



Viewing Guide:
Edgewood ISD v. Kirby (1989)

The Background of Public School Finance in Texas (00:00-4:46)

1. For what does Article 7, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution provide?
2. What has been the major source of funding for public schools in Texas?

Stop and Think: What potential problems do you see with funding education from property taxes?

3. How was the funding for Edgewood ISD and Alamo Heights ISD, both school districts in San Antonio, different?
4. Who was Demetrio Rodriguez and what did he and other parents do in 1968?

Stop and Think: What is your opinion of the plaintiff's argument that the since the Edgewood ISD did not have a great deal of property from which to assess taxes, their students were not receiving the same education opportunities as students in a property rich district where more revenue could be raised?

5. What was the result of this lawsuit?

Supreme Court Case *San Antonio ISD v. Rodriguez (4:47-6:17)*

6. When San Antonio ISD appealed the lower court's decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, what did the Supreme Court rule?

Stop and Think: Do you believe that the right to an education is a basic fundamental right of the citizens of the United States? Why or why not?

Steps Leading to *Edgewood ISD v. Kirby* in the Texas Supreme Court (6:18-8:11)

7. What role did the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) play in challenging the financing of public education in Texas?

8. Who was the Kirby, named as the respondent in the lawsuit?

9. What were the two key arguments used by the plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the state?

10. What did the Texas District Court decide?

11. What did the Texas Court of Appeals rule when the Commissioner of Education appealed the District Court's decision?

Issue and Decision in *Edgewood ISD v. Kirby* (8:12-9:18)

12. What was the issue in the case *Edgewood ISD v. Kirby* when the case reached the Texas Supreme Court?

13. What did the Texas Supreme Court unanimously rule in the case?

Impact of the Decision (9:19-End)

14. Why is the plan devised by the Texas Legislature to finance public schools called the Robin Hood plan?

15. What did the Texas Supreme Court warn the Texas Legislature about concerning the Robin Hood finance plan?

Conclusion: In light of the debate over the financing of public education in Texas, how do you think Texas public schools should be financed?