

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Michael Griffith

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

Interview # EF-A-L-2020-001

Michael Griffith, a nationally recognized expert on school funding models, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Public School Funding* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: January 14, 2020 Location: Telephonic interview conducted at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:35 / 1.58 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 10, 2020.

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

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Interview being
processed

Abstract

Michael Griffith, *Education is Key – Funding*, EF-A-L-2020-001

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Michael Griffith was born in Royal Oak, Michigan in March 1967. He grew up the suburb of Detroit and graduated from Royal Oak Kimball High School in 1985. Michael then attended Michigan State University, where he earned a BA degree in 1989. He went on to earn a MA degree in public administration from the Ohio State University. He later earned a Master of Arts in Education Management from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. His work experiences include service with the state of Ohio, the Michigan State Senate, the Augenblick, Palaich, and Myers Consulting Group, the Education Commission of the States, and his own consulting company. In those capacities, Michael has worked with many states, cities, and state boards of education regarding school funding matters, specific studies such as the four day week, and transitions into a new funding model. Michael has been involved with over seven state funding studies tied to improving school achievement.

During this interview, Michael looked at Illinois school funding through the perspective of nationwide public school funding models (eg., Foundation, Resource, Other). Factors such as equity, adequacy, adaptability, and flexibility are discussed. He looked at such topics as high quality funding models, transitioning into a new school funding model, trends in national school funding models, and reasons for changing a state's funding model. Michael also discussed the change made in Illinois, which adopted an Evidence Based Model, and the impact of Illinois's heavy reliance on property taxes for the majority of school funds. He also reviewed the impact of IDEA (Special Education) upon states and school districts. Finally, he discusses his research on the savings impact when districts adopt a four day school week.

Subject Headings/Key Words: national models of public school funding; state Education Commissions; trends in public school funding; four-day school week; IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act)

Notes to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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