1	IN THE SUPREME COURT	OF THE UNITED STATES
2		-x
3	PARENTS INVOLVED IN	:
4	COMMUNITY SCHOOLS,	:
5	Petitioner	:
6	V.	: No. 05-908
7	SEATTLE SCHOOL DISTRICT	:
8	NO. 1, ET AL.	:
9		-x
10	Wash	nington, D.C.
11	Mono	lay, December 4, 2006
12		
13	The above-entitled	d matter came on for oral
14	argument before the Supreme Cour	et of the United States
15	at 10:01 a.m.	
16	APPEARANCES:	
17	HARRY J.F. KORRELL, ESQ., Seattl	e, Wash.; on behalf
18	of the Petitioner.	
19	GEN. PAUL D. CLEMENT, ESQ., Soli	citor General,
20	Department of Justice, Washir	ngton, D.C.; as
21	amicus curiae, supporting the	e Petitioner.
22	MICHAEL F. MADDEN, ESQ., Seattle	e, Wash.; on behalf of
23	the Respondent.	
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:01 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear argument
4	first today in 05-908, Parents Involved in Community
5	Schools versus Seattle School District Number 1.
6	Mr. Korrell.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF HARRY J.F. KORRELL
8	ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER
9	MR. KORRELL: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
LO	please the Court.
L1	In an effort to achieve its desired racial
12	balance in its popular high schools, the Seattle school
L3	district denied over 300 children, both white and
L 4	minority children, admission to their chosen schools
L5	solely because of their race and without any
L 6	individualized consideration. This strikes at the heart
L7	of the Equal Protection Clause which commands that
L8	Government treat people as individuals, not simply as
L9	members of a racial class.
20	This fundamental equal protection principle
21	was reiterated in Grutter and in Gratz. The central
22	question in this case is not, as the school district and
23	many of its allies suggest, whether integration is
24	important or whether desegregation is compelling. The
25	central question in this case is whether outside of the

- 1 remedial context, diversity defined as the school
- 2 district does, as a white/non-white racial balance, can
- 3 be a compelling interest that justifies the use of race
- 4 discrimination in high school admissions.
- 5 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Korrell --
- 6 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Do you disagree in general
- 7 with the Solicitor General's brief? Do you agree in
- 8 general with the brief submitted by the Government or do
- 9 you have differences with it in its approach?
- 10 MR. KORRELL: Justice Kennedy, we -- we
- 11 agree mostly with the Solicitor General's brief. I
- 12 believe the Solicitor General might take a different
- 13 position on whether race neutral mechanisms can be used
- 14 to accomplish race specific purposes.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, I can --
- 16 MR. KORRELL: But that's not an issue the
- 17 court needs to reach in this case.
- 18 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, it, it is a point
- 19 that I, I'd like both him and you to discuss at some
- 20 point during your argument. If -- can you use race for
- 21 site selection? When you have, you need to build a new
- 22 school. There are three sites. One of them would be
- 23 all one race. Site two would be all the other race.
- 24 Site three would be a diversity of races. Can the
- 25 school board with, with the intent to have diversity

- 1 pick site number 3?
- 2 MR. KORRELL: Justice Kennedy, I think the
- 3 answer turns on the reason that the schools have the
- 4 racial compositions that they do.
- 5 JUSTICE KENNEDY: It -- there's -- well, we
- 6 can have all kinds of different hypotheticals, but
- 7 there's residential housing segregation, and it wants,
- 8 it wants, the board wants to have diversity.
- 9 MR. KORRELL: Your Honor, our position is
- 10 that if, if the resulting -- if the racial composition
- 11 of those schools is not the result of past de jure
- 12 segregation --
- 13 JUSTICE KENNEDY: No. It is a new school.
- 14 It's a new school.
- 15 MR. KORRELL: In that case, Your Honor,
- 16 Parents' position is that the Government can't be in the
- 17 position of deciding what right racial mix is.
- 18 JUSTICE KENNEDY: So it'd have to take the
- 19 three sites, all of them in the hypothetical, all of
- 20 them equal, and just flip a coin, because otherwise it
- 21 would be using a --
- MR. KORRELL: Your Honor, obviously it is
- 23 not the facts of the Seattle case. In the hypothetical
- 24 Your Honor posits, perhaps the right analogy is
- 25 something similar to the, a redistricting cases. Where

- 1 a court could look at see whether the racial motive was
- 2 a predominant factor as opposed to -- JUSTICE KENNEDY:
- 3 No, no. The school board says we want, right up front,
- 4 we want racial diversity in our new schools. Illicit
- 5 under the Fourteenth Amendment in your case?
- 6 MR. KORRELL: Your Honor, school districts
- 7 can do many, many things through race neutral means that
- 8 they could not do with race discrimination.
- 9 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But can they have a race
- 10 conscious objective? I think that that's the question
- 11 that Justice Kennedy is asking you, and I don't get a
- 12 clear answer. You say you can't use a racial means.
- 13 But can you have a racial objective? That is, you want
- 14 to achieve balance in the schools.
- 15 MR. KORRELL: Justice Ginsburg, our position
- 16 is that that is prohibited by the Constitution
- 17 absent past discrimination.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: You would object, then, to
- 19 magnet schools? You would object to any system that is
- 20 designed to try to cause people voluntarily to go into a
- 21 system that is more racially mixed?
- MR. KORRELL: Justice Scalia, our objection
- 23 to the Seattle program is that it is not a race neutral
- 24 means.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: No, I understand. But I'm

- 1 trying to find what, you know, the outer limits of your
- 2 contentions are. It doesn't seem to me that your briefs
- 3 indicated that you would object to something like magnet
- 4 schools. The -- even if one of the purposes of those
- 5 schools is to try to cause more white students to go to
- 6 schools that are predominantly non-white. It's just
- 7 voluntary, I mean, but the object is to achieve a
- 8 greater racial mix.
- 9 MR. KORRELL: Your Honor, we object to
- 10 the -- if that's the sole goal of a school district
- 11 absent past discrimination, we object. But that kind of
- 12 hypothetical situation isn't even necessary for the
- 13 Court to reach.
- 14 JUSTICE SCALIA: I understand.
- 15 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, it may not be
- 16 necessary for you but it might be necessary for us when
- 17 we write the case. We're not writing just on a very
- 18 fact-specific issue. Of course, the follow-up question,
- 19 and the Solicitor General can address it too, is this:
- 20 Assuming some race-conscious measures are permissible to
- 21 have diversity, isn't it odd to say you can't use race
- 22 as a means? I mean, that's the next question. That
- 23 may, in fact, be why you give the -- seem to give the
- 24 answer that you do. You just don't want to embrace that
- 25 contradiction.

	Official Subject to I mai review
1	MR. KORRELL: Your Honor, it is certainly
2	difficult if race if racial balance can be a goal of
3	government, then it is more difficult to defend a racial
4	balancing plan as unconstitutional, or to attack one as
5	constitutional.
6	JUSTICE KENNEDY: That is true.
7	MR. KORRELL: And this Court has said
8	repeatedly that racial balancing is unconstitutional.
9	JUSTICE SOUTER: Well, we have said it
10	repeatedly in contexts different from this. I mean, the
11	paradigm context in which we made remarks to that
12	effect, stated that, are affirmative action cases. The
13	point of the affirmative action case is that some
14	criterion which otherwise would be the appropriate
15	criterion of selection is being displaced by a racial
16	mix criterion. That is not what is happening here.
17	This is not an affirmative action case.
18	So why should the statements that have been
19	made in these entirely different contexts necessarily
20	decide this case?
21	MR. KORRELL: Justice Souter, we disagree
22	that the analysis in the Grutter and Gratz cases is

25 those cases left someone out of the picture entirely

entirely different from the analysis in this case.

23

24

- 1 because we were talking about a selection of one person
- 2 or another? The word "sorting" has been used in this
- 3 context because everybody gets to go to school. Indeed,
- 4 they are required to go to school. So no one gets left
- 5 out of the system, and I think there have been Court of
- 6 Appeals judges who have noted. We have never had that
- 7 case before, not like the affirmative action cases.
- 8 MR. KORRELL: Your Honor, I agree that this
- 9 Court has not had a case like this before. I disagree,
- 10 however, that it's not like the Grutter or Gratz
- 11 decision. The plaintiff in Gratz, as the Court is
- 12 aware, attended the University of Michigan at Dearborn.
- 13 He got into a school. He didn't get into the school
- 14 that he wanted to go to. Similarly, in our case, with
- 15 the plaintiffs, they wanted to go to their preferred
- 16 schools, schools that the school district acknowledges
- 17 provided different educational opportunities, produced
- 18 different educational outcomes, and they were preferable
- 19 to the parents and children who wanted to go.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Why do you agree that this
- 21 is not an affirmative action case? Is it not? Wherein
- 22 does it differ? I thought that the school district was
- 23 selecting some people because they wanted a certain
- 24 racial mix in the schools, and were taking the
- 25 affirmative action of giving a preference to students of

- 1 a certain race. Why isn't -- why doesn't that qualify
- 2 as affirmative action?
- 3 MR. KORRELL: If that's what affirmative
- 4 action is, Your Honor, then --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, I don't know what
- 6 else it is. What do you think it is that causes you to
- 7 seemingly accept the characterization that this is not
- 8 it?
- 9 MR. KORRELL: Your Honor, perhaps I
- 10 misspoke. I didn't mean to accept the characterization
- 11 that this case is not at all --
- 12 JUSTICE SOUTER: Let me help you out by
- 13 taking you back to my question. One of the
- 14 characteristics of the affirmative action cases was the
- 15 displacement of some other otherwise generally
- 16 acknowledged relevant criterion such as ability as shown
- in test scores, grade point averages, things like that;
- 18 and that was a characteristic of those cases.
- 19 It is not a characteristic of this case, as
- 20 I understand it.
- 21 MR. KORRELL: I'm not sure that's exactly
- 22 right, Your Honor. In this case, the school district
- 23 admitted in the response to request for admissions that
- 24 had the identified children been of a different race,
- 25 they would have been admitted into the schools.

- 1 JUSTICE SCALIA: I thought there was a
- 2 criterion here, and that is, you can go to whatever
- 3 school you want. You are allowed to go to a certain
- 4 choice of school. The criterion was your choice.
- 5 MR. KORRELL: Justice Scalia, you're right.
- 6 And there's another criterion which I think is getting
- 7 to Justice --
- 3 JUSTICE SOUTER: Well, when you state
- 9 Justice Scalia is right, you are assuming, I think as
- 10 your brief assumed, that the definition of the benefit
- 11 to be received here is the active choice, not the
- 12 provision of an education.
- Now the active choice may be of value. I do
- 14 not suggest that it is not. Clearly the school district
- 15 thinks it does or it wouldn't provide choice. But it is
- 16 not the entire benefit that is being provided, and the
- 17 principal benefit is the education, not the choice of
- 18 schools. Isn't that correct?
- 19 MR. KORRELL: Your Honor, they are both
- 20 benefits. I would point Your Honor back to this Court's
- 21 decision in Gratz, where the same analysis would apply.
- 22 And if Your Honor's analysis is correct, that would
- 23 mean, I think, that the Gratz case would have been
- 24 decided differently.
- JUSTICE BREYER: But I think that the point

- 1 that Justice Souter is trying to make, as I understand
- 2 it, is of course there are similarities to Gratz, they
- 3 can choose, but there's a big difference. The
- 4 similarity in Grutter, or the difference in Grutter and
- 5 Gratz is that you had to prod a school that was supposed
- 6 to be better than others, that the members of that
- 7 school, the faculty and the administration tried to make
- 8 it better than others. It was an elite merit selection
- 9 academy. And if you put the black person in, the white
- 10 person can't get the benefit of that.
- 11 Here we have no merit selection system.
- 12 Merit is not an issue. The object of the people who run
- 13 this place is not to create a school better than others,
- 14 it is to equalize the schools. That's in principle and
- 15 in practice, if you look at the numbers, you see that
- 16 the six schools that were at the top, their position
- 17 would shift radically from year to year, preferences was
- 18 about equal among them. They have the same curriculum,
- 19 they have similar faculties, and I don't think anyone
- 20 can say either in theory or in practice, that one of
- 21 these schools happened to be like that prize of
- 22 University of Michigan, a merit selection system. That,
- 23 I think, was a major difference that he was getting at,
- 24 why is this not the same kind of thing? That was at
- 25 issue in Grutter and Gratz. Now what is your response

- 1 to that?
- 2 MR. KORRELL: Your Honor, we have several
- 3 responses. The first is that the premise of Your
- 4 Honor's question is that the schools are in essence
- 5 fungible for purposes of providing a high school
- 6 education. And I would direct Your Honor to the
- 7 District Court judge's decision, a footnote in the
- 8 decision in which she acknowledged that the schools were
- 9 not of equal quality, that they provided different
- 10 levels of education.
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: Of course they're not.
- 12 That's why some of them were oversubscribed. That's why
- 13 others were undersubscribed.
- JUSTICE BREYER: I didn't say that they
- 15 were. What I said was that the object of the school
- 16 board and the administering authority was to make them
- 17 roughly equal. I said that in terms of curriculum and
- 18 faculty, they're about roughly equal. And in terms of
- 19 choice, what you see is a wide variation in choice by
- 20 those who want to go as to which is their preference
- 21 among six schools over a period of five years.
- 22 And that suggests a rough effort to create
- 23 the equality, not an effort as in Michigan, to run a
- 24 merit selection system.
- MR. KORRELL: I agree with Your Honor that

- 1 there's not a merit selection system in --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Fine. Now the question is,
- 3 why doesn't that fact that this is not a merit selection
- 4 system put a different kind of thing, a sorting system
- 5 or a system designed to maintain a degree of
- 6 integration, why doesn't that difference make a
- 7 difference?
- 8 MR. KORRELL: Your Honor, I think that the
- 9 fundamental command of the Equal Protection Clause is
- 10 that government treats as individuals, not as members of
- 11 a racial group. And that command I don't think is
- 12 suspended because of the nature of a school's admissions
- 13 process. That right is still possessed by the
- 14 individual students, and if a student is entitled to be
- 15 treated as an individual as opposed to a member of a
- 16 racial group at a university level, it's Parents'
- 17 position they are entitled to that same protection at
- 18 the high school level.
- 19 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Korrell, before your
- 20 time runs out, I did want to clarify something about the
- 21 standing of the plaintiffs here.
- Do I understand correctly that none of the
- 23 parents who originally brought this lawsuit have
- 24 children who are now pre-ninth grade, but that
- 25 newcomers, people who recently joined, do have children

- 1 of pre-ninth grade age?
- 2 MR. KORRELL: Your Honor, that is mostly
- 3 correct. There is also a family that joined the parents
- 4 association back in 2000 that has a child in seventh
- 5 grade, that will be approaching high school by the time
- 6 this Court decides the case.
- 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But the lawsuit was
- 8 originally brought by a corporate entity, correct?
- 9 MR. KORRELL: That's correct, Your Honor.
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Not by individual
- 11 parents.
- 12 MR. KORRELL: That's correct.
- 13 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But you don't dispute
- 14 that membership, for standing purposes, the membership
- 15 is what counts, not the association but the members?
- 16 MR. KORRELL: Your Honor, my understanding
- 17 of the Court's jurisprudence on associational standing
- is as long as a member of the association has standing,
- 19 then the association has it. We submit that that has
- 20 been established by the complaint, the interrogatory
- 21 responses, and --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, if it is a member,
- 23 jurisdictional questions generally, don't we go by what
- 24 the membership was when the complaint was filed and not
- 25 what it has become in the course of the litigation?

- 1 MR. KORRELL: I don't think that's right,
- 2 Your Honor. We cited to the Court the Pannell case, the
- 3 Associated General Contractors case, and Roe versus
- 4 Wade, all of which look at post-filing factors to --
- 5 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Yes, but the transaction
- 6 case situation is different.
- 7 MR. KORRELL: You're right, Your Honor, none
- 8 of those were class action cases. Pannell and
- 9 Associated General Contractors were association cases
- 10 much like this one. Roe, of course, was individual
- 11 plaintiffs.
- 12 JUSTICE STEVENS: I have a question. Does
- 13 the record tell us, the 300 people who have failed to
- 14 get into the schools they wanted, the racial composition
- 15 of that group?
- 16 MR. KORRELL: It does, Justice Stevens. The
- 17 record shows that 100, roughly 100 students who were
- denied admission to their preferred schools were
- 19 non-white and roughly 200 who were denied admission were
- 20 white students.
- 21 If there are no further questions, Mr. Chief
- Justice, I will reserve the balance of my time.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- 24 General Clement.
- 25 ORAL ARGUMENT OF PAUL D. CLEMENT

1	ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES AS AMICUS CURIAE
2	SUPPORTING THE PETITIONER
3	GENERAL CLEMENT: Mr. Chief Justice, and may
4	it please the Court:
5	Respondents assert an interest in addressing
6	the most racially isolated schools in the district, yet
7	their plan does not address the two most racially
8	concentrated high schools in their district. They
9	likewise have certain interests in diversity, yet their
10	plan does not directly address diversity other than pure
11	racial diversity, and they do nothing to assemble the
12	kind of critical mass that was at issue in the Grutter
13	case.
14	In fact, if you look at the program and how
15	it operates in practice, the triggering critical mass
16	for the use of the racial tie breaker is when a
17	student when a school has less than 25 percent white
18	students or when it has less than 45 percent non-white
19	students. There is nothing in the record or in social
20	science that suggests that there's a radical difference
21	in the critical mass based on the race of the students.
22	Of course what explains that difference in
23	the triggering critical mass of white students versus
24	non-white students, the answer to that does not lie in
25	educational theory, the answer lies in the demographics

- 1 of the district. The district happens to have 25
- 2 percent more non-white students than white students, so
- 3 they trigger the race tie breaker at a different point
- 4 under those circumstances.
- 5 With all respect to respondents, the answer
- 6 to how this program works lies not in diversity but in
- 7 demographics. They are clearly working backwards from
- 8 the overall demographics of the school district rather
- 9 than working forward to any clearly articulated
- 10 pedagogical role.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, if I could
- 12 get back to Justice Kennedy's question earlier, how do
- 13 you distinguish decisions like citing magnet schools,
- 14 clustering, from the consideration of race in this case?
- 15 GENERAL CLEMENT: Well, Mr. Chief Justice, I
- 16 think that those decisions are different primarily
- 17 because the resulting decision is not a racial
- 18 classification. And if you think about it, when you had
- 19 an overt racial classification, like you clearly do in
- 20 these cases, then you naturally ask the strict scrutiny
- 21 questions and look for a compelling interest. If
- 22 instead you start with a race-neutral government action
- that doesn't classify people directly based on race,
- 24 then I suppose you could try to do some kind of
- 25 Arlington Heights-Washington Davis type analysis.

- 1 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, what would you do
- 2 with strategic site selection in order to create racial
- 3 diversity?
- 4 GENERAL CLEMENT: Well, Justice Kennedy, I
- 5 think --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: I mean, that's expressed
- 7 and principal purpose. You know the hypothetical.
- 8 GENERAL CLEMENT: Okay. And Justice
- 9 Kennedy, I will answer the hypo, but let me say it's
- 10 easy for purposes of the hypo to say the sole reason was
- 11 for race. In the real world, in fact I can't imagine
- 12 that a site decision won't be based at least in part on
- 13 concerns about the overall educational benefits. And I
- 14 think that's important. The reason I start with that
- 15 preface is because when you have mixed motives and a
- 16 variety of factors I think you'd be unlikely to strike
- 17 down that kind of motive.
- 18 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Are you suggesting there
- 19 was no consideration of overall educational benefits in
- 20 this plan?
- 21 GENERAL CLEMENT: No, Justice Stevens. I'm
- 22 saying you start at a different departure point when you
- 23 have an express racial classification. I think I'm
- 24 trying to answer Justice Kennedy's question about what
- 25 if you have a sort of a race-conscious goal at some

- 1 level and that's why you select a particular site or you
- 2 decide that you're going to invest in magnet schools and
- 3 want to put a magnet school in a particular school
- 4 district. My humble point is simply that in the real
- 5 world I think you're unlikely to have the pure racial
- 6 motive type objective. I would say that --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Suppose it was faculty,
- 8 and the school district makes a deliberate effort to
- 9 have members of the white race and members of other
- 10 races represented in -- on the faculty of every school,
- 11 so you won't have one school with all white teachers, so
- 12 that you'll have a mix, and that's quite explicit.
- 13 That's their objective and they're using a racial
- 14 criterion criterion to get there.
- 15 Would that be impermissible, to have a mix
- of teachers in all the schools?
- 17 GENERAL CLEMENT: Well, Justice Ginsburg, I
- 18 think if what they wanted to do is have an mix of
- 19 teachers that might be okay. If they're going to start
- 20 assigning teachers to particular schools and have sort
- 21 of racial quotas for the faculty at various schools, I
- 22 think that crosses a line.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, what would be okay?
- 24 How would you get there other than having -- the point
- 25 I'm trying to make has been made by others. Let me read

- 1 from Judge Boudin's decision. He says: "The choice is
- 2 between openly using race as a criterion or concealing
- 3 it through some clumsy or proxy device."
- 4 If you want to have an integrated school and
- 5 you site the schools deliberately to achieve that
- 6 objective, it's very hard for me to see how you can have
- 7 a racial objective but a nonracial means to get there.
- 8 GENERAL CLEMENT: Well, with respect,
- 9 Justice Ginsburg, I think there's a fundamental
- 10 difference between how the same intent with two
- 11 programs, there's a fundamental difference if one of
- them necessarily classifies people on the basis of their
- 13 skin color and the other does not.
- 14 JUSTICE SCALIA: General Clement, is there
- 15 anything unconstitutional about desiring a mingling of
- 16 the races and establishing policies which achieve that
- 17 result but which do not single out individuals and
- 18 disqualify them for certain things because of their
- 19 race? Is there anything wrong with a policy of wanting
- 20 to have racial mix?
- 21 GENERAL CLEMENT: Justice Scalia, we would
- 22 take the position that there's not and that there's a
- 23 fundamental difference between whether or not the policy
- 24 manages to avoid classifying people on the basis of
- 25 their race.

1 JUSTICE KENNEDY: At page 7 of your brief 2 you say: "School districts have an unquestioned 3 interest in reducing minority isolation." If I put a 4 period in there, then I would get to my strategic site 5 selection, and I still haven't got your answer on that. You don't put a period there. You say: ". .have an 6 7 unquestioned interest in reducing minority isolation 8 through race-neutral means." And this brings up this same question Justice Ginsburg had. Isn't it odd 9 jurisprudence where we have an objective that we state 10 11 in one set of terms but a means for achieving it in another set of terms, unless your answer is that 12 13 individual classification by race is, is impermissible, 14 but other, more broad measures based on, with a racial 15 purpose are all right? 16 GENERAL CLEMENT: I think that's ultimately 17 the answer, Justice Kennedy, which is there's a 18 fundamental difference between classifying people and 19 having the real world effect. I mean, in this case 20 don't forget that there were 89 minority students that 21 wanted to attend Franklin High School. They could not 22 solely because of their race. At the same time, every 23 white student who applied to Franklin High School was 24 allowed in solely base would on their race. 25 JUSTICE KENNEDY: And what is the answer to

- 1 my strategic site selection hypothetical?
- 2 GENERAL CLEMENT: We would say that's fine.
- 3 We would say that that is permissible, for the school to
- 4 pursue that.
- Just to get back, though, again, we say that
- 6 that avoiding racial isolation is -- I just want to make
- 7 the point, we say that racial isolation is an important
- 8 government interest. I think if you put this plan up
- 9 against that objective, it solely fails, because there
- 10 are two high schools that I think you would look at as
- 11 being racially isolated. They're Cleveland n Rainier
- 12 Beach, and this plan does nothing to directly address
- 13 those high schools.
- 14 JUSTICE SOUTER: My question is really Judge
- 15 Boudin's question. You are in effect saying that by
- 16 siting the school they can achieve exactly the objective
- 17 they are seeking here. It's a question of do the -- the
- 18 question comes down to whether they can do it candidly
- 19 or do it by clumsier. That is, it seems to me, an
- 20 unacceptable basis to draw a constitutional line.
- 21 GENERAL CLEMENT: With respect,
- 22 Justice Souter, first of all I think the kind of
- 23 interests we're talking about, avoiding racial isolation
- 24 and the like, do not lend themselves to absolutely
- 25 targeted, it has to be 15 percent, it has to be 50, it

- 1 has to be 25, it has to be 45. I would actually suggest
- 2 that the danger is in the opposite direction.
- JUSTICE SOUTER: That isn't what they said
- 4 here. I mean, they were dealing with a zone within
- 5 which they operated, and it was only when the numbers
- 6 got to the outer limits that they said, okay, we're
- 7 going to use a racial criterion to prevent anything
- 8 more, any more extreme disparity.
- 9 GENERAL CLEMENT: Well, I mean, in the
- 10 second stage --
- 11 JUSTICE SOUTER: That's what they do when
- 12 they site the school. They said, you know, we'll get a
- 13 rough whatever it is, 40-60 mix.
- 14 GENERAL CLEMENT: Well, I think in the
- 15 second case you'll see that, you know, the same logic
- 16 that leads to this leads itself to stricter bands. But
- 17 let me say, I would have thought the analysis would run
- 18 the exact opposite way, and I would think that if you
- 19 got to the point, which the Ninth Circuit did on page
- 20 58-A of its opinion, where it says, you know, with this
- 21 objective that we've allowed, the most narrowly tailored
- 22 way to get there is to expressly use race. I would have
- 23 thought that might have suggested there was something
- 24 wrong with the compelling interest, if that's the way --
- JUSTICE BREYER: While you're talking about

- 1 the way, let me ask a practical question. 35 years ago
- 2 in Swann, this Court said that a school board,
- 3 particularly an elected one -- it didn't say that
- 4 -- "could well conclude that to prepare students to live
- 5 in a pluralistic society each school should have a
- 6 prescribed ratio of Negro to white students reflecting
- 7 the proportion of the district as a whole." Far more
- 8 radical than anything that's at issue here.
- 9 Then it adds: "To do this as an educational
- 10 policy is within the broad discretionary powers of
- 11 school authorities." That's what this Court said 35
- 12 years ago. Thousands of school districts across the
- 13 country, we're told, have relied on that statement in an
- 14 opinion to try to bring about a degree of integration.
- 15 You can answer this in the next case if you want. So
- 16 think about it.
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You can answer in
- 18 this case, General.
- 19 (Laughter.)
- JUSTICE BREYER: My question, of course, is
- 21 simply this. When you have thousands of school
- 22 districts relying on this to get a degree of integration
- 23 in the United States of America, what are you telling
- 24 this Court is going to happen when we start suddenly
- 25 making -- departing from the case? Do you want us to

Τ	overrule it? Why? Why practically?	
2	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: General?	
3	GENERAL CLEMENT: If I could answer the	
4	question, I think that the fact that you point to the	
5	specific language of Swann is helpful, because the Court	
6	there in dictum I think everybody would agrees that	
7	was dictum said that you could achieve a prescribed	
8	ratio. And that's exactly where the logic of the other	
9	side, of the Ninth Circuit, of Judge Boudin, with all	
10	respect, that's where it takes you.	
11	And I think anybody that relied on that	
12	language in the wake of cases like Crosson, in the wake	
13	of Freeman against Pitts, that said achieving a racial	
14	balance for its own sake is not constitutional, and	
15	Bakke and Grutter against Gratz, that all said that	
16	racial balancing is verboten, I think those school	
17	districts would have been misguided in relying on that	
18	language. Thank you.	
19	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, General.	
20	Mr. Madden.	
21	ORAL ARGUMENT OF MICHAEL F. MADDEN	
22	ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENTS	
23	MR. MADDEN: Mr. Chief Justice and may it	
24	please the Court:	
25	When Seattle was last before this Court you	

- 1 struck down a State law that prevented bussing for
- 2 integration purposes because that law prevented the
- 3 school board from seeking to provide the educational
- 4 benefits of integrated schools. At that time you said
- 5 it was clear enough that all children benefit from
- 6 exposure to ethnic and racial diversity in the classroom
- 7 by preparing them for citizenship in our pluralistic
- 8 society and teaching them to live in harmony and mutual
- 9 respect.
- 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: Mr. Madden, that's
- 11 certainly an admirable goal. Could a local unit, a
- 12 municipality, or even a State have another goal? Let's
- 13 say what used to be great about the United States was
- 14 the presence of various ethnic groups. I mean, there
- 15 were the Pennsylvania Dutch, there were the Amish, there
- 16 were Little Italy's, there were Chinatowns, and these
- 17 things are beginning to disappear. And we think that we
- 18 should encourage the continuation of that diversity, as
- 19 the Federal Government has done with respect to American
- 20 Indian tribes.
- 21 And therefore, we're going to use public
- 22 funds for such things as street festivals, a Chinatown
- 23 street festival, an Italian street festival. We're
- 24 going to encourage those organizations that maintain
- 25 that separateness.

- 1 Is there anything unconstitutional about
- 2 that objective?
- 3 MR. MADDEN: Providing funding for street
- 4 festivals?
- 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: About the objective? I
- 6 mean, think we should foster separateness? Is there
- 7 anything wrong --
- 8 MR. MADDEN: I think that in the context
- 9 that you've described it that would be constitutionally
- 10 very problematic.
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: Fine -- it would be
- 12 problematic?
- MR. MADDEN: Yes.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Why?
- 15 MR. MADDEN: Because I can conceive that
- 16 it's not -- unlike education, where the goal is to
- 17 educate the entire community and to help to prepare the
- 18 community, the students to live in that community, it's
- 19 not a traditional role of government --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well then, let me change
- 21 Justice --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Please let me finish the
- 23 line of questioning.
- 24 Assume with me that it is not an
- 25 unconstitutional objective, which I am sure it's not.

- 1 Could the -- could the government achieve that objective
- 2 by barring people from moving into Little Italy or
- 3 giving a preference to some people to buy real estate in
- 4 Little Italy if they are of Italian ancestry? Could it
- 5 do that? Absolutely not, right?
- 6 MR. MADDEN: I would agree with you.
- 7 JUSTICE SCALIA: So it would appear that
- 8 even if the objective is okay, you cannot achieve it by
- 9 any means whatever. And the mere fact that the
- 10 objective of achieving a diverse balanced society is
- 11 perfectly all right, although certainly not the only
- 12 objective in the world. The mere fact that it's okay
- doesn't mean you can achieve it by any means whatever?
- MR. MADDEN: I would submit that there's a
- 15 fundamental difference between the circumstances you've
- 16 described and a school system which takes all comers and
- 17 is tasked to educate them by preparing them to live in a
- 18 pluralistic society.
- 19 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, my slight
- 20 modification of Justice Scalia's hypothetical -- and it
- 21 proceeds on the same theory -- is suppose there's a huge
- 22 demand for housing. A developer has a plan to build 500
- 23 units. Can the city say, we'll grant you the permit on
- 24 the ground, on the condition that 30 percent of all the
- 25 houses go to minorities? That means people will live

- 1 together. Then we can have a school, a school that can
- 2 be diverse.
- 3 MR. MADDEN: I would say not, because
- 4 housing decisions are inherently private, unlike public
- 5 education. And there's no way to know how those
- 6 benefits are being distributed, if they're going to be
- 7 comparable. I would say no, it is not comparable to the
- 8 schools.
- 9 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, your system is the
- 10 one that gives a choice to the individuals.
- MR. MADDEN: It does, and when there are
- 12 more choices than there are seats available.
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Does that make a
- 14 difference? What if you adopted a plan that insisted on
- 15 a more or less rigid 60-40 ratio at every school and
- 16 assignments were made on that basis. It was not a
- 17 follow-on to a choice system.
- MR. MADDEN: Well, I think --
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Would that be
- 20 unconstitutional?
- 21 MR. MADDEN: Excuse me, Mr. Chief Justice.
- 22 I'm sorry to interrupt.
- I think in each circumstance it depends on
- 24 the status of the school system.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: The same -- the

- 1 facts are otherwise the same, except you conclude that
- 2 private choice contributes to further division rather
- 3 than integration and so the assignments are made on a
- 4 60-40 basis.
- 5 MR. MADDEN: I think that is roughly the
- 6 circumstance that existed in the first Seattle case,
- 7 Mr. Chief Justice. And additionally, I think that you
- 8 then have to move into the realm of what's
- 9 constitutionally permissible and can in a
- 10 constitutionally permissible use of race a school system
- 11 accommodate other values like choice and neighborhood
- 12 ties and family connections to the school system.
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I still don't have
- 14 your answer.
- 15 Is strict assignment 60-40 without regard to
- 16 choice constitutional or not?
- 17 MR. MADDEN: I -- I would want to know more
- 18 about the system because I think strictly if there's
- 19 nothing else and there's no flexibility, I think it
- 20 presents narrow tailoring problems.
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: And how does this
- 22 not present narrow tailoring problems if -- if the --
- 23 when you get to the fact of choice, the sole criteria at
- that level is the same as would be the case in a 60-40
- 25 assignment.

1 MR. MADDEN: Well, we have accommodated 2 choice to the extent there are seats available. And 3 then we go to family connections. And then we -- in 4 operation, admit everyone who lives close to the school. 5 And then as to those that live further away, we look to 6 see what's the school's racial demographic. Is it 7 significantly different than the community's? These 8 schools we have talked about have been the objects of significantly more aggressive segregation efforts, and 9 10 the board wanted to preserve those. CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: One of the, one of 11 the factors our prior cases looked to was whether the 12 13 plan has a logical end point. What is the logical end 14 point in this plan? MR. MADDEN: Well, the board actually at 15 16 every turn reflected in the record discussed whether it 17 was necessary to continue the use of race, whether to 18 narrow it, and eventually to end it. And I think it is 19 in the joint appendix at 408, the superintendent's 20 testimony of the, simultaneously the measures that the 21 board was implementing in terms of resource allocation, 22 implementation of new programs, because they realized 23 that by diversifying choice, they could hopefully 24 achieve some of these same ends, not as quickly, not as 25 efficiently, but that they could achieve them. That's

- 1 been indeed the entire trajectory of Seattle's
- 2 integration efforts since the first Seattle plan.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: But in Grutter we said, to
- 4 shorten it just a little bit, at page 329-330 of the
- 5 U.S. Reports, 539, "the law school's interest is not
- 6 simply to assure within its student body some specified
- 7 percentage of a particular group because of race ...
- 8 that would amount to outright racial balancing which is
- 9 patently unconstitutional." And that seems to be what
- 10 you have here.
- 11 MR. MADDEN: I think that the term racial
- 12 balancing has two significant meanings. One is a plan
- 13 that does not foster a compelling interest. And second,
- 14 a plan that is too rigid, a quota, for instance, that
- 15 might not pass narrow tailoring given the context.
- 16 In this case we're not after a rigid set of
- 17 numbers, and certainly not after a rigid set of numbers
- 18 for their own sake. The purpose was to have schools
- 19 that had become diverse through integration efforts not
- 20 stray too far from the community's demographic because
- 21 we're trying to prepare students to live in those
- 22 communities.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: The problem is that unlike
- 24 strategic siting, magnet schools, special resources,
- 25 special programs in some schools, you're characterizing

- 1 each student by reason of the color of his or her skin.
- 2 That is quite a different means. And it
- 3 seems to me that that should only be, if ever allowed,
- 4 allowed as a last resort.
- 5 MR. MADDEN: The board here was trying to
- 6 distribute, sort out seats that were available at these
- 7 popular schools; and so it devised a system whereby
- 8 every student had the opportunity to be assigned to at
- 9 least one of those popular schools; and as far as the
- 10 record shows in plaintiffs' briefing, there's no
- 11 material differences between those -- those popular
- 12 schools.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Do you have quotas for, for
- 14 racial hiring of your faculty in these schools?
- MR. MADDEN: No.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Why not?
- 17 MR. MADDEN: I don't think the board has
- 18 ever found that necessary to, to achieve diversity in
- 19 the faculty.
- 20 JUSTICE BREYER: Justice Kennedy's question,
- 21 I think, was is this basically a kind of last report?
- 22 Or how close to a has resort is it? What's the history
- 23 of this? I thought the history involved a lawsuit to
- 24 desegregate the schools, a much more rigid system of
- 25 racial -- abuse of race. Ultimately you come to this.

- 1 Now you stop this. And what happened after you stopped
- 2 it?
- MR. MADDEN: What happened is that, that it
- 4 --
- 5 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, what is the history
- 6 basically? Am I right?
- 7 MR. MADDEN: The history is that the board
- 8 had both narrowed the use of the integration tie breaker
- 9 in '99 and 2000 and then continued it for the 2001
- 10 school year. We were -- in 2000-2001 school year, we
- 11 were enjoined in 2001 to use it in that year, which was
- 12 considerably disruptive. But the board was also, the
- 13 measures that it had implemented, implementing magnet
- 14 schools at Rainier Beach and Chief South high schools in
- 15 the South End, implementing it in --
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: But that's not what I'm
- 17 thinking.
- 18 MR. MADDEN: I'm sorry.
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: I mean I'm thinking that, I
- 20 thought as I read this, and you have to correct me
- 21 because you have a better knowledge, originally the
- 22 schools were highly segregated in fact. People brought
- 23 a lawsuit. Then to stop that Seattle engaged in a plan
- 24 that really bused people around on the basis of race.
- 25 That led to white flight. That was bad for the schools.

- 1 They then tried a voluntary choice plan. This is part
- 2 of that plan. Then when they abandon this plan, they
- 3 discover more segregation. Is that basically right or
- 4 not?
- 5 MR. MADDEN: When, when this plan has --
- 6 this -- the description is yes, basically right.
- 7 When this plan was suspended in, after the
- 8 Court of Appeals enjoined it, the board had, as I said,
- 9 experienced some considerable disruption in the
- 10 assignments because of the timing of the injunction.
- 11 But the board was also looking at the effect of the
- 12 race-neutral, if you will, program measures that it had
- implemented.
- 14 Such that now, Ingram high school in the
- 15 north end of Seattle is much more popular. Nathan Hale
- 16 is no longer over-subscribed. There's less demand for
- 17 Ballard, but there have been --
- 18 JUSTICE ALITO: Do you think your, do you
- 19 think your schools as they are operated now are
- 20 segregated?
- MR. MADDEN: We have some change of
- 22 conditions, but the basic conditions remain, the trends
- 23 has not been positive. For example, and I think that
- 24 the petitioner picked --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: To say segregated,

- 1 segregated -- you refer to some of the schools as
- 2 segregated. And I, that's not what I understand by
- 3 segregated.
- 4 MR. MADDEN: Not, not in the sense --
- 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: I mean, you know, if you
- 6 belong to a country club that, that -- that has 15
- 7 percent black members, I would not consider that a
- 8 segregated country club. So what you are complaining
- 9 about is, is not segregation in any, in any reasonable
- 10 sense of the word. You're complaining about a lack of
- 11 racial balance.
- MR. MADDEN: We are not complaining about
- 13 segregation resulting from purposeful discrimination.
- 14 That's --
- 15 JUSTICE SCALIA: That's the only meaning of
- 16 segregation.
- MR. MADDEN: I --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: You're talking about racial
- 19 balance.
- 20 MR. MADDEN: Talking about schools that are
- 21 on the one end racially isolated. The Solicitor General
- 22 mentioned two of those. And talking on the other end
- 23 about preserving the diversity that we had achieved
- 24 through these years of effort in these north end
- 25 schools.

- JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, I think you're also
- 2 --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Justice Alito and Justice
- 4 Breyer and I myself am interested: Can you tell us what
- 5 has happened since the plan's been enjoined?
- 6 MR. MADDEN: Yes.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: I mean, have you gone back
- 8 to square one? And it's just, there's no diversity at
- 9 all? Or is there substantially more diversity? Can you
- 10 tell us about that? Because it's important. It may
- 11 mean that you don't need to identify students by the
- 12 color of their skin in assignment.
- MR. MADDEN: It, it may mean the board
- 14 confronted with the circumstances might well make that
- 15 decision independent of this litigation. But let me
- 16 answer the specific.
- 17 Let's take Franklin High School to begin
- 18 with. In, in 2000, that school was -- had 25 percent
- 19 white enrollment. In 2005, it had 10 percent white
- 20 enrollment. In the ninth grade, which is really the,
- 21 the level at which we see the effect of the segregation
- tie breaker, in 2000, the white enrollment was 21
- 23 percent; it was 8 percent in 2005.
- Go to Ballard High School on the other end.
- 25 Ballard was 56 percent white students in 2000; it's 62

- 1 percent in 2005. The ninth grade class has moved from
- 2 46 percent white students to 58 percent white students.
- 3 Keeping in mind that that school is now significantly
- 4 less popular than it was, I think those effects would
- 5 probably be, be more extreme.
- But the plan -- I want to emphasize, the
- 7 plan was to try to disperse demand and to foster choices
- 8 that would result in diversity, not to compel it. We do
- 9 not --
- 10 JUSTICE ALITO: How do, how do you square
- 11 your objective of achieving racial balance with your
- 12 disinterest in the situation at Cleveland and Rainier
- 13 Beach? Those are the most unbalanced schools under your
- 14 definition, and yet those are not affected at all by
- 15 this plan. Why, why are you not concerned about that?
- 16 GENERAL CLEMENT: Well, they are affected by
- 17 the plan in this in this way, that in the past the
- 18 district had used mandatory measures, busing students
- 19 across town, to try to integrate those schools. And the
- 20 board decided after many years of effort that it would
- 21 no longer do that, but it was also of the firm
- 22 conviction that it would allow students who wanted the
- 23 opportunity to opt out of those schools to do so.
- 24 At the same time, it implemented magnet
- 25 schools at Rainier Beach, there's a new building under

- 1 construction at Cleveland. And so --
- 2 JUSTICE ALITO: Are the students who are
- 3 attending those schools getting the benefits of
- 4 attending a school that's racially balanced? And if
- 5 they're not, why are you not concerned about that, if
- 6 that's an important objective of your program?
- 7 MR. MADDEN: We, we are concerned about
- 8 improving the quality of education in all the schools.
- 9 We do not mandate that a student attend a school for
- 10 integration purposes as we once did.
- JUSTICE SOUTER: Why?
- MR. MADDEN: Because it, it's important to
- 13 the credibility and functionality of the school system
- 14 to have a system that is accepted by the public, by our
- 15 constituents. And so people like choice; they also like
- 16 neighborhood schools; they also like diverse schools.
- 17 And the board recognized when it set about to develop
- 18 this plan that accommodating all of those values would
- 19 require some trade-offs. And the board, familiar with
- 20 the local conditions, familiar with the history, did
- 21 just that in what I submit was a narrowly tailored and
- 22 appropriate way.
- JUSTICE STEVENS: May I go back to the
- 24 Cleveland school that Justice Alito mentioned? An I
- 25 correct that there were 16 percent whites under the

- 1 plan? And I'm just wondering what happened to it during
- 2 the last couple of years?
- 3 MR. MADDEN: Cleveland is now about 8
- 4 percent.
- 5 JUSTICE STEVENS: And it was -- about half
- 6 as many whites as there were under the plan.
- 7 MR. MADDEN: I don't remember the precise
- 8 number in 2000, but that sounds about right.
- 9 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Madden, there was a
- 10 question raised about your categories, that is, you have
- 11 white and then everything else. And it was suggested
- 12 that if you are looking for diversity, what was -- the
- 13 schools that you just mentioned had a large percentage
- 14 of Asian-Americans, but they don't count.
- What is your response to that?
- 16 MR. MADDEN: Well, the -- the problem that
- 17 the board was addressing was principally a, a problem of
- 18 the distribution of white and non-white students. The
- 19 -- as a generality, 75 percent of all non-white students
- 20 in the district lived in South Seattle. And that was
- 21 true for all the ethnic groups except Native Americans,
- 22 who are a very small --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Why is that a problem?
- 24 Suppose you have a school in which 60 percent of the
- 25 students are either of Asian ancestry or Latino

- 1 ancestry, and 40 percent are white as you classify
- 2 people. And there are no African-American students at
- 3 all. You would consider that to be a racially balanced
- 4 school, would you not?
- 5 MR. MADDEN: I would say if that
- 6 circumstance occurred, that that would be something that
- 7 the board would have to pay attention to and consider.
- 8 But the fact of the matter is that --
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Nothing under the
- 10 plan requires that, does it?
- 11 MR. MADDEN: No, because the numbers in
- 12 terms of the distribution of ethnic groups, separate
- 13 ethnic groups and the benefits or impacts of the plan
- 14 were spread proportionately --
- JUSTICE ALITO: And what is the theory
- 16 behind that? Is, the theory is it that the white
- 17 students there or the Asian students or the Latino
- 18 students would not benefit from having African-American
- 19 classmates? It is enough if they have either Asian
- 20 classmates or Latino classmates or white classmates?
- 21 How do you -- how do square that with your, your
- 22 objective of providing benefits that flow from racial
- 23 balance?
- MR. MADDEN: I may, I may have confused the
- answer to the hypothetical with the, with rationale on

- 1 the ground, which was that we did not have that kind of
- 2 single minority ethnic group disparity existing in any
- 3 school. I was saying, however, that if that existed, I
- 4 think that would be something the board would have to be
- 5 mindful of. As a practical matter, because our
- 6 non-white ethnic neighborhoods in South Seattle are
- 7 themselves quite integrated, that the movement under
- 8 this plan did not produce disparities for or against any
- 9 particular ethnic group. And so I think in the end it
- 10 might have been more divisive to have individual
- 11 tiebreakers for the separate minority ethnic groups.
- 12 JUSTICE SCALIA: What criteria of race does
- 13 the school, just out of curiosity, does the school
- 14 district use? I mean, what if a particular child's
- 15 grandfather was white? Would he qualify as a white or
- 16 non-white.
- MR. MADDEN: I would say -- well, the answer
- 18 is --
- 19 JUSTICE SCALIA: I mean, there must be some
- 20 criterion. There are many people of mixed blood.
- 21 MR. MADDEN: The district has no criteria
- 22 itself. The district uses classifications that are
- 23 developed by the Federal Government but allows parents
- 24 to self identify children.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: It allows parents to say

- 1 I'm white, no matter what?
- 2 MR. MADDEN: That allows the parents to self
- 3 identify, and the record in this case through the
- 4 testimony of petitioner's president is they were aware
- 5 of no abuse of that.
- 6 JUSTICE SCALIA: Seems like a big loophole.
- 7 MR. MADDEN: It seems like one but according
- 8 to the record, it's not an issue. I'd like to --
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You don't defend the
- 10 choice policy on the basis that the schools offer
- 11 education to everyone of the same quality, do you?
- MR. MADDEN: Oh, yes. Yes. They offer --
- 13 the popular schools to which everyone had access under
- 14 this plan who wanted access, I think it's -- there is no
- 15 dispute.
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: How is that
- 17 different from the separate but equal argument? In
- 18 other words, it doesn't matter that they're being
- 19 assigned on the basis of their race because they're
- 20 getting the same type of education.
- 21 MR. MADDEN: Well, because the schools are
- 22 not racially separate. The goal is to maintain the
- 23 diversity that existed within a broad range in order to
- 24 try to obtain the benefits that the educational research
- 25 show flow from an integrated education.

1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Even though in the 2 individual cases the students, including minority 3 students, and I gather 89 to 100 of the cases are being 4 denied admission on the basis of their race? 5 MR. MADDEN: They're not being denied 6 admission. They're being -- seats are being distributed 7 to them. This is not like --CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: They are being 8 denied admission to the school of their choice? 9 10 MR. MADDEN: Yes. But this is not like 11 being denied admission to a state's flagship university. I think for that proposition, I would cite Justice 12 13 Powell's opinion in the Bakke case where he was at some 14 pains to point out that a school integration plan is 15 wholly dissimilar to a selective university admissions 16 plan. 17 JUSTICE ALITO: If we look at the things 18 that Parents are concerned about when they're 19 considering where their children are going to high 20 school, we look at things like SAT scores, for example, 21 or performance on statewide tests, would we see that, the oversubscribed schools and the undersubscribed 22 schools have similar test scores? 23 24 MR. MADDEN: It depends on what school

you're talking about, Justice Alito. In this case, I

25

- 1 think the most important point to start with is that
- 2 there was no contention that there was any material
- 3 difference in quality between the five popular high
- 4 schools.
- 5 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, if we looked at
- 6 Garfield and Cleveland, what would we find?
- 7 MR. MADDEN: You would find a reasonable
- 8 basis to perceive a quality difference between those two
- 9 schools, but this plan didn't assign any students to
- 10 Cleveland.
- I want to take a moment, if I can, to turn
- 12 to the issue of individualized consideration, because so
- 13 much emphasis has been placed on it in the earlier
- 14 discussion.
- 15 It seems to us, first of all, that this
- 16 Court in Grutter said that not all uses of race trigger
- 17 the same objections and that the Court must be mindful
- 18 of the context. This is not, as I've said, a selective
- 19 or merit-based system where we adjudge one student to be
- 20 better than the other. We do consider individual
- 21 factors before we get to race, starting with choice and
- 22 family connection, and how close you live to the school.
- But ultimately, this is a distributive
- 24 system which, as Justice Powell -- as I noted, Justice
- 25 Powell said in the Bakke case, is quite wholly

- 1 dissimilar to a merit or selective-based system. What
- 2 it seems to us is being suggested by the United States
- 3 and by the petitioner is a system that would force an
- 4 individualized merit-based review on any kind of race
- 5 conscious program, specifically an assignment to public
- 6 schools.
- 7 That rule allows the means to define the
- 8 ends; and it ends up, I think, defeating the purpose
- 9 that the Court had of not stigmatizing --
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But the reason that
- 11 our prior tests have focused on individual determination
- 12 is that the purpose of the Equal Protection Clause is to
- 13 ensure that people are treated as individuals rather
- 14 than based on the color of their skin. So saying that
- 15 this doesn't involve individualized determinations
- 16 simply highlights the fact that the decision to
- 17 distribute, as you put it, was based on skin color and
- 18 not any other factor.
- 19 MR. MADDEN: Mr. Chief Justice, in Grutter
- 20 you said specifically that individualized review was
- 21 required in the context of university admissions. In
- 22 this context, the kind of review, the specific kind of
- 23 review that I understand the United States to urge and
- 24 the petitioner to urge, serves no purpose, and it may
- 25 itself be stigmatizing in the context of public schools

- 1 where everyone gets a seat.
- 2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: You're saying that
- 3 individual treatment makes no sense in terms of the
- 4 objective here. I thought that's what you were saying.
- 5 MR. MADDEN: Justice Ginsburg, that is
- 6 correct. I am saying, however, that this plan,
- 7 consistent with narrow tailoring, provided consideration
- 8 of individual circumstances, including an appeal on
- 9 hardship grounds for someone who felt that they had been
- 10 denied a school that they needed to be in.
- 11 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But the emphasis on the
- 12 fact that everybody gets into a school, it seems to me
- is misplaced, but the question is whether or not you can
- 14 get into the school that you really prefer. And that in
- 15 some cases depends solely on skin color. You know, it's
- 16 like saying everybody can have a meal but only people
- 17 with separate skin can get the dessert.
- 18 MR. MADDEN: Well, like the Michigan cases,
- 19 sometimes student in the end of the day have an
- 20 assignment determined by race. Just like in the
- 21 university cases, at some point race will be a tipping
- 22 factor. It's different, though, when we put someone in
- 23 a basically comparable school.
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, you're saying
- 25 every -- I mean, everyone got a seat in Brown as well;

- 1 but because they were assigned to those seats on the
- 2 basis of race, it violated equal protection. How is
- 3 your argument that there's no problem here because
- 4 everybody gets a seat distinguishable?
- 5 MR. MADDEN: Because segregation is harmful.
- 6 Integration, this Court has recognized in Swann, in the
- 7 first Seattle case, has benefits. The district was --
- 8 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, it seems to me you're
- 9 saying you can't make an omelet without breaking eggs.
- 10 Can you think of any area of the law in which we say
- 11 whatever it takes, so long as there's a real need,
- 12 whatever it takes -- I mean, if we have a lot of crime
- out there and the only way to get rid of it is to use
- 14 warrantless searches, you know, fudge on some of the
- 15 protections of the Bill of Rights, whatever it takes,
- 16 we've got to do it?
- Is there any area of the law that doesn't
- 18 have some absolute restrictions?
- 19 MR. MADDEN: There are many areas of the
- 20 law, certainly in the First Amendment and the Fourth
- 21 Amendment, that have considerable flexibility.
- 22 JUSTICE SCALIA: But what about the
- 23 Fourteenth? I thought that was one of the absolute
- 24 restrictions, that you cannot judge and classify people
- on the basis of their race. You can pursue the

- 1 objectives that your school board is pursuing, but at
- 2 some point you come against an absolute, and aren't you
- 3 just denying that?
- 4 MR. MADDEN: I think that in Grutter and
- 5 Gratz, this Court rejected the absolute and instead
- 6 described discretely, which we feel we need, and which
- 7 is why we are not urging an absolute position. We say
- 8 that we indeed comply with the requirements of narrow
- 9 tailoring, and that the plan therefore should be upheld.
- 10 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And the question of
- 11 integration, whether there was any use of a racial
- 12 criterion, whether integration, using racial integration
- is the same as segregation, it seems to me is pretty far
- 14 from the kind of headlines that attended the Brown
- 15 decision. They were, at last, white and black children
- 16 together on the same school bench. That seems to be
- 17 worlds apart from saying we'll separate them.
- MR. MADDEN: We certainly agree,
- 19 Justice Ginsburg. We'd go one step further and note
- 20 that in Brown, this Court said that the effects of
- 21 segregated schools are worse.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: There's no effort
- 23 here on the part of the school to separate students on
- 24 the basis of race. It's an assignment on the basis of
- 25 race, correct?

- 1 MR. MADDEN: And it is in effect to bring
- 2 students together in a mix that is not too far from
- 3 their community.
- I see that my time has expired. Thank you.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 6 Mr. Madden.
- 7 Mr. Korrell, you have four minutes
- 8 remaining.
- 9 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF HARRY J.F. KORRELL
- 10 ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER
- 11 MR. KORRELL: Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice.
- 12 There were some questions of my friend Mr. Madden about
- 13 the record and the statistics about enrollment, and I'd
- 14 like to draw the Court's attention, particularly
- 15 Justice Breyer and Justice Stevens' questions about what
- 16 the schools look like now.
- 17 If the Court looks at pages 6 and 7 of our
- 18 reply brief, we provided the enrollment data. The
- 19 information on page 7 comes from the school district
- 20 website that provides enrollment data at the individual
- 21 schools. In 2005 and 2006, enrollment at the
- 22 oversubscribed schools is now 54 percent non-white,
- 23 which is greater than it was under the district's --
- JUSTICE BREYER: This is the -- as I gather,
- 25 the plan where race is used, has to do only with the

- 1 ninth grade. And therefore, what you would like to note
- 2 is when you look at the ninth grade after they stopped
- 3 using any racial criteria at all, what happened to those
- 4 ninth grade classes. Did they become more heavily
- 5 separated or did they retain their diversity? Are the
- 6 numbers that you are about to read us, which I have in
- 7 front of me, going to do that? Tell us that? I think
- 8 they're about the whole school.
- 9 MR. KORRELL: They are, Your Honor, but
- 10 they're about the whole school after four years of
- 11 operating without the race preference. So each of the
- 12 four years they're represented in the aggregate shows
- 13 the effect that I think Your Honor was asking about.
- So, the record in this case shows the
- 15 Seattle schools are richly diverse. It's very important
- 16 in our view that the Court not lose site of that. We've
- 17 talked about integration and segregation, but I urge the
- 18 Court to take a look at the data the petitioners submit
- 19 regarding the actual enrollment in those schools.
- 20 A couple of other record citations I'd like
- 21 to bring to the Court's attention. Justice Kennedy, I
- 22 think, asked about considering race at a last resort.
- 23 It's simply not the case that the school district looked
- 24 at race as a last resort. And I would draw the Court's
- 25 attention to the superintendent's testimony at joint

- 1 appendix 224 and 25, where he said in essence, the
- 2 reason we didn't consider race neutral plans is because
- 3 we were interested in racial diversity.
- JUSTICE BREYER: The numbers I have here,
- 5 Franklin went from 25 percent white to 12.7 percent.
- 6 Roosevelt, which was basically a white school, jumped up
- 7 from about 51 to 59. Ballard jumped up from about 56 to
- 8 62. Then Garfield went down some, more mixed. But
- 9 those were the worst ones; am I right on that?
- 10 MR. KORRELL: Your Honor, I think the
- 11 numbers that you're reading are from the difference
- 12 between the 2000 and -- '99 and the 2000 enrollments.
- 13 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay.
- 14 MR. KORRELL: The numbers I was trying to
- 15 bring to the Court's attention were the difference
- 16 between the enrollment under the race-based plan and the
- 17 enrollment in 2005 and 2006, which shows significant and
- 18 continued racial diversity in Seattle's high schools.
- 19 Counsel suggested also that there is no
- 20 material difference among the five oversubscribed
- 21 schools. And I would draw the Court's attention to the
- 22 testimony of the board president at joint appendix 261
- 23 to 274, where she discusses in detail the programmatic
- 24 differences. It is true that those five schools were
- 25 oversubscribed and they were popular, but they all

1	provide unique programs, some of which as we indicated
2	in our briefs, required children to meet certain
3	prerequisites to be able to attend.
4	JUSTICE GINSBURG: Was the board
5	simultaneously trying to introduce similar programs or
6	attractive programs in the undersubscribed schools?
7	MR. KORRELL: Your Honor, I'm perhaps not
8	the best person to answer that. I believe the board has
9	been trying to introduce programs at all of its schools
10	that would make each school unique, and I think that
11	includes the undersubscribed schools as well.
12	Justice Breyer asked a question about the
13	about the process of this litigation, and my
14	understanding is there was never a lawsuit against
15	Seattle to compel desegregation, that they were always
16	following a plan.
17	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
18	The case is submitted.
19	(Whereupon, at 11:02 a.m., the case in the
20	above-entitled matter was submitted.)
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