

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Aaron Butler, PhD

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Education is Key – Public School Funding* Oral History project

Interview # EF-A-L-2019-096

Dr. Aaron Butler, a technical assistance consultant for the American Institutes for Research, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education in Illinois – Public School Funding* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Nov 22, 2019      Location: Chicago, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 1:35 / 1.58 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 9, 2020.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Interview being  
processed

## Abstract

### Aaron Butler, Education in Illinois – Funding, EF-A-L-2019-096

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Aaron Butler was born in Olney, Illinois in February 1976. He grew up in Mt. Carmel, Illinois and graduated from the Mt. Carmel High School in 1994. While there, Aaron played football, basketball and baseball as well as being involved in theatre. He graduated from the University of Evansville in 1988 with a major in secondary education with a focus on physics and math. In 2001 Aaron received a MS degree in educational administration from Southwest Baptist University and a Ph.D. in 2006 from the University of Missouri, St. Louis in educational leadership and policy studies. Aaron taught for nine years at Grandview R-2 High School, Granite City High School and McClellan High School in Florissant, Missouri. He spent four years as a Vice-Principal of Curriculum and Instruction and as Director of Federal Programs at Construction Career Charter School in St. Louis. In 2011, Aaron joined American Institutes for Research (AIR) as senior technical assistance consultant, and principal technical assistance consultant. He now serves as Director of Region 9 Comprehension Center, which serves Illinois and Iowa. Dr. Butler has been a co-author of several books dealing with school turnarounds, school improvement and equitable and evidence based schools,

During this interview Dr. Butler looks at the work of a non-profit federally funded research center, and how it assists state departments of education and school districts throughout the United States. This assistance involves working at both the state and local level on school improvement plans, ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) and site based reporting. He also discusses the Great Teachers and Leaders training, evidence based research on achieving improved outcomes, matching school budgets to school goals and outcomes and providing assistance to help schools turnaround.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** American Institutes for Research (AIR); creating school improvement plans; training for Great Teachers and Leaders; Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

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