

# Misty Fronk

Misty Fronk is running for Decatur School Board because she went to an event hosted by the [Illinois Family Institute](#), a right-wing political advocacy organization, and was told that Illinois schools had a graduation rate of 80% in 2019, but only 12% were proficient in reading & writing and 6% of students were proficient in math.

This is false or misleading, according to the [2018-2019 State Report Card](#), which across all tests, shows 37.4% proficiency in English and Language Arts (ELA), 32.0% proficiency in math, and 48% proficiency in science. SAT tests show 36.7% of students meet or exceed standards in ELA & 36.8% meet or exceed in math, with over 30% "Approaching Standards" in both subjects.

However, the 6% and 12% statistics can be cherry picked from limited categories like Grade 3 Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), who have 11.6% proficiency in ELA, Grade 8 students with IEPs who have 5.5% proficiency in math, or other categories limited by demographic or disability.

She says that "we as citizens of Decatur are failing our children. We're setting them up to fail."

Her daughter left the state "because of the public school systems here" and her grandkids are "thriving" in their new schools. Fronk says "we need to do something locally to keep families in Decatur."

Misty Fronk would like to see student proficiency rates in math and reading around 60% or 70%, and says that the 6% rate is "pathetic" and that she "feel[s] sorry for the children." Fronk says there's not enough people speaking for the kids, so she wants to "give them a voice."

## Improving student learning

At the time they left Illinois, her twin grand-daughters were in 4th grade, and one, who had an [Individualized Education Program \(IEP\)](#), only read at a 1st grade level. Fronk says her grand-daughter was "being pulled out of classes at the critical time when she needed to learn." Fronk says at the new district they "push her to be in a classroom with her peers," but they have extra teachers in the classrooms to assist struggling kids.

She says the new district's teachers don't "point [struggling kids] out in front of everybody", which she thinks helps prevent bullying. She says there are not enough teachers for the students, so it could help to get extra teachers in Decatur just to help with the struggling kids.

She talks about an after-school reading lab & math lab that the new district has, run by teachers who volunteer their time. She says "if a student feels like they're struggling," they can ask their teacher to get into the programs. She says many of the volunteers are college students who are training to become teachers.

## Violence in Schools

She says violence in schools is largely a product of the schools failing the kids - saying the kids don't believe they can "become something" in society, so they look for alternate means to feed themselves, like crime or gang activity. She thinks if we can get the children to believe they can "be somebody," it will help with "what's going on in the society".

## Current School Programs

She says "I'm not real familiar with what exactly" the current school board is doing well or what existing programs should be expanded. She turns the focus to parents getting "more involved in their childrens' educations," which she says can be hard in single-parent households.

She says we need more volunteers to help students, especially with single-parent homes where the parent is busy working to provide for the family.

She says when a kid is failing, people in society "blame the parents." Fronk blames the parents, but also blames the teachers

and voters for electing school board members that "don't really care that our proficiency levels are this low."

## Lastly

She says she'd like to see all schools nationwide, and especially Illinois schools, get "back to the basics" of reading, writing, and math. She's concerned that it's hard to fill out a job application or do common job duties if these skills aren't developed.

She says our district doesn't need 100% efficiency, but at least 60% or 70% to show that we really are educating the students of Decatur. She says she will push for reading, writing, and math proficiency if she is elected.

## Notes & Disclaimers

- Illinois Family Institue is a 501(c)3 **non**-political Not-For-Profit, but their website and subscriber-emails take a significant tone of political advocacy. Additionally, there is a sister organization Illinois Family Action, a 501(c)4 **political** Not-For-Profit, which receives funding from Illinois Family Institute.
- I believe I attended the Illinois Family Institute event which Misty Fronk referenced in her WAND interview. It was advertised as an Illinois Family Action event, but the speakers identified it as an Illinois Family Institute event.
- I filed a discrimination complaint against the Decatur Hotel & Conference Center in connection with the Institute's event. I have a male body and am non-binary and was wearing women's clothing. I was already on my way out when police officers ordered me off the premises and accused me of being part of a protest that I was not part of. No behaviors were cited as cause for my being asked to leave, so I believe that was discrimination. The investigation is ongoing.
- I wholeheartedly believe the Illinois Family Institute is an anti-lgbtq hate group, from listening to their presentation and reading some of their writing, moreso from the Illinois Family Action side.