigation which was heard by the Illinois Supreme Court in 1996. Larry joined the Illinois Education Association in 1992, where he currently still serves as its Director of Educational Policy and Research.

Frank discusses the Illinois school funding lawsuit of the 1990's (Committee for Educational Rights v Edgar), which was heard by the Illinois Supreme Court in 1996. He also talked about the role of Alan Hickrod, the Center for the Study of Illinois Finance, the Illinois School Problems Commission, the origins of the litigation (Mt. Morris), the roles of the Committee and Coalition for Educational Rights, the decision to focus on funding equity over adequacy, the statewide public awareness campaign, the involvement of statewide school districts including Chicago Public Schools, the review of litigation in Texas, New Jersey, and California, and the legal arguments presented at the district and supreme court levels. Frank also discussed the effort to change the Illinois State Constitution regarding school funding, and the impact this unsuccessful lawsuit had on later public-school funding.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** public school funding in Illinois; Illinois State University; Alan Hickrod; School Problems Commission; Center for Illinois Finance; Committee for Educational Rights v Edgar IL Supreme Court case; Chicago Public Schools funding; Chicago Urban League; Illinois State Constitution of 1970, Article X;

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