

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kim Deschamps

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Alternatives in Illinois Education* Oral History project

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-068

Kim Deschamps, director of the Knox-Warren Special Education Cooperative, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Alternatives in Education* Oral History project.

Date: Nov. 8, 2018    Location: Galesburg Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:37 / 1.62 hrs.

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

Interview being  
processed

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# Abstract

Kim Deschamps, Alternatives in Education, EA-A-L-2018-068

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview** Kim Deschamps was born in Galesburg, Illinois in August 1983. The family moved to California and then to Mississippi, where Kim attended high school. After 10th grade she transferred to the Mississippi Math and Science Academy. Following her graduation in 2001, she returned to Galesburg and attended Knox College, majoring in anthropology and sociology. She graduated in 2005 and in 2009 earned a MA degree in social work from Loyola University in Chicago. Kim again returned to western Illinois, where she worked as a social worker for the Knox-Warren Special Education Cooperative from 2010-12. From 2012 to 2016 Kim was one of four administrators assigned to one of the seven-member school districts. At the time of the interview she served as the Director of the Cooperative.

This interview focuses on the Knox-Warren Special Education Cooperative, located in western Illinois. Seven school districts belong to the Cooperative, with its largest school district, Galesburg #205, exiting the cooperative to run its own program. Deschamps discusses the fourteen types of disabilities covered by the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), the types of programs and delivery models found at Knox-Warren (KW) and the basic agreement for KW and approved by the seven school districts. She also covers the shortage of special education staff, the transition plans for disabled students from junior high to high school, as well as birth to three, and three to five early childhood programs and in-service training provided by the Cooperative. Deschamps also explains RTI (response to intervention) which creates general education interventions if needed prior to special education, the impact of state testing/reporting on special education students, and the possible adjustments coming down the road in the area of special education due either to federal or state legislation. (An example would be Certification of teachers and paraprofessionals).

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Knox-Warren Special Education Cooperative; Galesburg School District #205; Knox-Warren Cooperative Agreement; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); intervention programs for disabled children, from birth thru age 22; fourteen IDEA disability categories; teacher shortages for disadvantaged children; RTI (response to intervention) assistance

**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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