



## SERIES FACTS

**TITLE:** *SCHOOL: The Story of American Public Education*

**AIRDATE:** **Episodes 1 and 2:** September 3, 2001 9-11 p.m.  
**Episodes 3 and 4:** September 4, 2001 9-11 p.m. on PBS stations nationwide (check local listings.)

**DESCRIPTION:** Narrated by Oscar-winning actress Meryl Streep, this documentary series chronicles the story of universal public education in America from colonial times to the present. Four one-hour episodes weave archival footage, on-site coverage, and coast-to-coast interviews with experts and witnesses into the first-ever portrait of a great American experiment.

**PRODUCTION CREDITS:** Produced by Stone Lantern Films. Presented on PBS by KCET/Hollywood.  
*Director and Co-producer:* Sarah Mondale, Stone Lantern Films  
*Producer:* Sarah Patton, Stone Lantern Films  
*Editor:* Marian Sears Hunter  
*Musical Score:* Tom Phillips  
*Key Cinematography:* Allan Moore and Tom Hurwitz  
*KCET Executive-in-Charge:* Mare Mazur  
*KCET Production Executive:* Joyce Campbell

**FEATURED INTERVIEWS:**

*Witnesses and Players*

**Linda Brown Thompson**, plaintiff, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*

**Julian Nava**, son of Mexican immigrants and former student, L. A. public schools, who became Ambassador to Mexico under President Jimmy Carter

**Severita Lara**, student leader in a 1969 walkout in Crystal City, Texas aimed at creating an educational program that respected Mexican Americans

**Jose Angel Gutierrez**, former Crystal City student, Chicano civil rights leader

**Dorothy Raffel Klotz**, student basketball star from State College, Pennsylvania and plaintiff in a lawsuit charging the federal government with failure to enforce Title 9

**Bel Kaufman**, author of *Up the Down Staircase*, attended New York schools as a young Russian immigrant

**Alfred Kazin**, author of *A Walker in the City*, attended New York schools as the son of Russian-Polish immigrants

**Seymour Fliegel**, former administrator District Fou (NYC), one of the first districts in the U.S. to pioneer public school choice, author of "*Miracle in East Harlem*"

**Deborah Meier**, Founder and Former Principal of progressive flagship schools East Harlem, NY

**John Golle**, former chairman of Education Alternatives, Inc., the first private for-profit company to manage U.S. public schools

**Annette Polly Williams**, Wisconsin assemblywoman and leading advocate for the nation's first large-scale voucher experiment in Milwaukee

*Authors and Journalists on Education*

**Jonathan Kozol**, activist and award winning author of books on children and schools, including *Savage Inequalities*

**Nicholas Lemann**, staff writer at *The New Yorker*, his most recent book, *The Big Test: The Secret History of the American Meritocracy* is about the history of the IQ test and the S.A.T

**Gary Orfield**, an outspoken proponent of school desegregation and leading expert on the subject, Dr. Orfield is director of the Harvard Civil Rights Project

**Chester Finn**, a much called upon expert in education policy, he served as an Assistant Secretary in the Dept. of Education under President Reagan, and is now head of the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation

**E.D. Hirsch**, author of the 80s bestseller, *Cultural Literacy* and founder of the Core Knowledge movement which aims to instill a uniform rigorous curriculum across the U.S.

*Experts on U.S. School History*

**David Tyack**, lead consultant to the series who has written major books on the history of school reform in America, and on the history of coeducation. Dr. Tyack is a professor of History and Education at Stanford University

**Diane Ravitch**, author and well-known historian, Asst. Secretary, Dept. of Education, under President George H. W. Bush, she is currently a Senior Fellow at The Brookings Institution

**Carl F. Kaestle**, noted historian and author of a seminal work on the early history of American schools, is professor of education and public policy at Brown University

**James Anderson**, History of Education Professor at the Univ. of Illinois Urbana/Champaign, and author of books and essays on the history of race and education in America

**Larry Cuban**, a former teacher and veteran school superintendent who specializes in the history of American teachers. Dr. Cuban is a professor at Stanford

**Gilbert Gonzales**, a leading expert on the history of Chicano Education, teaches at the University of California at Irvine

**SERIES**

**ADVISORS:**

(in addition to those listed above)

**Thomas Bender**, Dean of Humanities/Professor of History, New York University

**Jeffrey Mirel**, Professor of Education, Emory University

**Michael Sedlak**, Professor of History of Education, Ass. Dean, Michigan State U.

**William Reese**, Prof. of Educational Policy Studies & of History, U. of Wisconsin

**V.P. Franklin**, Professor of History, Drexel University

**Lynn Gordon**, Associate Professor of Education and History, University of Rochester

**Stephen Brumberg**, Professor of Education, Brooklyn College, CUNY

**Guadalupe San Miguel**, Associate Professor of History, U. of Houston

**Kathryn Kish Sklar**, Professor of History, S.U.N.Y. Binghamton

**Ronald Cohen**, Professor of History, Indiana U. Northwest, Gary, Indiana

**Clarence C. Mondale**, Professor Emeritus of American Studies, George Washington U.

**COMPANION**

**BOOK:**

Available August 2001, published by Beacon Press

**WEB SITE:**

[www.pbs.org/publicschool](http://www.pbs.org/publicschool). Web site available August 2001

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