

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Sally Pancrazio

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Educational Reform Act of 1985 Oral History project

Interview # E85-A-L-2014-024

Dr. Sally Pancrazio, a career educator involved with the passage and implementation of the 1985 Educational Reform Act, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Educational Reform Act of 1985* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: July 30, 2014 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue

Transcription by: Pat Freeman, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Betty Workman and Janice Culp, ALPL volunteers

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

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Abstract

Dr. Sally Pancrazio, *Education is Key*, E85-A-L-2014-024

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Sally Pancrazio was born in Endicott, New York in December 1939. She attended and graduated from Mooseheart, Illinois High School in 1957 and earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Illinois State University in 1960, with a major of business education. Sally earned an MS degree from Indiana State in 1965, and an Ed.D from the University of Illinois in teacher education in 1971. She began her teaching career at Jamaica Consolidated High School and later was a researcher, both at Indiana State University and Illinois State University. She spent eighteen years with the Illinois State Board of Education in the Office of Public Instruction. Upon leaving the State Board of Education, Sally returned to Illinois State University, to serve as dean of the College of Education

This interview covers Dr. Pancrazio's involvement with the 169 educational reforms that were passed in 1985. She reviews the country's mood for educational change, following the release of *The Nation at Risk*, as well as work by John Goodlad, Mortimer Adler, BV Rosenshine, TJ Sergiovanni, the College Entrance Board, *What Students Need to Know* and the Ypsilanti Study on early childhood, and the Illinois Commission on the Improvement of Elementary and Secondary Education. With the support of the legislative leaders and Governor Jim Thompson, the reforms moved through the legislative process in over thirty individual bills, highlighted by Senate Bill 730. Dr. Pancrazio discusses the advancement of the reforms involving prekindergarten, bilingual transitional, the school report card, educational service centers, learning goals, principal leadership, teacher training and evaluation, reading improvement, special education, and the analysis of data collection.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Educational Reform Act 1985, research and educational studies prior to 1985 act, State Board of Education Implementation of the 1985 reforms, educational philosophies, *A Nation at Risk*

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.

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