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An Open Letter To The Superintendents and School
Boards of the Starkville Municipal Separate School
District and of Oktibbeha County

In 1954, 15 ~~years~~ ago, the United States Supreme
Court, the highest court in the land, ruled that "separate
but equal" educational facilities have no place in the
field of public education^{in America}. The Court ruled that ~~these~~ ^{segregated}
facilities are inherently unequal. Since 1954 the
school boards of Starkville and of Oktibbeha County have
operated "out side of the law of the land". Those people
among us who express loud and vocal concern for
"law and order" must realize that no citizen or
groups of citizens can violate the mandates of the U.S.
Supreme Court in any other area (except elimination of
the dual school system) without suffering legal con-
sequences. The schools of this city and county are still,

for the most part, all white or all black. There is no question that most of the money spent for education in the city and county goes to the ~~mainly~~ all white schools. ~~are most often undereducated and~~ Disadvantaged Children who suffer the most are provided the least of educational opportunities.

The Oktaibbeha County Branch of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People is very much in favor of and will insist on complete and speedy elimination of the dual school systems in Starkville and Oktaibbeha County. Since nearly 400 students living outside of the Starkville Separate School District attend schools within the city limits, we cannot see the wisdom of separating a school desegregation suit into city and county - especially since the president

of the Starkville School Board states that the board has no intention of excluding students from outside the district now or in the future.

We are strongly opposed to closing any school in the City or the County except Starkville Junior High.

Since there is a shortage of Class room space in the City and in the County, it will be a waste of the taxpayers money to close Class rooms for racial reasons and to ask already overburdened Taxpayers to increase ~~our~~ very high tax rate to build new and unnecessary schools. School buildings are expensive. All taxpayers want to provide for the proper education of our children, but we do not want to squander money on unnecessary buildings while abandoning existing ~~structures~~ fairly-new structures.

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The NAACP of Okthibbe County submits the following suggested desegregation plans for the City of Starkville and for Okthibbe County. Since nearly 50 % of the people of Okthibbe County are black, plans adopted which do not meet with the approval of half of the people of the City and the County will prove to be unworkable and ~~will~~ probably result in further antagonisms between the races in our area for many years to come. We urge your ~~unbiased~~ unbiased consideration of the following one year desegregation Plan.

PLAN "A"
(Beginning Sept. 1970)

Starkville Municipal Separate School District

Grades 1-6 - ZONING

The district is divided into four areas - NE, NW, SE and SW - the boundaries of which generally follow the City's designations of Wards 1, 2, 3 and 4 - with extensions into the areas outside of the City limits and within the Separate School District.

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Suggestions of Schools

NORTH EAST	(SUDBUTH ELEMENTARY)
NORTH WEST	(HENDERSON ELEMENTARY)
SOUTH EAST	(OVER STREET ELEMENTARY)
SOUTH WEST	(A NEW BUILDING ———)

All students 1-6 - black, white and otherwise go to the same school in their respective zone of residence. No transfers permitted.

Grades 7, 8 and 9 — PAIRING

Build a Junior High School in a central location for all students in these three grades

Grades 10, 11 and 12 — ZONING

The district is divided into two zones - NORTH and SOUTH with Main Street and its extension being the dividing line. All students in the district living north of this

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dividing line attend:

Henderson High School

all Students living south of main street
attend: Sturkville High School

No transfers permitted.

Oktibbeha County

The school district shall be divided into
4 attendance areas:

Area 2 (Corresponding to Beat 2)

CONSOLIDATION — all students who live in
the beat — grades 1-12 attend the Alexander
Center

Area 3 (Corresponding to Beat 3)

PAIRING — all students who live in the beat
grades 1-8 attend Mober School (formerly white).
all students from grade 9-12 attend what is
now known as Oktibbeha Welsh School.

Area (4) (Corresponding to Beat 4)

Consolidation - All students in the beat -
grades 1-12 attend Sturgis High School.

Area (5) (Corresponding to Beat 5)

Consolidation - All students in the beat attend
Moore High School - grades 1-12.

These plans are submitted for your earnest consideration.

Separate schools for the races in our city and County have resulted in inadequate preparation of our young people - Black and white - to meet the needs and challenges of life in America and the world today. They have resulted in more under education, duplication and unnecessary expenses which have helped to keep Mississippi's illiteracy rate among the highest in the nation.

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We can no longer afford the albatross of a dual educational system from all view points — morally, legally nor economically -

Yours for an Educated Citizenry,

Special School Desegregation Committee
Oklahoma County Branch, NAACP

Douglas Comer
Benny Butler
J. J. McFar

P.S. This open letter and position paper was approved by the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma County NAACP on (10-8-69) and by the membership on (10-22-69).