



St. Louis Teachers Strike of 1973 Collection (S0086)

Collection Number: S0086

Collection Title: St. Louis Teachers Strike of 1973 Collection

Dates: 1972-1973

Creator: St. Louis Board of Education; St. Louis Teachers' Association; American Federation of Teachers, Local 420

Abstract: The St. Louis Teachers Strike of 1973 Collection contains correspondence to and from St. Louis teachers, court proceedings, strike bulletins, and flyers documenting the first teachers strike in the history of St. Louis.

Collection Size: 0.4 cubic feet
(8 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *St. Louis Teachers Strike of 1973 Collection* (S0086); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Elaine D. Afton on February 6, 1973 (Accession No. SA0236). Additions were made on February 10, 1973 by St. Louis Teachers' Association (Accession No. SA0239), and on March 1, 1973 by American Federation of Teachers, Local 420.

Processed by: Processed by Western Historical Manuscript Collection staff in March 1973. Revised by Zack Palitzsch in January 2021.

Historical Note:

The St. Louis Teachers Strike of 1973 was the first teachers strike in St. Louis, lasting for four weeks from January 22 to February 20. The impetus for the strike came from disgruntled teachers in the St. Louis Public Schools system who were being paid a low wage without adequate hospitalization insurance or a grievance procedure. In 1972, the typical starting salary for teachers in St. Louis was \$7,200 per year. Two teacher unions in the St. Louis area, the St. Louis Teachers' Association and the Local 420 of the American Federation of Teachers, voted to strike against the City of St. Louis Board of Education. The strike started on January 22, 1973, and on January 31, settlement agreements began in the Circuit Court of the City of St. Louis.

The strike ended after four weeks on February 20, 1973, following negotiations between the two teacher unions and the St. Louis Board of Education came to an agreement. The settlement fell short of what the teachers were demanding. Instead of receiving an immediate \$1000 increase in their wages, the agreement provided a \$400 increase for the 1972-1973 school year and another \$400 increase for the 1973-1974 school year. However, the teachers were satisfied with the settlement as the St. Louis Board of Education also provided hospitalization insurance and a grievance procedure.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged chronologically into eight folders.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains articles, booklets, correspondence, court proceedings, flyers, meeting notices, newsletters, newspaper clippings, press releases, and strike bulletins documenting the City of St. Louis' first teachers' strike. Included in the collection are copies of court injunctions and briefs filed by the American Federation of Teachers, Local 420; the St. Louis Teachers' Association; and the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis. The materials in this collection date from March 1972 to April 1973 and are arranged chronologically.

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	American Federation of Labor, Council of Industrial Organizations, March 1972 – March 1973
	f. 2	St. Louis Teachers' Association, September 1972 – April 1973
	f. 3	St. Louis Board of Education, November 1972 – February 1973
	f. 4	Student compositions on the St. Louis Teachers Strike, Shaw Grade School, January 23, 1973
	f. 5	Newspaper clippings, January – February 1973
Box 002	f. 6	Newspaper clippings, January – February 1973
	f. 7	Analysis of the St. Louis Teachers Strike, February 1973
	f. 8	Newsletters, February – March 1973

Index:

Index Term	Folder
African American teachers--Missouri--Saint Louis	7

Index Term	Folder
American Federation of Teachers. Local 420 (Saint Louis, Mo.)	1-3, 5-8
Discrimination in education--Missouri--Saint Louis	7
Education--Missouri--Saint Louis	1-8
Missouri. Circuit Court (22nd Circuit)	1, 3
National Education Association of the United States	1-3, 5-8
Public schools--Missouri--Saint Louis	1-8
Saint Louis (Mo.). Board of Education	1-3, 5-8
Schools--Missouri--Saint Louis	1-8
Segregation in education--Missouri--Saint Louis	7
St. Louis Teachers' Association (Mo.)	1-3, 5-8
Strikes and lockouts--Teachers--Missouri--Saint Louis	1-8