

# More than a Bus Ride: Desegregating Champaign Schools

Franklin Middle School Girls' Radio Documentary Project



**More than a  
Bus Ride:**  
Desegregating Champaign Schools

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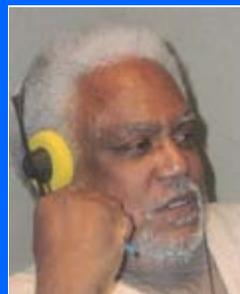
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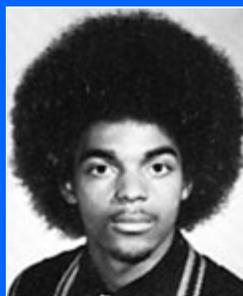
Harold Baker was chairman of the Equal Education Opportunity Committee that created the desegregation plan in 1968. He is a former attorney and a US district judge.

[Transcript](#)



Alvin Griggs began teaching in Champaign in 1965. At Centennial High School he was a coach, physical education teacher and assistant principal.

[Transcript](#)



Dereke Clements was a student at Booker T. Washington School when it was a segregated neighborhood school. He was bused to Lottie Switzer School during desegregation and attended Centennial High School.

[Transcript](#)



Ruby Hunt is the parent of four children, some of whom were bused during desegregation. She was active in public discussions about the desegregation plan.

[Transcript](#)



Al Davis was principal at Centennial High School from 1972 until his retirement in 1994. He began his career teaching math at Edison Jr. High in Champaign in 1960.

[Transcript](#)



John Lee Johnson has been a community activist for 40 years. He and Herb Stevens, along with four parents, sued the Unit 4 School District in 1997.

[Transcript](#)

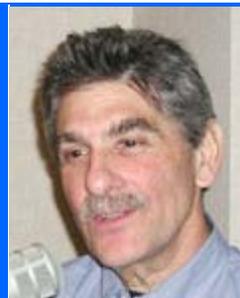
Dave Downey was a member of the Equal

Julian Rappaport is a parent whose children were bused



Education Opportunity Committee that created the desegregation plan in 1968. His children were bused to Washington School after desegregation.

[Transcript](#)



to Washington School after desegregation.

[Transcript](#)

Maudie Flake Edwards taught in the Champaign Schools from 1959 until 1984. She was a teacher at Booker T. Washington School before and during desegregation. She was transferred to Robeson School.



[Transcript](#)



Jackie Smith attended Central and Centennial High Schools.

[Transcript](#)

Lila Jeanne Eichelberger taught in the Champaign Schools for more than 40 years and retired in 1989. She was a teacher at Centennial High School before and during desegregation.



[Transcript](#)



Hester Nelson Suggs was the principal at Booker T. Washington Elementary school for 22 years and a teacher before that in the Champaign and Urbana Schools. She was the first black teacher to teach at Leal Elementary School in Urbana.

[Transcript](#)

Rupert Evans was a member of the Equal Education Opportunity Committee that created the desegregation plan in 1968. He is retired Dean of the College of Education at the University of Illinois. He served on the Champaign School Board from about 1960-1965.



[Transcript](#)



Crystal Womble was a student at Booker T. Washington School when it was a segregated neighborhood school. She is the younger sister of Dereke Clements and attended Centennial High School.

[Transcript](#)

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