

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Victor Iturralde

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Alternatives in Illinois Education* Oral History project

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-051

Victor Iturralde, principal of the relatively new Eric Solorio Academy High School, 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 3, 2018    Location: Eric Solorio Academy High School, Chicago, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:43 / 1.72 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 13, 2018.

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

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Interview being  
processed

# Abstract

Victor Iturralde, Alternative Schooling in Illinois, EA-A-L-2018-051

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Victor Iturralde was born in Harlingen, Texas and his family moved to Chicago when he was five. He attended elementary school at St. Catherine Catholic school, and high school at Quigley South High School, also a Chicago-based Catholic institution. Following graduation, Victor attended the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), majoring in sociology with a minor in chemistry. Victor then became a substitute teacher for the Chicago Public Schools. He later earned an MA from Roosevelt University. He worked at several schools over the years, including May Academy, Gray Academy, Little Village Academy, and Chicago Academy, beginning as a teacher, then technology director, assistant principal and principal. While at the Chicago Academy a new school, named the Eric Solorio Academy High School, was built to help ease overcrowding at Kelly, Curie, and Gage Park High Schools. This new school was run by the Academy for Urban School Leadership, with Iturralde becoming its first principal in 2010, a position he still held at the time of the interview.

Iturralde discussed the creation of Eric Solorio Academy High School and its first eight years of operation in the Gage Park area of Chicago. This neighborhood public school has approximately 1,230 students, largely of Mexican-American descent. Victor discussed the school's first few years when students were added one year at a time beginning with 9th grade. He also discussed the green energy innovations found at the school, and the school's combined soccer/football turf field, plus tennis courts, a swimming pool, and a dual-purpose gym/auditorium. He elaborated on faculty training, advanced placement classes, a dual credit program with City Colleges of Chicago, certificated programs with Rasmussen College, and a variety of internships. The school offers sixteen different sports as well as many other clubs and activities. Challenges facing neighborhood schools and the school's yearly and long term goals were also covered. Over the years the school has received high praise from several institutions including US News, Chicago Magazine, and SCHOOLHOUND.COM

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Eric Solorio Academy High School, Chicago, IL; High School in Energy and Environmental Design; four-year staggered enrollment; Academy for Urban School Leadership (AUSL); predominantly Hispanic high school; feeder elementary and secondary schools; advance places academy; Chicago Park District;

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