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focus on
Desegregation

**Questions and Answers
about the Implication
of the Citywide Vote on
February 2, 1999**




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Why you should read this guide...

he future of St. Louis City-St. Louis County school desegregation programs will soon be decided. The federal courts and the Missouri legislature and the parties to the lawsuit have made key decisions, and, on February 2, the voters of St. Louis City will be asked to take a stand that will determine the future of school desegregation efforts in our region. This booklet offers the facts about the status of the desegregation programs in St. Louis and the impact of the proposed sales tax increase on these programs. We encourage you to stay informed about the desegregation court case proceedings currently underway. Use this booklet as a tool to learn more about the issues so that you can participate in determining the educational course for the future of our children.

The Desegregation Issue in St. Louis — A Snapshot



In 1972, Minnie Liddell and a group of North St. Louis residents filed a lawsuit against the St. Louis Public School Board and the State of Missouri. They charged that the St. Louis Public Schools and the State of Missouri were in violation of the United States Constitution as interpreted in the 1954 *Brown vs. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision and were illegally operating segregated schools. In 1981, 23 St. Louis County suburban school districts were also added to the case. After lengthy litigation, a 1983 desegregation Settlement Agreement was reached between the City of St. Louis, the State of Missouri, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Liddell plaintiffs, the NAACP, and 23 suburban school districts. Through this Settlement Agreement, the State of Missouri and the St. Louis Public School District were required to finance a number of desegregation programs, including:

- a city-county transfer program allowing up to 15,000 students to transfer to suburban schools;
- the expansion of magnet schools in the St. Louis Public School District to allow spaces for 14,000 students;
- the improvement of educational quality in the St. Louis Public School District, particularly in non-integrated schools;
- capital improvements in the St. Louis Public School District's physical facilities; and
- the integration of staff in the suburban school districts.

One of the key developments of the 1983 Settlement Agreement was the establishment of the Voluntary Interdistrict Transfer Program. Today, through this program, approximately 13,000 students from St. Louis choose to attend schools in 15 participating St. Louis County school districts, and approximately 1,400 students from County districts choose to attend the 25 magnet schools located in the City of St. Louis. Though all 23 suburban school districts took part in the Settlement Agreement, seven of the districts — Ferguson-Florissant, Jennings, Maplewood-Richmond Heights, Normandy, Riverview Gardens, University City, and Wellston — had an African American student population of 25 percent or more and do not accept transfer students. More recently, the Hazelwood school district achieved this 25 percent goal and no longer participates in the transfer program. The 15 St. Louis County school districts that currently participate in the Voluntary Interdistrict Transfer Program include: Affton, Bayless, Brentwood, Clayton, Hancock Place, Kirkwood, Ladue, Lindbergh, Mehlville, Parkway, Pattonville, Ritenour, Rockwood, Valley Park, and Webster Groves.

In 1993, after the original settlement's desegregation programs had been operating for nearly ten years, the State of Missouri asked the court to do three things:

- 1) declare unitary status in the St. Louis Public School District. Unitary status means that a school district has eliminated traces of past segregation and discrimination to the maximum extent possible and no longer operates as a dual school system — one system for white students and one system for African American students. (See page 7 for further explanation of unitary status.)
- 2) end State funding;
- 3) end the court's supervision of the court-ordered desegregation programs.

In March 1996, after a three-week hearing on the State's request to declare the St. Louis Public Schools unitary, the court appointed Dr. William H. Danforth as settlement coordinator, rather than issue a ruling on the case at that time. For nearly 3 years, Dr. Danforth has worked with all the parties involved in the lawsuit to try to negotiate and reach a settlement. To support the latest settlement efforts, the Missouri Legislature developed a plan to offset the City's loss of court-ordered State funding and to continue its desegregation efforts with a long-term funding remedy. That plan — Senate Bill 781 — became law in August 1998 and requires that St. Louis City voters pass an additional local tax to support the St. Louis Public Schools. A three-member "overlay" board, established through a provision of Senate Bill 781, had the responsibility of determining whether this tax increase should be a property or a sales tax. The overlay board chose to place a *2/3-of-a-cent sales tax before St. Louis City voters on February 2*. Money from this tax increase, plus money from a revised State foundation formula, will make up for most of the financial support that the City will lose if the State is no longer legally obligated to fund these programs.

On January 6, 1999, a tentative settlement agreement was negotiated among all the parties to the suit and sent to Judge Limbaugh for approval. This settlement remains tentative until it is approved by the St. Louis County school boards of the districts involved in the case and by Judge Limbaugh. The implementation of the settlement is also contingent upon the passage of the *2/3-of-a-cent sales tax increase by St. Louis City voters*.



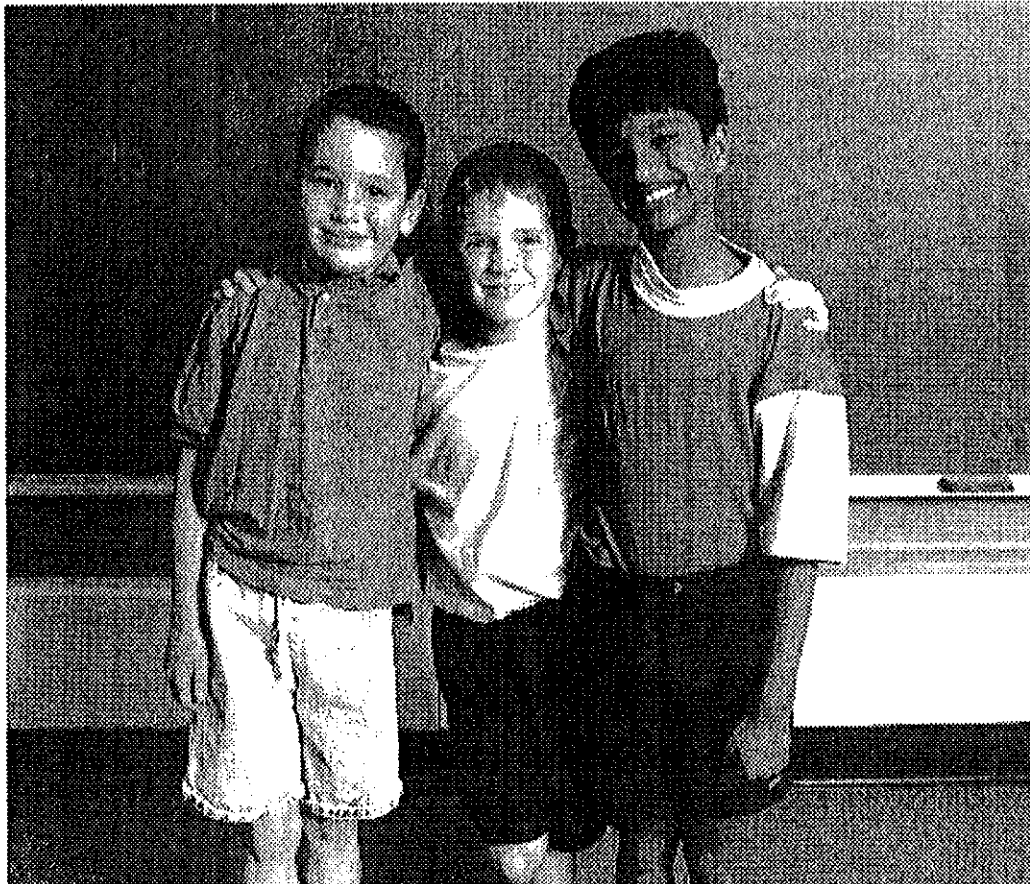
Increasing the Sales Tax to Support the Schools

Exactly what are St. Louis residents being asked to vote on and why?

On February 2, 1999, St. Louis residents will vote on increasing the City sales tax by $\frac{2}{3}$ -of-a-cent. This will raise the local sales tax from 6.85 percent to 7.51 percent on goods and services that are sold in the City of St. Louis after July 1, 1999. To the average citizen, this increase means about \$33 per year in additional taxes for every \$5,000 spent on goods and services in the City of St. Louis.

This St. Louis City tax increase is a condition of Senate Bill 781 which became a law in August 1998. Senate Bill 781 is designed to encourage and support a speedy and cost-effective settlement to the desegregation court case. One way it does this is by providing additional annual State funds to the St. Louis Public School District through a change in the State school foundation formula, **IF, AND ONLY IF**, the proposed sales tax increase is passed by St. Louis City voters.

On January 6, 1999, a tentative settlement was reached by all the parties involved in the desegregation lawsuit. At the time of this writing, the settlement is still undergoing fine tuning. The plan generally paves the way for a return to local control of the schools,



continues the voluntary interdistrict program, and activates the funding provisions of Senate Bill 781. In order for the settlement to go into effect, three things must first happen: 1) the settlement must be approved by the St. Louis County school boards who are parties to the lawsuit; 2) the settlement must be approved by Judge Limbaugh; and 3) St. Louis City voters must pass the St. Louis City sales tax increase on February 2, 1999. If the sales tax increase is passed and a settlement is reached and approved by the court, the funds raised by this tax increase will go ONLY to the St. Louis Public Schools to fund the City's portion of the desegregation programs. It is also important to note that if a court-approved settlement is reached, its implementation will likely depend on the financial resources generated from the sales tax increase.

The three-member overlay board, also established through a provision of Senate Bill 781, responsible for determining whether this tax increase should be in the form of a property tax or a sales tax, chose to place a sales tax before voters. For City residents, the benefit of a sales tax over a property tax is that non-city residents and tourists will also be taxed on any goods and services that they purchase in the City of St. Louis.

Another component of Senate Bill 781 stipulates a revision in the foundation formula which provides more financial support to school districts across the State with high local tax efforts and large numbers of low-income students. However, this State money will not be released to these additional districts without the passage of the City of St. Louis sales tax increase and a court-approved settlement.

Will the additional sales tax make up for the entire \$70 million now being paid by the State of Missouri to the St. Louis Public School District for desegregation programs?

Not entirely. The $\frac{2}{3}$ -of-a-cent sales tax will increase local school revenue for the St. Louis Public Schools by approximately \$23 million. However, lawmakers have also revised the State school foundation formula to financially support districts with high local tax efforts and large numbers of low-income students. For the year 2000, the estimated \$23 million in St. Louis sales tax revenue will be matched by approximately \$40 million in State aid, leaving the St. Louis Public Schools \$7 million short of the \$70 million that the district now receives in state aid for its school desegregation programs. This \$7 million shortfall is 2 percent of the district's total budget of \$350 million. The dollars will fluctuate annually by total sales tax revenue, student enrollments, and number of students at risk.

What if the sales tax increase does not pass?

The new settlement agreement will not take effect without the funding that will become available through the passage of the tax increase. If the sales tax increase is not approved by voters, the case will return to the courts for Judge Limbaugh to determine whether the St. Louis Public School District is unitary.

Who, What, Where, When and Why of the Sales Tax

Why is a special election being held in February?

A provision of Senate Bill 781 imposes a March 15 deadline on both the settlement negotiations for the desegregation court case and the placement of a tax increase before voters in the City of St. Louis. An initial settlement was reached on January 6, 1999. However, the implementation of the court case settlement is dependent upon the funds generated from the passage of the sales tax increase. Because of the March 15 deadline, a special election is planned for February. The sales tax increase will be the only item on the ballot. This decision was made by the members of the overlay board.

What is the overlay board?

A provision of Senate Bill 781 required that a three-member overlay board, or transitional school board, be established. The overlay board is separate, administrative governing body from the current St. Louis Public School Board, and it will be in operation until July 1, 2008. The overlay board has three specific jobs:

- to determine the specifics of the tax increase to be voted on by City voters prior to March 15. The overlay board decided on a 2/3-of-a-cent sales tax increase and a February 2 election date
- to oversee the implementation of the educational programs and policies determined through a court-approved settlement of the desegregation case
- to take control of the St. Louis Public School District if the district loses its accreditation (See explanation of accreditation below.)

Who are the members of the overlay board?

The overlay board, or the transitional school board, includes three members: James Buford, president of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, who was appointed by the St. Louis Public School Board; Lisl King Williams, a former Washington University administrator, who was appointed by Mayor Harmon; and Tom Klevorn, an executive at Monsanto Company, who was appointed by the St. Louis Board of Aldermen. If the St. Louis Public School District loses its accreditation, James Buford will leave the overlay board and will be replaced by a paid administrator appointed by Missouri Governor Carnahan. This administrator will serve as the "CEO" of the school district.

What does "accreditation" mean?

Every five years the State of Missouri reviews all public school districts to make sure that they meet standards determined by the State. Districts are reviewed in areas such as student achievement, teacher qualifications and school facilities. If a school district meets these standards, it receives accreditation or State approval for five years of operation. If a district fails to meet the standards for more than two years in a row, the Missouri Department of Education takes control of the district. Senate Bill 781 stipulates that if the St. Louis Public School District loses accreditation, the overlay board will take control of the district with a CEO appointed by Missouri Governor Carnahan. However, the new settlement agreement changes this stipulation by allowing the St. Louis Public School District two years after its review to make needed improvements before it loses its accreditation. The District is scheduled to undergo accreditation review in Spring 1999.

Why does the State of Missouri want to end the court-ordered desegregation programs?

The State feels that it has fulfilled its court-ordered legal responsibility to fund the desegregation programs and should no longer be obligated to financially support them. To this end, the State has asked that the St. Louis Public School District be found "unitary" and that the court-ordered desegregation programs end. Today, the State of Missouri spends nearly \$160 million a year to support the St. Louis City-St. Louis County school desegregation programs. Of this \$160 million, the St. Louis Public School District receives approximately \$70 million per year to fund magnet schools and school improvement programs within its district. St. Louis County school districts receive approximately \$60 million each year to pay the per pupil costs for transfer students, and the remaining State money pays primarily for the City and County transportation costs of the interdistrict transfer program.

What does "unitary status" mean?

"Unitary status" is a legal term. It means that a school district has eliminated the traces of past segregation and discrimination to the maximum extent possible, and no longer operates a "dual" school system — one system for white students and one system for African American students. Court-ordered desegregation decrees are removed only after the court decides that a school district has achieved unitary status.

What would unitary status mean for St. Louis?

If the tax increase does not pass, then the final, court-approved settlement will not take effect, and the case will return to the Federal Court and to Judge Limbaugh for a ruling. If Judge Limbaugh rules that the St. Louis Public School District has achieved unitary status, then State financial support could end, the transfer program could be discontinued, and approximately 13,000 African American students from the City who attend suburban schools could be phased out of the transfer program or immediately returned to the St. Louis Public Schools. The return of 13,000 students to the St. Louis Public Schools would place a heavy financial burden on the district. The St. Louis Public School's current resources and facilities are not sufficient to absorb this increase in students. According to the 1995 Civic Progress Task Force Report on Desegregation, the return of 13,000 students to the St. Louis Public Schools would cause a 29 percent student increase in the district which would reduce the amount of money spent per pupil by 15 percent. Moreover, an additional \$245 million dollars would be required by the St. Louis Public Schools to expand the physical facilities to accommodate this growth.

Resegregation is also likely to result from the end of the transfer program and the return of 13,000 students to the St. Louis Public Schools. In such a case, the Civic Progress Task Force Report on Desegregation estimated that the percent of African American students in the St. Louis Public Schools would increase from 78 percent to 85 percent, and 56,000 white students in St. Louis County would no longer attend school in an integrated setting.

What is happening in other desegregation court cases around the country?

If the tax increase does not pass and a court-approved settlement does not take effect, we can only speculate about how Judge Limbaugh may rule in the St. Louis case if a settlement is not reached, we do know that many court decisions of the 1990s have relaxed and, in a number of cases, released districts from court-supervised desegregation programs and allowed districts to send students back to neighborhood schools. In many of these cases, the courts have determined that court-ordered desegregation decrees are limited in their ability to remedy the discrimination and segregation of the past. The national trend in desegregation court cases has been to restore the district to local control.

Public school districts in Denver, Dallas, Cleveland, Oklahoma City, Savannah and Kansas City have all been released from their desegregation court orders. A 1991 Oklahoma City court case helped put this trend in motion when a judge ruled that "good-faith efforts" of a district to eliminate the effects of past segregation and discrimination are an appropriate measure for whether or not a district has actually achieved unitary status. In the Kansas City case — *Missouri v. Jenkins* — the Supreme Court ruled that desegregation efforts should be limited in time and extent and that school districts do not need to show any actual correction of the educational harm of segregation. The reason for referencing the above cases is that they will likely be taken into consideration in the St. Louis case if it returns to the court for a ruling.

What has happened to the desegregation programs in school districts that are no longer under desegregation court order?

The trend of districts being released from desegregation court orders, being declared unitary, and being returned to local control has led to yet another pattern — one of resegregated school systems. Students returned to urban public schools typically attend their neighborhood schools. If neighborhoods are segregated because of segregated housing patterns, the neighborhood schools will also be segregated.

Have the goals of the 1983 Settlement Agreement been met?

After lengthy litigation, a 1983 desegregation Settlement Agreement was reached between the City of St. Louis, the State of Missouri, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Liddell plaintiffs, the NAACP, and 23 suburban school districts. Through this Settlement Agreement, the State of Missouri and the St. Louis Public School District were required to finance costs of the desegregation programs. The Settlement Agreement consisted of the following five key components:

1. The voluntary transfer of up to 15,000 African American students per year from the City to suburban school districts. Transfers were to continue until the suburban school districts had each achieved an African American student population of at least 15 percent above where they were when the program started, or until the district's total African American student population reached 25 percent.

- Where do we stand? Today, approximately 13,000 African American students from the City attend school in 15 St. Louis County school districts. According to the Voluntary Interdistrict Coordinating Council, African American students who participate in the transfer program are more likely to graduate from high school as students who stay in the St. Louis Public Schools, and plan to attend college at a rate of nearly three times the national average for African American high school graduates.
 - The St. Louis County school districts that participate in the Voluntary Interdistrict Transfer Program today include: Affton, Bayless, Brentwood, Clayton, Hancock Place, Kirkwood, Ladue, Lindbergh, Mehlville, Parkway, Pattonville, Ritenour, Rockwood, Valley Park, and Webster Groves. All but 3 of the participating districts in St. Louis County have at least a 15 percent African American student population. While this progress is significant, it is still less than the established goal of the 1983 Settlement Agreement.
2. The voluntary transfer of white suburban students to City magnet schools or regular schools; and the expansion of the magnet schools to accommodate a total of 14,000 students, 1,640 of whom are to be white suburban students.
 - Where do we stand? Today approximately 1,400 white suburban students attend school at 25 magnet schools in the City. The total number of students enrolled in the magnet schools to date is 13,035. The 25 magnet schools in operation in the St. Louis Public School District have the capacity to accommodate just over 14,800 students.
 3. The improvement of the quality of education in all the schools in the St. Louis Public School District -- particularly in non-integrated schools. The primary goals in this area are the reduction of class size, instructional coordinators in the non-integrated schools, libraries in all schools, and the addition of part-time, integrated remedial and enrichment programs.
 - Where do we stand? On average, pupil-teacher ratios in the non-integrated elementary and middle schools have improved from 30 students per teacher to 20 students per teacher. Many enrichment programs have been funded with desegregation money, including the School Partnership Program, Career Education, Pairing and Sharing, Springboard to Learning, and more. However, according to the Desegregation Educational Monitoring and Advisory Committee, some programs and services have been reduced in scope, restructured or eliminated entirely.
 4. The improvement of the St. Louis Public School District's facilities through a major capital improvement program.
 - Where do we stand? The St. Louis Public School District and the State of Missouri have spent approximately \$400 million to improve the physical facilities of the St. Louis Public Schools.
 5. The hiring of African American staff in the suburban school districts in order to integrate teaching staffs to achieve a goal of 15.8 percent African American teachers or 13.4 percent African American administrators.
 - Where do we stand? None of the 15 County school districts still participating in the interdistrict transfer program have reached either of these goals as of this time.

■ What are the terms of the new settlement?

The new settlement plan is tentative. The plan was approved by the St. Louis Public School Board, but has not yet been approved by the St. Louis County school boards that are parties to the lawsuit. The plan must also be approved by the court.

In addition, the conditions of the settlement will not be implemented UNLESS THE 2/3-OF-A-CENT SALES TAX INCREASE IS APPROVED BY ST. LOUIS CITY VOTERS on February 2, 1999. Here are highlights:

- Voluntary School Transfer Program: Under the new settlement, the St. Louis County school districts that now participate in the interdistrict transfer program will continue to do so with approximately the same number of students for the next three years. All students now in the program, and all new students who enter the program in the next three years, will participate in the transfer program until they graduate from high school. To reduce transportation costs, new students and students changing schools will be assigned to a County geographic zone rather than be allowed to attend any St. Louis County school district. After three years, participating county school boards will vote on whether they wish to continue to accept new transfer students.
- Mandatory busing within the St. Louis Public School District will end.
- The St. Louis Magnet School program will continue and be more available to white and African American City students.
- St. Louis Public School programs will be strengthened to improve student achievement, decrease the dropout rate and improve student attendance. Parents can remove their children from schools that are not performing up to their expectations and send them to another City school. Teachers and administrators will be held more responsible for student success.
- St. Louis Public School's teacher recruitment and training programs will be improved.
- The St. Louis Public School District will receive \$180 million over ten years from the State of Missouri for capital improvements, so that the district can handle the increase in students who, in three years, may not participate in the transfer program.
- The St. Louis Public School District will have two years to improve its schools if it fails to receive accreditation.
- Thirty additional, underperforming schools will receive special attention and assistance by the St. Louis Public School District. If these schools do not improve, they will be overhauled. Last year, ten St. Louis Public Schools were selected for attention.

■ In Sum

Significant progress has been made to improve student access to high quality and integrated educational opportunities in St. Louis. Though a tentative settlement agreement was reached on January 6, 1999, all of the program goals of the original 1983 Settlement Agreement were not met. Until the passage of the 2/3-of-a-cent sales tax increase in the City of St. Louis, the direction of the desegregation case is uncertain. If the tax increase passes, the agreement and all of its terms and conditions will take effect. If the tax does not pass, the case will return to Judge Limbaugh for a ruling.

■ What is Senate Bill 781?

Senate Bill 781 became a law in August 1998. This bill contains a wide variety of provisions which are outlined below. It is important to note that several of the bill's provisions will NOT go into effect if the City sales tax increase does not pass and the case is not settled before March 15, 1999. **The components of Senate Bill 781 that require passage of the sales tax and court-approved settlement of the court case are in bold face.**

Key Provisions of Senate Bill 781 that will become law on July 1, 1999, **ONLY IF the settlement is approved AND the tax increase is passed prior to March 15, 1999.**

- **Redistributes State Aid. IF, AND ONLY IF, THE ST. LOUIS CITY SALES TAX INCREASE IS PASSED BY VOTERS,** the State foundation formula will change to financially support school districts across the State of Missouri with high local tax efforts and large numbers of low-income students. This means more funding for Kansas City and the St. Louis Public Schools — approximately \$40 million in State aid for St. Louis. Additional funding — based on the number of students on free or reduced lunch — will also go to eight St. Louis County school districts, including Hazelwood, Ferguson-Florissant, Jennings, Maplewood-Richmond Heights, Normandy, Riverview Gardens, Wellston and University City school districts; as well as other districts in the State of Missouri with high poverty rates.
 - **Continues the Voluntary School Transfer Program.** A public corporation will replace the Voluntary Interdistrict Coordinating Council. This corporation will be responsible for running the voluntary interdistrict transfer program — transferring City students to County schools and County students to City magnet schools. Regional attendance zones may be established that link transfers from parts of the city to parts of the county. As the law is now written, six years from now each participating suburban school district will vote on whether it wishes to continue having its school district participate in the program. The tentative settlement plan has changed this condition to a vote in three years by the participating suburban school districts' board members. If the majority
- vote is to **DISCONTINUE** participation, the district will develop a phaseout plan by the following year.

Key Provisions of **Senate Bill 781** that are law whether or not the court case is settled:

- Permits the establishment of charter schools in St. Louis and Kansas City school districts. Charter schools are publicly funded schools, but they are exempt from local district regulations. Charter schools must be sponsored by the school board or by a public institution of higher education.
- Eliminates tenure for principals in the St. Louis Public School District. Increases the amount of time for teachers to earn tenure in the St. Louis Public Schools from three to five years.
- Creates a three-member overlay board, or transitional school board, for the St. Louis Public School District. The overlay board is a separate, administrative governing body from the St. Louis Public School Board. It will operate through July 1, 2008.
- Phases out the current 12-member St. Louis Public School Board, and replaces it with a seven-member board. The current 12 members are elected at-large for six-year terms. The replacement seven-member board members will be elected by subdistrict for four-year terms.
- Identifies and reconstitutes academically deficient schools. In the State of Missouri, schools are considered academically deficient if their graduation rates are below 65 percent. If a school is academically deficient, the district has the authority to overhaul and restaff it, convert it to a charter school, or place it in the hands of a school accountability council to increase student achievement. The State of Missouri can appoint a school accountability council if the school district does not.
- Requires that the "St. Louis Students' Bill of Rights", a piece of Senate Bill 781, be placed before St. Louis City voters prior to March 15, 1999. The "St. Louis Students' Bill of Rights" reinstates kindergarten through eighth grade schools and provides that every child within the St. Louis Public School District has the right to attend the school closest to the child's home or transfer to any other school within the district.

Timeline/Chronology

- 1847 Missouri legislature bars education of black people.
- 1865 Missouri constitution includes phrase "separate schools may be established for all children of African descent", setting up the dual system for black and white students.
- 1866 28 years after opening its first public school, St. Louis opens its first schools for black people.
- 1875 Sumner High School opens; for more than 50 years, Sumner is the only high school available to black students in the city and county.
- 1877 First black teacher is hired by St. Louis Public Schools.
- 1896 The United States Supreme Court sets out the "separate but equal" doctrine in Plessy v. Ferguson.
- 1924 Stowe Teachers College is opened for black teacher trainees in St. Louis
- 1928 Douglass High School opens in Webster Groves; first high school for black students in St. Louis County.
- 1947 Archdiocese of St. Louis desegregates its parochial schools.
- 1954 U.S. Supreme Court rules that segregated education is unconstitutional in Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka.
- 1950s Intact busing – Nearly 5000 black students are bused to underutilized white schools in South St. Louis to relieve overcrowding in black schools. This policy is dropped by the school board in the early 1960s.
- 1960s Rather than desegregate the all-white schools in South St. Louis, the Board builds nine new elementary schools in all-black attendance zones in the West End and North St. Louis.
- 1972 Liddell vs. the Board of Education is filed.
- 1975 Judge James Meredith rules that St. Louis schools are segregated; the Liddell plaintiffs and the Board enter into a consent decree providing for an increase in minority teacher hirings and a pledge by the Board to work to relieve the racial imbalance in the city schools; Judge Meredith issues a consent decree which requires that staff racial balance be achieved by 1978; that magnet schools be established; and, that a plan for desegregating the high schools be implemented by September 1977.
- 1978 U.S. Supreme Court rules that States can be required to pay for improvements in mostly black urban schools.

- 1979 Judge Meredith rules against the black parents in Liddell and finds no constitutional violations by the school board and State of Missouri.
- 1980 March – Federal appeals court reverses Judge Meredith’s ruling and orders immediate planning to desegregate St. Louis schools.
- 1980 September – Interdistrict desegregation plan within the City of St. Louis begins.
- 1981 September – Interdistrict transfer program begins with five suburban school districts and the City of St. Louis.
- 1983 February – Settlement agreement reached and approved by Judge Hungate. All 23 St. Louis County school districts participated in the Settlement Agreement.
- 1983 September – City-County Voluntary Interdistrict transfer plan takes effect; sixteen St. Louis County school districts participate.
- 1993 Saying Missouri has paid more than \$1 billion and done all it could to desegregate, Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon seeks to end court-ordered desegregation and the State’s involvement.
- 1996 April – Judge George Gunn, Jr. appoints Dr. William Danforth to get all parties in the desegregation court case to reach agreement.
- 1996 September-- Transfer plan has grown to 13,000 students, the largest in the country.
- 1997 March -- A federal judge approves an agreement ending State responsibility in the 20-year old Kansas City desegregation case.
- 1997 September – Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon proposes a plan to use \$304 million of State money to phase out the transfer program over six years.
- 1997 November – Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon withdraws his \$304 million plan.
- 1998 August – Senate Bill 781 is signed into law by Governor Carnahan.
- 1999 January 6 -- A tentative, new settlement agreement is reached by all parties in the court case.
- 1999 February 2 -- St. Louis City residents vote on 2/3-cent sales tax increase.
- 1999 March 15 – Deadline for court case settlement and passage of St. Louis City tax increase as outlined in Senate Bill 781.

Sources: St. Louis Post-Dispatch – June 9, 1997; Desegregation Monitoring Office of the St. Louis Public School District

The Language of Desegregation— What do all the terms mean?

Accreditation:	A school district has met a set of standards determined by the State of Missouri on key educational areas, including student achievement, teacher qualifications, and physical facilities. In Missouri, districts are reviewed for accreditation every five years.
Busing:	Racial integration of schools achieved by busing students to schools where their attendance would improve racial balance.
Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka:	The 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision that banned racially segregated schools, saying that “separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.”
Charter Schools:	Publicly funded schools that are exempt from local district regulations and are run independently. In the State of Missouri, charter schools may be established in St. Louis and Kansas City, but they must be sponsored by a public school board or public higher education institution.
Decree:	A court order.
Desegregation:	Plans aimed at reducing racial isolation in schools and improving racial balance.
Discrimination:	Any action, policy, or practice that harms a group of persons and limits or denies a person or group of persons opportunities, access, privileges, or rewards based on race.
Educational equity:	Educational policies, practices and programs necessary to: a) eliminate educational barriers based on race b) provide equal educational opportunities and ensure that historically underserved or underrepresented populations meet the same rigorous standards for academic performance expected of all youth.
Equal access:	Impartiality and fairness in opportunity.
Equal educational opportunity:	Providing the same resources, opportunity, treatment for all students.

- Equity:** Fairness and justice or impartiality.
- Integration:** The process of bringing together, or unifying, different groups to coexist as a whole.
- Liddell vs. The Board of Education:** A class action lawsuit brought against the Board of Education and its members, alleging racial segregation in the city schools.
- Magnet Schools:** A school that places special emphasis and focus on academic achievement or on a particular subject matter area and is designed to attract students from elsewhere in the district or from outside of the district.
- Overlay Board:** The three-member transitional school board established by a provision in Senate Bill 781.
- School Segregation:** The separation of students or groups of students on the basis of race.
- Senate Bill 781:** An omnibus education bill signed into law by Missouri Governor Carnahan in August 1998.
- Reconstitution:** The overhauling and restaffing of a school in order to start from scratch.
- Unitary Status:** A legal term that means that a school district has eliminated, to the greatest extent possible, the traces of the segregation and discrimination of the past, and no longer operates as a dual school system — one system for white students and one system for students of color.

Sources: *Education Week Newspaper*
 Midwest Desegregation Assistance Center
Stepping Over the Color Line, by Amy Stuart Wells and Robert L. Crain

Resources

Educational Programming on Desegregation:

<i>Mosaic</i>	<i>Impact on the Issues</i>
Channel 9, KETC	A 5-part Series on Desegregation
Tuesday, January 19	Channel 21, Double Helix
7-8 PM	Part 5: Wednesday, January 13, 9:00 PM
	Friday, January 15, 10:00 AM
	Sunday, January 17, 1:30 PM
	5-part series with the Overlay Board, Senator Ted House, Dr. James Dixon, Dr. Cleveland Hammonds, and Ms. Sheryl Davenport. For more information or copies, please contact the League of Women Voters Information Service at 961-6869.

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Organizations and Contacts for Additional Information on Desegregation:

Cooperating School Districts - 1460 Craig Rd., St. Louis, MO 63146

Phone: (314) 872-8282 (800) 835-8282 www.info.csd.org

Dr. William Danforth's Office (Settlement Coordinator) - Washington University,
7425 Forsyth, Campus Box 1044, St. Louis, MO 63105 Phone: (314) 935-9850

Educational Monitoring and Advisory Committee - 906 Olive St., St. Louis, MO
63101 Phone: (314) 231-4669

FOCUS St. Louis - 1910 Pine Street, St. Louis, MO 63103-2254 - Phone: (314) 622-
1250 (314) 622-1279 www.focus-stl.org

League of Women Voters Information Service - 8706 Manchester Rd.,
St. Louis, MO 63144 Phone: (314) 961-6869

Mayor's Office - City Hall, Room 200, St. Louis, MO 63103
Phone: (314) 622-3201

Metropolis St. Louis - www.mstl.org

Midwest Desegregation Assistance Center - Kansas State University, Bluemont
Hall, Manhattan, Kansas 66506-5327 Phone: (913) 532-6408 -
(800) 232-0133 ext. 408 www.mdac.educ.ksu.edu

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
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P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480 Phone: (573) 751-4212
Fax: (573) 751-1179 Public Information E-mail: pubinfo@mail.dese.state.mo.us
web site: www.dese.state.mo.us

Missouri General Assembly - web site: www.moga.state.mo.us web site for
information on Senate Bill 781 -
www.house.state.mo.us/bills98/bills98/sb781.htm

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP),
625 N. Euclid, St. Louis, MO 63108 Phone: (314) 361-8600

St. Louis American Newspaper, 4144 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108
Phone: (314) 533-8000

St. Louis Public Schools - Desegregation Monitoring Office
Phone: (314) 231-3720

Public Information Phone: (314) 231-3720.

St. Louis Teacher's and School-Related Personnel Union, Local 420,
2710 Hampton Ave., St. Louis, MO 63139 Phone: (314) 781-2077

Voluntary Interdistrict Coordinating Council - 7425 Forsyth Boulevard, Suite 110,
St. Louis, MO 63105 Phone: (314) 721-8422

Court Cases:

Missouri v Jenkins, 105 S. Ct. 2038 (1995)

Brown v Board of Education, 347 U.S. 483 (1954)

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- United States Court of Appeals, No. 97-2009 (8th Cir. 1997)

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