

School Experiences

Going to school in the 1950's and 60's was not easy for any African-American child, but for the children living in Birmingham, Alabama, it was a daily trial. Freeman Hrabowski, III was one of the students attending the still segregated schools of Birmingham.

- ❖ The books in his school were used, out-dated, and “hand-me-downs” from the white school – not good enough for the whites, but acceptable for the blacks.
- ❖ He was sent to jail at the age of 12 for participating in the Children's March in 1963. His mother's job – she was a teacher, was threatened by the school board if her children participated. They did not fire her.
- ❖ He witnessed African-Americans being beaten, spat on, burned, bombed, knocked down by the water from fire hoses, and lynched.

The early obstacles of his childhood did not inhibit him from a fruitful education. He graduated from the Hampton Institute with highest honors in mathematics. He went on to receive his Masters in Mathematics and a Doctorate in Education Administration and Statistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.