

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. William (Bill) Hinrichs

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

Interview # EF-A-L-2018-042

Dr. William Hinrichs, who discusses the State Board of Education perspective on school funding, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Alternatives in Education Oral History* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jul 19, 2018 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:19 / 1.32 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April 2, 2019.

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

Interview being
processed

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Abstract

William Hinrichs, *Public School Funding*, EF-A-L-2018-042

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: William (Bill) Hinrichs was born in February 1949 in Springfield, Illinois. He grew up in Petersburg, Illinois and graduated from Petersburg's Porta High School in 1967. He then attended Western Illinois University, earning a BS degree in 1971 and an MS in mathematics in 1973. He began his teaching career at Rochester High School teaching mathematics. Later, he served there as the assistant high school principal and later the junior high principal. Bill worked in Rochester from 1973-1982. In 1982, he earned a Ph.D. from Illinois State University. Leaving teaching, Bill worked for several private businesses in Florida. In 1986, he returned to Illinois and worked for the Illinois State Board of Education as a senior policy advisor, school finance researcher, and reimbursement manager. Bill retired from the State Board in 2003. Bill also taught at Southern Illinois Carbondale and has written many publications on school funding, school equity, school disparity, general state aid, school adequacy, House Bill 452, and state formula changes. Bill was a staff member from ISBE who worked with the Education Finance Advisory Board (EFAB).

This interview examines the 2 basic funding formulas which were used by the Illinois State Board of Education from 1973-2016. Hinrichs discusses the three types of distribution methods, the impact of the Average Daily Attendance (ADA), local property tax wealth, the poverty grant, Property Tax Extensive Limitation Law (PTELL), hold harmless, corporate personal property, and the foundation level. He also reviewed the impact of court legal challenges, the responsibility of the Education Funding Advisory Board (EFAB), the objectives and tweaks to the various funding formulas, why disparities in Illinois school funding existed, and the difficulty in making changes to the school formula.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois school funding formula of 1973; IL school funding formula of 1999; Average Daily Attendance (ADA); Property Tax Extensive Limitation Law (PTELL); Education Finance Advisory Board (EFAB); methods of funding distribution to IL school districts; school fund disparities in IL; Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax;

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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