

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Matthew (Matt) Shipley

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

Interview #EF-A-L-2019-090

Matthew Shipley, the Comptroller of Indian Prairie School District #204, 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.

Date: Nov. 15, 2019    Location: Indian Prairie School District, Aurora, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL Volunteer

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

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

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:29 / 1.48 hrs

Interview being  
processed

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

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## Abstract

Matthew Shipley, *Education is Key*, EF-A-L-2019-090

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Matt Shipley was born in Clarendon Hills, Illinois in 1982. He moved early in his life from the south suburbs to Naperville. He graduated from Naperville Central in 2000, then earned his BA degree in 2003 and MA degree in 2004, majoring in accounting at the University of Illinois. Matt worked for financial firms for twelve years prior to coming to Indian Prairie School District #204. He was involved in school audits, bond schedules, and financial reports. Matt served as the comptroller of Indian Prairie School District #204 at the time of the interview. Matt has been responsible for developing a Site Based Reporting Initiative tied to the Every Student Succeeds Act, which replaced the No Child Left Behind Act. This has resulted in his participation in local, state, and national conferences. He was also involved in the many accounting changes required for the new Evidence Based School Funding model.

Shipley looks at a western suburban school district and how school funding has impacted district operations. He also talks about the growth of the district in the 1990s, the financial challenges during the state economic downturn, and its financial status in 2019 under the new Evidence Based School Funding Model. He also discusses the district's sources of revenue (mainly property tax-residential) and the growing population of English Language Learners (ELL) population. Shipley explains the site-based reporting required under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in depth, as well as challenges in for future funding and expenditures due to mandates, salary increases, teacher shortages, pensions, and building upkeep. Shipley also highlighted the audit process and the Medicaid sources of federal revenue.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** school audits; Indian Prairie School District; district revenue; property tax; Financial Tier 2; Evidence Based School Funding Model; English Language Learners (ELL); Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); special needs students; Site Based Reporting Initiative; pensions; teacher shortage

**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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