

# CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND CIVIL RIGHTS 1951-1968

## A STUDENT EXHIBIT

May 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of the civil rights campaign in Birmingham, Alabama, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Students Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). In 2014 we commemorate the 50th anniversary of "Freedom Summer" and the "Freedom Schools" in Mississippi. The Birmingham campaign involved the mobilization of thousands in the African American community to engage in nonviolent demonstrations to bring about an end to legal segregation, and included the "Children's Crusade" in which hundreds of children and teenagers marched, were attacked by police with fire hoses, dogs, and night sticks, and then arrested.

In Mississippi in the summer of 1964, student volunteers came from around the country to work in SNCC's 41 Freedom Schools with over 2,100 students eventually enrolled. Young people who attended the Freedom Schools often became activists afterward in civil rights campaigns throughout Mississippi. Over the last two years, students at the University of California, Riverside enrolled in HISA 197 "Undergraduate Research in History" and other courses have been engaged in researching the Children Crusade, Freedom Summer, the Freedom Schools, and other civil rights campaigns where children and young people played significant roles.

Children and young people had participated in marches, demonstrations, boycotts, and other nonviolent direct action protests before the 1950s. *If We Could Change the World: Young People and America's Long Struggle for Racial Equality* (2009), by historian Rebecca de Schweinitz documented the social and political activism of student groups beginning in the 1930s. Young people organized marches and demonstrations throughout that decade calling for the freedom of the Scottsboro Boys, nine teenagers who were unfairly condemned to death in Scottsboro, Alabama after being falsely accused of raping two white women. In Baltimore, Maryland, in 1931 the City-Wide Youth Forum, led by Juanita Jackson, offered lectures, circulated petitions to "Free the Scottsboro Boys," and participated in the boycotts of neighborhood stores and restaurants where no African Americans were employed. The "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work" campaigns were organized in numerous cities by African American organizations, and in Baltimore it was the young people in the Youth Forum who spearheaded the boycotts of local merchants who engaged in discriminatory hiring practices.

The Youth Forum leader Juanita Jackson was tapped by NAACP Director Walter White in 1936 to become the director of "Youth Programs" for the NAACP and she established numerous college chapters, youth councils, and junior youth councils around the country. The student groups participated in marches and demonstrations against lynching and mob violence, job discrimination, voter disfranchisement practices, and the racist and demeaning portrayals of African Americans in elementary and high school textbooks used in the public schools. With the coming of the civil rights campaigns in the 1950s, young people in NAACP youth councils organized sit-ins and other nonviolent direct action protests; and children and teenagers participated in school boycotts in public school systems throughout the country, and attended Freedom Schools opened to teach them about how they were contributing to the larger Civil Rights Movement.

**"Children, Youth, and Civil Rights, 1951-1968": Faculty Sponsor, Prof. V. P. Franklin;**  
**Student Assistants, Viet N. Trinh and Juan Carlos Jauregui; Student Researchers: Caitlin Awrey, Harrison Buckley, Esmeralda Cano, David Chavez, Crystal Chambliss, Vincent Chrismon, Deborah Clark, Ameer Covarrubias, Jonathan Dai, William Diermissen, Gabriel Flores, Eduardo Fornes, Reanna Gibbs, Jessica Gutierrez, Kia Harris, Reyna Harvey, Ryan Hazinski, Shaina Ho, Tien Thuy Ho, Aiesha Khan, Charles Kim, Jade King, Nicholas Lam, Nikita Lau, Andres Lozano, Celina Lozano, Roslyn Ludden, Sean McElliot, Arman Markazi, Somailia Miller, Michael Morales, Ty Oberdank, Teresa Palafox, Jesus Peña, Victoria Phillips, Dario Puccini, Talia Ramirez, Jennifer Renner, Gessenia Rivas, Antonio Rodriguez, Cassiopeia Rogers, Veronica Sandoval, Jennifer Sayed, Gregory Schwab, Teasha Serrat, Paul Sinkiewicz, Lila Sultan, Jim Sung, Fabiola Escobedo Torres, David Tran, Diana Vincenty, Brandon Walker, Briana White, Ed Wimpenny, Sarah Wolk.**  
**Exhibit Design, Edward D. Collins; Graphic Design, Kyle Anderson.**



Juanita Jackson (on left) in 1937 visiting the Scottsboro Boys in prison in Alabama.



Members of the NAACP New York Youth Council picketing in support of anti-lynching legislation in front of the Strand Theatre in Times Square.



NAACP Youth Council Members in Charlotte, NC in 1942.

# PRINCE EDWARD

# COUNTY, VA

## Five Years Without Public Schools

Before 1951, Prince Edward County (PEC), VA, like other places throughout the Jim Crow South, was defined by "separate and unequal" public accommodations, including the schools.

Overcrowding and extreme underfunding plagued all-black R. R. Moton High School where even school buses had been used as makeshift classrooms to alleviate overcrowding. Classrooms were heated with coal stoves; teachers had to tend to the fires and students at desks nearby tried to avoid the showers of sparks.

The all-white Farmville High School faced some of these problems. In fact, for the 1949-50 school year the monetary value of Farmville's buildings, equipment, and land was estimated to be four times that of Moton's. When this difference is adjusted for number of students, the disparity is even more alarming. If each school's property value was divided among its students, a Farmville student's share would be six times greater than a Moton student.

On 23 April 1951, fed up with the unfair distribution of educational resources, Moton High students, led by junior Barbara Johns, walked out and organized a boycott. Their objective was not to enroll in Farmville High; they demanded a new school with equal facilities and resources.

As the PEC school board resisted, the student protestors found legal representation in NAACP lawyers Robert Carter, Oliver Hill, and Spottwood Robinson and in 1951 the case made its way to the U. S. Supreme Court as *David v. PEC School Board*. Included in the Brown v. Papea Board of Education decision, the Court ruled that legal segregation in public education is unconstitutional.

As in many communities in the South following the Brown decision, whites in PEC pursued a campaign of "massive resistance." Some whites preferred to deprive their own children of a public education rather than allow them to attend classes with black children. In 1959 the PEC School Board cut all funding to public education and closed the all-black and all-white schools.

That same year segregationists founded the "Prince Edward Academy," as a private school that could deny admission to African American children. All but two of the faculty members at the academy were recruited from Farmville High and 9 out of 18 former Farmville High students were enrolled there. Thanks to a combination of state subsidies and local donations, white families paid little tuition.

African American parents in PEC had to scramble to find schooling for their children. The founders of the Prince Edward Academy offered to set up an all-black private institution, "The Southside Schools," but only one applicant applied since African Americans understood this shameless attempt to resume "separate and unequal" schooling. One notable alternative was the Emergency Relocation Program formed by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Like a study-abroad program, the AFSC sought to match host families outside PEC with youngsters willing to leave home for their education. After five years without public schooling and much national attention, Rev. L. Francis Griffin, an outspoken opponent of the PEC school closing, was able to convince the Supreme Court to hear the case. In May 1964 in a unanimous decision, the Court ruled that closing public schools in PEC was unconstitutional, and in September 1964 PEC public schools finally reopened on a desegregated basis.



Historical photo of the Jim Crow, Farmville High School across the white campus of Prince Edward County, Virginia.



R. R. Moton was the "separate and unequal" high school for African American students.



Barbara Johns, a 15-year-old Moton student, was the leader of the school boycott.



In April 1951, the Moton students staged a school-wide boycott demanding equality in spending and resources, not segregation.



The Johns suiters were represented in court by lawyers from the NAACP. Their case was eventually decided as part of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954.



A classroom at Moton with low-quality educational materials and segregationist attitudes.



A comparison of the source of offerings at Moton and Farmville. It indicates the income difference of our school, but not the other.



A comparison of the value of school property presented as evidence in the 1951 case.

## Chronology of Events

**23 April 1951** - Led by junior Barbara Johns, R.R. Moton High School students walk out to protest severe overcrowding and underfunding.

**24 May 1951** - The Johns strikers, represented by the NAACP, petition the Federal District Court in Richmond, VA.

**3 July 1951** - The school board fires Moton principal M. Boyd Jones, citing his inability to control the increasingly determined Johns strikers.

**4 May 1952** - The United States Supreme Court agree to hear *David v. School Board of Prince Edward County, VA*.

**17 May 1954** - In conjunction with *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Johns strikers, declaring an end to "separate but equal" public schools.

**6 September 1955** - The new \$800,000 R. R. Moton campus opens, meeting the Johns strikers original demands for quality educational facilities.

**24 February 1956** - Led by U. S. Senator Harry F. Byrd, segregationists across the South begin "Massive Resistance" to the implementation of the Brown decision.

**26 June 1959** - To avoid integration, the Prince Edward County School Board cuts off all funding to its schools, effectively closing all public schools for black and white students.

**1959-1964** - Prince Edward County has no public schools. Local whites attend Prince Edward Academy, an all-white private school which was made affordable through local donations and government subsidies. Black parents are forced to find alternatives to conventional education, or to send their children away to study in other counties.

**December 1959** - Roy B. Hargrove and others send letters to local African American parents inviting them to apply to the white operated, private Southside Schools. Only one application is received, as most blacks recognize the implications of trusting their education to segregationists.

**26 April 1960** - Some members of the Prince Edward County School Board resign in protest over the school closing, arguing that the consequences for children were too extreme.

**21 May 1964** - In *Griffin v. County School Board*, the Supreme Court declares the closing of public schools unconstitutional, and orders them re-opened immediately.

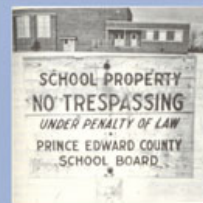
**September 1964** - For the first time in five years, public schools across Prince Edward County, Virginia, opened on a desegregated basis under the threat of the loss of federal subsidies.



Prince Edward Academy, a "private school," was founded to circumvent desegregation specifically required for students to attend where the public schools were closed.



Rev. L. Francis Griffin and others would be Moton High School students outside the new building constructed in response to the student boycott and protests. It had been closed.



A letter sent to African American parents asking to consider their own child in the "private" school, "Southside," to be run by white segregationists.



NAACP representative Bill Russell reviews the boycott program with the protesters.



Students from Prince Edward County meet their host family.



Finally in 1964, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that closing public schools to avoid integration was unconstitutional, and after five years with public education the Prince Edward County public schools reopened on a desegregated basis.

# LITTLE ROCK

# CRISIS

## Don't Let Them See You Cry

The NAACP in Arkansas under the leadership of Daisy Bates, publisher with her husband of the Arkansas State Press, were successful in their litigation to obtain the admission of African American students to all-white Central High School in September 1957. The nine black students chosen to enroll were Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershead, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, and Carlotta Walls.

Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus, claiming that the students' enrollment would lead to mob violence, called out the AR National Guard to prevent their admission on 4 September 1957. Given this action, Daisy Bates contacted the students the night before to let them know not to go to Central High the next day. However, Elizabeth Eckford's family did not have a telephone and she went to the school and she was confronted by the mobs alone. Grace Lorch and New York Times reporter Benjamin Fine put their arms around Elizabeth and said, "Don't let them see you cry." They saw a transit bus coming and placed Elizabeth on the bus with Lorch who accompanied her home.

After Judge Ronald Davies ordered Gov. Faubus to remove the troops, Daisy Bates and the nine students tried to enter Central High on Monday, 23 September 1957, but the mobs prevented it. At this point Little Rock Mayor Woodrow Mann called for federal assistance and President Dwight Eisenhower sent the 101st Airborne Paratroopers from Fort Campbell, KY to Little Rock and ordered the AR National Guard to protect the students. On Wednesday, 25 September 1957, escorted by the federal troops, the Little Rock Nine were admitted to Central High School.

The AR National Guard replaced the federal troops on 31 September 1957 and remained for the 1957-58 school year. For the Little Rock Nine being admitted to Central High was only the beginning of their problems. They were pushed, kicked, and hit by white students in the school, and Melba Pattillo recalled that "not a day went by that I wasn't called something dreadful." Minnijean Brown was hit in the head with a girl's pocketbook, was harassed regularly by white boys in her classes, and finally when a boy spilled hot soup on Minijean Brown, she grabbed him and pushed him away. For responding in this way, Minnijean was expelled from Central High in January 1958.

Ernest Green was the only senior among the Little Rock Nine and in June 1958 he became the first African American to graduate from Central High School. In an article he wrote in 1958 on his experiences, he mentioned, "I'm asked many times how we survived, whether the risks were worth the price. I'd say yes," Green declared. "Sure we got more than we bargained for, but we held out, and tried to do it gratefully."

Rather than allow the desegregation process to continue, the Little Rock School Board voted to close the public school system for the 1958-59 school year. However, under court order, the Little Rock public schools reopened in September 1959 on a desegregated basis.



Daisy Bates, President of the Arkansas NAACP in 1957.



Seated from left: Ernest Green, Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Terrence Roberts, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Ernest Green. Standing: Jefferson Thomas, Melba Pattillo, Thelma Mothershead, Minnijean Brown, Daisy Bates, and Ernest Green.



Little Rock Nine gathered in the home of Daisy Bates while waiting for the federal troops to escort them to Central High School.



Mayor Woodrow Mann speaks to the Little Rock Nine at the meeting of 4 September 1957.



Elizabeth Eckford is harassed by angry whites after she was turned away by state troopers.



Melba Pattillo marches in support of Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus.



The Little Rock Nine being escorted into Central High under the protection of U.S. soldiers from the 101st Airborne on 25 September 1957.

## Chronology of Events

**Spring 1957** - In response to the NAACP lawsuit, a federal court rules that Little Rock's integration plan meets the test of "all deliberate speed." School officials approve 17 African American students for enrollment at Central High School from over 200 applicants.

**27 August 1957** - After Governor Orval Faubus claimed in court that integration will result in violence a Judge issues a court order temporarily keeping African American students from enrolling at Central High.

**30 August 1957** - The NAACP successfully challenges the court order in federal court.

**2 September 1957** - Gov. Faubus announces that he is mobilizing the Arkansas National Guard to prevent violence. The School Board asks African American students to stay away from Central High School.

**3 September 1957** - U.S. District Court Judge Ronald W. Davies orders the Little Rock School Board to proceed with integration.

**4 September 1957** - The Arkansas National Guard refuses to allow nine African American students to enter Central High School.

**20 September 1957** - U.S. District Court Judge Ronald W. Davies orders an end to state interference with the integration of Central High School. The governor withdraws the Arkansas National Guard.

**23 September 1957** - Over a thousand angry whites gather outside Central High School to protest the enrollment of the "Little Rock Nine." Little Rock police officers are unable to maintain order.

**24 September 1957** - President Dwight Eisenhower sends 1200 soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division to Little Rock to protect the African American students and restore order.

**25 September 1957** - Armed soldiers escort the "Little Rock Nine" to school.

**12 October 1957** - Over 4,000 white and black citizens of Little Rock participate in a day of prayer for peace in the city.

**27 November 1957** - The 101st Airborne leaves Little Rock. The Arkansas National Guard, now under federal control, is responsible for the safety of the "Little Rock Nine."

**25 May 1958** - Ernest Green becomes the first African American student to graduate from Central High School.

**12 September 1958** - Orval Faubus closes all of the city's public high schools rather than allow integration to continue.



President Dwight Eisenhower's executive order authorizing the 101st Airborne to enforce the Supreme Court ruling allowing the Little Rock Nine to enroll at Central High School.



Members of the 101st Airborne to break up white mob violence while protecting the African American students entering Central High School.



Paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division escort the Little Rock Nine to Central High School in September 1957.



General of the Little Rock Nine leaves Central High School under the protection of the U.S. Army.



Daisy Bates watches events unfold from her living room window.



Left to right: Raymond Moseley, Daisy Bates, Security Officer, and Melba Pattillo leaving the 101st Airborne stationed in Little Rock in September 1957.



This article from the 1 October 1957 Baltimore Afro-American is an example of the contempt of court against the Little Rock Nine.



Ernest Green, the first African American student to graduate from Central High School, receiving the diploma from Principal, now declined in May 1958.



# BIRMINGHAM

## Marching For Freedom

People in the United States and all over the world who had access to newspapers or television were shocked and appalled at the photos and film footage of the police violence launched against children and young people marching nonviolently to protest racial segregation in Birmingham. Throughout 1962 they may have seen the films or photos of police officers arresting hundreds of civil rights protesters in Albany, Georgia, but the demonstrators were not assaulted or brutalized. Sheriff Laurie Pritchett had acquired jail spaces in police districts throughout the area and filled them with the nonviolent, direct action protesters. Albany was the "Singing Movement" and hundreds of youths and adults were singing while in jail, but very few public facilities in the city were desegregated.

Dr. King, SCLC, and SNCC were invited to Birmingham by the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, headed by Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, the local civil rights group that had been challenging legal segregation in public places for the previous seven years. During that time the city became known nationally and internationally as "Bombingham" because of the acts of terror and violence that took place regularly, including the bombing of Rev. Shuttlesworth's home on Christmas Day, 1956.

As in Albany, workshops in nonviolent tactics were held for the adult men and women willing to participate in the demonstrations, even if it meant getting arrested. While the children and high school students were fully aware of what their parents, neighbors, and friends were planning, they were not expected to participate and put themselves in danger.

SCLC's James Bevel had been working the with young people through the various churches, but those under 16 years old were prevented from marching. On 2 May 1963, after all the adult demonstrators had been arrested, the children came forward. Dr. Vincent Harding, who was there representing SCLC in the negotiations with the downtown business owners, recalled, "It was almost unnecessary to pass out leaflets, and yourself." The students responded by the thousands.

The Children's Crusade was a pivotal event in the Civil Rights Movement. The outrages committed in Birmingham to maintain white supremacy through police violence and terrorism forced President John F. Kennedy to respond. Newsweek magazine reported, "The youngsters marched in as reinforcements for the dedicated civil rights army that Martin Luther King had marshaled to assault the biggest, stubbornest stronghold of segregation left in the South." President Kennedy sent the civil rights bill to the U.S. Congress in July 1963, and at the 28 August 1963 "March for Jobs and Freedom" over 200,000 people came to Washington, DC, in support of the passage of civil rights legislation.

On 2 July 1964 the Civil Rights Act, signed by President Lyndon Johnson, outlawed racial segregation in public accommodations as mandated in southern "Jim Crow" laws. The 1964 civil rights law and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 are the most significant achievements of the Civil Rights Movement most closely associated with Dr. King. Thus as we commemorate the Birmingham campaign, the March on Washington, and the "I Have a Dream" speech, we must also remember the actions of the brave children and teenagers who were the youngest recruits in the "Battle of Birmingham."



Birmingham police officers taking notes from young protesters.



On the orders of Sheriff Bull Connor, Birmingham firefighters cited a group of student protesters with a fire hose.



U. S. Justice Department officials (left) Martin Luther King and Joseph P. Kamp arrive in Birmingham to try and negotiate an end to the demonstrations.

### BIRMINGHAM'S USE OF DOGS ASSAULTS

Dozens and dozens of dogs were used to assault the demonstrators in Birmingham. The dogs were used to tear at the clothing of the protesters and to bite them. The dogs were used to intimidate the protesters and to cause them to retreat. The dogs were used to cause the protesters to be injured and to cause them to be hospitalized. The dogs were used to cause the protesters to be killed and to cause them to be buried in the ground.

The use of police dogs to attack nonviolent protesters, many of them children, was condemned by Senator Charles McNair (D-Ore.), Mayor Bruce B. Miles (D-Miss.), and other public officials nationally.

### Birmingham Jails 1,000 More Negroes



On the second day of the children's protests, Birmingham police used police hoses to tear students to city jails.



Nelson Klammhorn, 17 years old, being attacked by police dogs. Other people arrested on the same night of the 5th May 1963, include the Reverend, Martin Luther King, Jr. and other demonstrators.



Birmingham school children were proud to be taken to jail as participants in the struggle for freedom.

# CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

## Chronology of Events

**3 April 1963** - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) issue the "Birmingham Manifesto," a call for the end of legal segregation in parks, restaurants, stores, and other public accommodations.

**6 April 1963** - Civil rights protesters launch street demonstrations marching from the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church to Birmingham City Hall.

**10 April 1963** - Birmingham Sheriff Eugene "Bull" Connor, commissioner of public safety, puts a state injunction order to halt further street demonstrations.

**12 April 1963** - Dr. King is arrested with many others for violating the state injunction prohibiting demonstrations.

**16 April 1963** - An "Open Letter" appears in the Birmingham News signed by eight white clergy charging the protests were "ill-timed" and accusing Dr. King of being an "outside agitator." Dr. King writes the "letter from a Birmingham Jail" in response.

**19 April 1963** - Dr. King is released from jail on bond.

**20-30 April 1963** - Dr. King and SCLC leaders consider the possibility of allowing the children to protest, at the suggestion of James Bevel, a veteran of the Nashville sit-ins and the Freedom Riders.

**2 May 1963** - Day 1 of the "Children's Crusade" in Birmingham, hundreds of children from as young as age 4 marched through the streets and were arrested by the police.

**3 May 1963** - Day 2 of Children's Crusade, Sheriff Bull Connor authorizes use of fire hoses and police dogs to attack the young protesters. Over 800 children and teenagers were arrested.

**7 May 1963** - Birmingham civil rights leader Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth is severely injured by a fire hose. Sheriff Connor remarks, "I wish they'd carried him away in a hearse."

**8 May 1963** - SCLC suspends the Children's Crusade in order to negotiate with Birmingham business owners.

**10 May 1963** - Local business owners tentatively agree to desegregate restaurants, department stores, lunch counters, and other public spaces and to end discrimination in public employment in Birmingham.

**11 May 1963** - A bomb explodes at the Gaston Motel, where Dr. King and other civil rights leaders had been staying. The explosion touches off rioting in some sections of Birmingham.

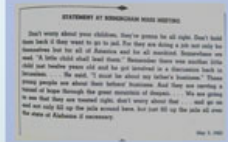
**20 May 1963** - In retaliation for their role in the Birmingham protests, over a thousand student-protesters are expelled or suspended from school by the Birmingham Board of Education.

**22 May 1963** - Judge Elbert P. Tuttle of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reverses the Birmingham School Board's decision to expel students who had been arrested in the demonstrations.

**15 September 1963** - The Ku Klux Klan members target Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church for a bombing, killing four girls and injuring two dozen others.



In September 1963 white supremacist teenagers, opposed to school desegregation, drove past Birmingham's West End High School dragging an effigy from the bus.



Dr. King issued a statement to the public and press explaining why it was important to allow the children and young people to participate in the demonstrations.



Dr. King seen marching with young children during the protests in Birmingham.



Archie Moore, 12 years old, was arrested during the marches and she was asked by a reporter why she was willing to go to jail. She replied, "Segregation is wrong."



Young protesters were held in cell after another protest. There was no more time in the jail cells in Birmingham.

Newspaper caricatures across the country attacked the Children's Crusade in the cartoons.





# GIRARD COLLEGE

# PROTESTS

## Girard College Wall Like The Berlin Wall

In 1811 wealthy merchant Stephen Girard set aside funds in his will to open a "college" for "poor, white orphan boys." Girard College, an elementary and secondary school, opened on a 4-acre campus in North Philadelphia in 1848 and was administered by the Board of City Trustees, beginning in 1859. Since no black, orphan boys were admitted to Girard College throughout its history, following the Supreme Court's 1914 Brown decision, lawyers for the city of Philadelphia petitioned the public trustees to change the admission practices. While the Philadelphia Orphan Court and PA Supreme Court upheld the provisions of the Girard will, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in April 1957 that the public trustees could not discriminate against children on the basis of race because Girard College was a "state-related institution."

Rather than admit black students, the judges in the Orphan Court appointed "private trustees" to administer Girard College and the PA Supreme Court upheld this decision, ruling that the private trustees were carrying out Stephen Girard's "main purpose which was to provide a school for poor, white orphan boys." By the late 1950s and 1960s, Girard College, situated in the heart of North Philadelphia's African American community and surrounded by a 10 foot stone and cement wall, was a symbol of the racial barriers facing African American children. In February 1963 attorney Cecil Moore, president of the Philadelphia NAACP, announced that Girard College would be targeted for nonviolent protests and demonstrations. "If they don't unlock Girard College," declared Cecil Moore, "we'll be in court, either as criminal defendants or civil plaintiffs."

Beginning on 1 May 1965, hundreds and at times thousands of men, women, teenagers, and children were seen marching around the walls of Girard College. Cecil Moore solicited the support of teenage gang members on the picket lines, and he had to go to criminal court when teenagers brought ladders and climbed over the Girard College wall and were arrested by the Philadelphia Police. The gang members were charged with "trespassing," but after paying their bail, Moore pointed out that legally-enforced "racial segregation was the real crime." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at a rally at the Girard College wall on 3 August 1965. "The Girard College Wall is like the Berlin Wall," Dr. King declared, "this wall, this school is symbolic of the cancer in the body politic that must be removed before there will be freedom and democracy in this country."

Demonstrations were suspended in December 1965 when a lawsuit was filed on behalf of 8-year old Theodore Lewis Hicks and six black orphan boys seeking admission to Girard College. When the U.S. District Court ruled for the admission of these black students, the trustees vowed to appeal the ruling and Cecil Moore rallied thousands in demonstrations at the Girard College wall beginning in October 1966. The private trustees lost in the Third Circuit Court and finally in the U.S. Supreme Court in May 1968. And after 13 years of litigation, protests, and demonstrations, on 11 September 1968, Theodore Hicks, age 9; William S. Dede, age 11; Carl W. Riley, age 9; and Owen Downs, age 7, were enrolled at Girard College. The first female students were admitted to Girard College in 1984.



Protesters gather outside the stone of Girard College to burn blueprints in May 1965.



Shirley Beaman, chairman of the Orphan, PA, Committee for Girard Coll. and a group of protesters, Orphan Court, Philadelphia, who asked the Girard College wall and were arrested by the police in May 1965.



Children gather with adult protesters at Girard College demonstration.



Children marching at night in demonstrations at Girard College organized by the Philadelphia NAACP branch.



Cecil B. Moore, president of the Philadelphia NAACP, who led demonstrations around the walls of Girard College beginning in 1 May 1965.



In May 1965 Philadelphia Mayor James E. Tate ordered NAACP leader Cecil B. Moore and demonstrators around Girard College removed from 1965 and on 100 officers who began demonstrations to end Girard's race.



Look boy marches beside police barricades and North Philadelphia street near Girard College.



Five government were arrested at the state office building in Philadelphia when Girard College trustees were meeting with Gov. William Scrivenor and other officials to "find a fair and honest solution" to their NAACP lawsuit filed at the school in July 1965.

## Chronology of Events

**23 September 1954** - Attorney Raymond Pace Alexander filed a lawsuit against Girard College to admit African American boys to the "white only" elementary and secondary school.

**29 July 1955** - Orphan Court Judge Robert Bulger ruled against the admission of Robert Felder and William Fouat to Girard College stating it would violate Stephen Girard's 1811 will.

**12 November 1956** - Pennsylvania Supreme Court upheld the lower court ruling on Stephen Girard's will.

**29 April 1957** - U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's ruling and decided that Girard College was "an agency of the state" and could not discriminate in admissions based on race.

**4 October 1957** - Philadelphia Orphan Court appointed private trustees so Girard College would no longer be a "state agency."

**24 January 1957** - Pennsylvania Supreme Court upheld Philadelphia Orphan Court ruling that Girard College was a "private institution" and did not have to admit African American children.

**1 May 1965** - Local NAACP President Cecil B. Moore launched picket lines and demonstrations around the Girard College walls.

**4 May 1965** - Teenage gang members scale the Girard College wall and were arrested by the police. They were bailed out the next day by Cecil Moore.

**17 December 1965** - Cecil Moore suspended picket lines at the Girard College walls after a lawsuit filed on behalf of seven members of black boys seeking admission to the school.

**2 September 1966** - Judge Joseph Lord handed down preliminary decision voiding terms of the Stephen Girard will.

**8 October 1966** - Cecil Moore led a rally at the Girard College walls after private trustee John Diamond announced his decision to challenge Judge Lord's ruling.

**7 July 1967** - Judge Lord ruled Girard College could not bar African American boys because it was under the control of the State Board of Education.

**7 March 1968** - Third Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Judge Lord's ruling on Girard College admissions.

**20 May 1968** - U. S. Supreme Court upheld Third Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling.

**8 August 1968** - Girard College officials announced approval of African American boys' applications.

**11 September 1968** - Theodore Lewis Hicks, one of the original plaintiffs, enrolled at Girard College with three other African American boys.

**17 June 1974** - Theodore Hicks' graduation from Girard College celebrated by the NAACP at an awards dinner.



In 8 August 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King spoke at a rally at the Girard College and entered the wall surrounding the school in the "Berlin Wall" of East Decade.



Children and adult protesters marching around the 10 foot high surrounding Girard College.



Groups of large numbers of children and teenagers participated in the demonstrations around Girard College in 1965 and 1966.



In July 1967 Judge Joseph Lord issued a preliminary decision voiding racial discrimination against the seven black boys seeking admission to Girard College.



Activists brought their young children with them as they participated in the demonstrations around Girard College in 1965.



NAACP leader Cecil B. Moore called the demonstrations at Girard College to take place, May and night, until black orphan boys were allowed to enroll in the school.



The first African American children were allowed to enroll at Girard College in September 1968 after 10 years of litigation and direct action protests, left to right: Theodore L. Hicks, William S. Dede, Carl B. Riley, and Owen Downs.

# LOS ANGELES



Student protests at colleges and universities in France, Spain, Mexico, and the U.S. reached a peak on "May Day, 1968." The prediction "the beginning of a long fight" was not borne out by later events.



"No Spanish" rules in public school districts in Texas, Arizona, and California have a long history. Recognition of Spanish language and Mexican heritage was main goal of the L.A. "blowouts."



Student protesters at Lincoln High School on 4 March 1968 traveled ten blocks to the Los Angeles Unified School District Building to demand bilingual programs and more Mexican American heritage courses, teachers, and administrators.



Congressman Edward Roybal addressed students at their rally in Harvard Park on 8 March 1968 in support of the "blowouts."



Student leader addressing a rally at the Garfield High. Mexican American students went on strike there on Tuesday, 5 March 1968 demanding improvements in the physical conditions of public schools in East Los Angeles.



Sal Castro, a social studies teacher at Lincoln High School, was fired for his role as a leader of "blowouts" and became one of the "LA Thirteen."



Unidentified members of the Brown Berets self-defense organization. For their support of the Chicano high school students boycott, several Brown Berets were among the LA Thirteen.



A map showing the spread of Chicano high school student protests around Los Angeles, California and to Denver, Colorado, and San Antonio and Edinburg, Texas.

## CHICANO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT "BLOWOUTS"

Children and young people made important contributions to the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. When labor leader Cesar Chavez formed the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) in 1963 to organize Mexican American farm workers, and launched strikes against farm owners in 1964 and 1965, he received much support from Mexican American students and young people. In his famous 250-mile "March to Sacramento" in April 1966 to inspire farm workers to join the union, thousands of Mexican American students joined him. The march was successful and many grape producers signed their first contracts with Cesar Chavez's NFWA. Historians believe that young people's participation in the successful march served as a foundation for their involvement in the Chicano Movement in the late 1960s.

On Friday, 1 March 1968, Mexican American students at Wilson High School in Los Angeles walked out of their classes. Deeming the subject-matter "inappropriate" for teenagers, the principal Donald Skinner had cancelled the student production of Neil Simon's play *Barefoot in the Park*. This was the last straw for students who had been complaining for months about the poor physical conditions of the building and the lack of bilingual classes, Mexican American teachers, and Mexican heritage classes at Wilson. The protest was followed on Monday, 4 March, by hundreds of students walking out of their classes at the Lincoln High School; and on Tuesday, 5 March, over 2,000 at Garfield High School joined the protests. By Friday, 8 March 1968, it was estimated that 15,000 students in the Los Angeles area were on strike.

The high school students' boycotts or "blowouts" drew national attention to the ongoing police brutality leveled against Mexican American youth as well as the poor physical and educational conditions in East Los Angeles public schools. Indeed, after the police attacked nonviolent student protesters with billy clubs and arrested many in front of school administrators, parents, and teachers at Wilson High, more protests ensued. Members of the Brown Berets, a Mexican American self-defense group, attempted to protect the students from the police and they were also arrested.

The blowouts spread to Roosevelt High School, a predominantly African American school in Los Angeles, and to cities in Texas and Colorado with large numbers of Mexican American students. In Los Angeles, hundreds of students packed the Board of Education meeting on 26 March 1968 and presented their demands: they wanted a more culturally relevant curriculum, the hiring of Mexican American administrators and teachers, and improvements in school facilities. When no action was taken after two weeks, over 800 students descended on the school board meeting on 4 April 1968 to press their demands. While there, they learned of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis.

Many student and faculty protesters were subsequently arrested and charged with criminal conspiracy and inciting to riot. The trial of the "LA Thirteen" became a cause celebre in Mexican American communities throughout the region. The Chicano Legal Defense Fund launched a campaign to raise funds for the LA Thirteen's legal expenses and joined the American Civil Liberties Union in defending them in court. After a lengthy trial in 1972, the LA Thirteen were acquitted of all charges.

The blowouts by Mexican American high school students in California became a major event in the ongoing Mexican American Civil Rights Movement, and the beginning of the Chicano student movement on high school and college campuses in California and throughout the Southwest. Among the significant educational changes brought about by the student activism were the increase in bilingual programs in public schools and the institutionalization of Chicano Studies programs, centers, and departments at institutions of higher education throughout the nation.

# FREEDOM SCHOOLS

# MISSISSIPPI

## FREEDOM SUMMER AND FREEDOM SCHOOLS

The most famous "Freedom Schools" were those opened in the summer of 1964 throughout Mississippi as part of the "Freedom Summer" campaign. In 1961 the leaders in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) chose Mississippi as a target area for their organizing activities. In contrast to the urban emphasis of the NAACP, CORE, and SCLC, the student organizers in SNCC decided to work in rural areas to assist those African Americans victimized by racial discrimination and police harassment and brutality.

Unfortunately, the SNCC organizers and their local supporters became the targets of arrest, physical beatings, firebombing, and other violence from local white residents and police officers. Not surprisingly, these often deadly attacks went unreported in the local or national media. So SNCC leader Robert Moses decided that the group should bring large numbers of northern white and black college students to Mississippi to work on the voter registration campaign and teach in Freedom Schools, hoping that this would bring national media attention to the racial discrimination and violence in the Magnolia State.

White and black students interested in participating in the Freedom Summer project were recruited from campuses across the country. Funded by the National Council of Churches, the students were brought together in June 1964 at the Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio, where they were questioned about their commitment to civil rights activism and informed about the volatile racial situation they would encounter in Mississippi. This orientation session was meant to weed-out young people who might find it difficult working under such dangerous conditions.

As the student volunteers began making their way to Mississippi in June 1964, they learned of the disappearance of CORE workers James Chaney and Michael Schwerner, and student volunteer Andrew Goodman. The three had gone to Philadelphia, Mississippi to investigate the burning of an African American church, but were not seen afterward. Throughout the summer, as the student volunteers flowed into the state and began working on the voter registration drive, police and federal officials searched for the missing civil rights workers.

The first SNCC Freedom Schools in Mississippi opened at the beginning of July 1964. The curriculum developed by SNCC organizer Robert Moses, historian Staughton Lynn, and others emphasized African American history and literature and the ideal of "participatory citizenship." The students were instructed about their rights as citizens and the ways to pursue them. The ideas associated with citizenship in a democratic society, voting, jury duty, petitioning, and freedom of speech and assembly guided the students' activities. In addition, Freedom School students received instruction in art, drama, dance, and music appreciation; and many schools published student newspapers. Other Freedom School students engaged in grassroots political activities such as canvassing adult neighbors about voting and participating in civil rights protests. By late July 1964 there were 41 Freedom Schools operating throughout Mississippi with 175 teachers instructing 2,135 students.

On 4 August 1964 the badly-beaten bodies of the missing civil rights workers were found in an earthen dam near Philadelphia, Mississippi. It was later reported that James Chaney (black) had been beaten while in jail; Goodman and Schwerner refused to leave him, and all three were kidnapped after being released. In addition, Freedom Summer volunteers and their supporters were the victims of acts of violence and terrorism in McComb, Natchez, Canton, Columbus, Meridian, Vicksburg, Jackson, and other towns in Mississippi. Twenty-four churches that hosted Freedom Schools were damaged or destroyed by "fires of mysterious origin."

SNCC volunteers also supported elections organized by the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), an interracial group that sought to unseat the all-white delegation to the Democratic National Convention in August 1964. Fearful of loss of southern white support in the presidential election, Democratic leaders offered the 64 member MFDP delegation only two at-large seats at the convention. MFDP delegates refused the offer and left the convention disappointed.

Children and young people who attended the Freedom Schools, however, were successful in putting what they learned over the summer into action in the 1964-65 school year and afterward. Some returned to their regular public schools and organized the student bodies to demand improved educational facilities. Others participated in civil rights protests in local areas, while still others became the first African Americans to enroll at all-white public schools.

Former students of the Mississippi Freedom Schools report that the experience had a profound influence on their adult lives. Many became educators and introduced methods and practices of "participatory citizenship" into the regular public schools. Others became political activists and some were elected to public office. Thus, the legacy of the Freedom Schools lives on through the social and political activism of those who experienced Mississippi Freedom Summer.



Non-teachers look out of the window in a building that served as a Mississippi Freedom School.



Freedom school students examine their neighbors about registering to vote.



Map of Mississippi showing the locations of Freedom Summer voter registration drives, community centers, and Freedom Schools.



Both sides of a filer explaining the activities of "Mississippi Freedom Summer" in 1964.



The FBI flyer solicited information about the three civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and James Schwerner who went missing after traveling to Philadelphia, Mississippi in June 1964.



This article from the Student Voice, 13 July 1964, describes the progress of the Mississippi Freedom Summer campaign.



Students and teachers at the Clarksville, Mississippi Freedom School join hands to sing the civil rights anthem "We Shall Overcome."



Carolyn Reese teaches a Freedom School class in August 1964. Freedom School students ranged in age from 6 to 17 years old.



Freedom News, the student newspaper of the Paterson Crossing Freedom School, provides young people a place to express their thoughts and feelings.



Fanny Lou Hamer, an influential member of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, testified before the Credentials Committee of the Democratic National Convention seeking to replace the all white delegation from Mississippi.



Four Freedom School students on the porch of Freedom House in Holly Springs, Mississippi.

## Chronology of Mississippi Freedom Summer

**March 1964** - The National Council of Churches hosts a "Freedom School" conference in New York City where the Freedom Schools are incorporated into the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project. Historian Staughton Lynn is appointed director of the Freedom School program.

**26 April 1964** - The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) is established at a meeting organized by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in Jackson, Mississippi.

**9 June 1964** - In light of ongoing violence and threats, SNCC staff sent a letter to the White House demanding protection for student volunteers who will be working on the Mississippi Freedom Summer project.

**14-20 June 1964** - The National Council of Churches provides funding for the two week orientation program at the Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio for student volunteers working on voter registration and Freedom Schools in Mississippi.

**20-12 June 1964** - The Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), the coalition group in Mississippi overseeing the Freedom Summer activities, welcomed the first student volunteers, approximately 300, to arrive in Mississippi from the northern and western states.

**21 June 1964** - Three civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman disappear while investigating the arson fire at Mt. Zion Church in Philadelphia, Mississippi. This church was scheduled to house a SNCC-sponsored Freedom School.

**3 June 1964** - The burned-out car of missing civil rights workers is found near Philadelphia, Mississippi, but there was no sign of the workers themselves.

**2 July 1964** - President Lyndon Johnson signs the long-debated Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bans racial discrimination in employment and legal segregation in restaurants, theaters, public transportation, and other public accommodations.

**7 July 1964** - The first 25 Freedom Schools are opened in 12 communities in Mississippi with 1,500 students in attendance.

**8 July 1964** - SNCC's "Freedom House" in McComb, Mississippi is bombed by unknown individuals.

**10 July 1964** - The FBI opened a field office in Jackson, Mississippi. There were 153 federal agents operating in the state. However, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover stated that the agency could guarantee the civil rights workers "no protection."

**12 July 1964** - In searching for the three missing civil rights workers, the police in Jackson discovered the body of Charles Moore, an African American and former student at Alcorn A&M, who had been missing for some time.

**17 July 1964** - Zion Hill Baptist Church in McComb, Mississippi, which housed several Freedom Summer programs, was bombed and destroyed by the fire.

**21 July 1964** - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. arrives in Mississippi to support the activities of COFO, SNCC, and local civil rights organizations.

**27 July 1964** - There were 41 Freedom Schools in operation in Mississippi with 2,135 students and 175 teachers. Organizers were actively seeking as many as one hundred additional volunteer teachers.

**4 August 1964** - FBI agents discovered the bodies of the three civil rights workers missing since 21 June. Schwerner, Goodman, and Chaney's bodies were found buried in an earthen dam in Neshoba County, Mississippi.

**6 August 1964** - In Jackson, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) elected 68 black and white delegates to travel to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, to challenge the seating of the all-white delegation sent by the Mississippi Democratic Party.

**8 August 1964** - The statewide Freedom School conference was held in Meridian, Mississippi. Student representatives and teachers from 25 Freedom Schools participated in the meeting.

**August 22, 1964** - MFDP delegate Fannie Lou Hamer, an influential member of SNCC, makes an impassioned televised speech at the Democratic National Convention drawing national attention to the violence and discrimination in Mississippi.

**August 1964** - After the principal refused to allow white civil rights workers to address the student body, 75 percent of students at all-black McVay High School, in Shaw, Mississippi, walked out and launched a boycott. Many started attending the Freedom Schools in Bolivar County.

**January 1965** - After students at the all-black Henry Weathers High School were expelled for refusing to remove SNCC buttons, 400 students walked out and boycotted the school. During the boycott, many students attended the Freedom Schools in Sharkey and Issaquena Counties.



# CHICAGO

## THE QUALITY INTEGRATED EDUCATION MOVEMENT

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 in *Brown v Board of Education* decision declaring legal public school segregation unconstitutional, southern politicians and white parents launched the "Massive Resistance Movement." Its goal was to prevent the integration of public schools in the southern states. African American parents and organizations in northern and western states sought the integration of public schools and historians are documenting the "Quality Integrated Education Movement."

In Chicago the conflict between the African American parents and students with the Chicago School Board and Superintendent Benjamin Willis centered on the extreme overcrowding in public schools in African American neighborhoods. Beginning in fall of 1961, negotiations and a series of protests were organized by the Coordinating Council of Community Organizations (CCCC), Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the NAACP, and several neighborhood groups. Parents and community leaders called for the transfer of students from overcrowded and deteriorating schools to underutilized schools in white neighborhoods and a halt in the building of portable classrooms - labeled "Willis Wagons." Instead, double shifts were instituted in overcrowded black public schools with half of the students attending in the mornings and the other half in the afternoon.

The CCCC, with the assistance of other civil rights groups, organized a citywide boycott by public school students, "Freedom Day," for 22 October 1963 and an estimated 224,770 children and teenagers joined the strike. Freedom Schools were opened in churches, community centers, social clubs, and other buildings throughout the city where boycotting students learned about African American protests in the past and how they were contributing to the larger Civil Rights Movement. Despite the massive protest, Superintendent Willis and his policies remained in place.

So CCCC supporters decided a second boycott was needed to bring pressure on school officials, and it took place on 25 February 1964. While some who participated in the first boycott dropped out, over 100,000 students joined the strike and many attended Freedom Schools.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. came to Chicago often and participated in mass rallies at Soldier Field and other locations in support of public school integration and fair housing. After the Selma to Montgomery March and the signing of the Voting Rights Act on 6 August 1965 banning literacy tests and other restrictions on citizens' right to vote, Dr. King and the South Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) decided in late August 1965 to target Chicago as their next major civil rights campaign. Dr. King even moved with his family into a small apartment in a black neighborhood on Chicago's West Side. SCLC joined CCCC to form the "Chicago Freedom Movement" in January 1966 which had as its goals the desegregation of public schools and housing in the city and surrounding suburbs.

Numerous marches on Chicago City Hall and the Board of Education building were organized by the Chicago Freedom Movement. On 12 July 1966, rioting erupted on the West Side over charges of police brutality. In the aftermath Dr. King led a series of "open housing" marches in Chicago and in nearby Cicero. Increasingly frustrated by the disruptions caused by the massive protests, Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley called for a "Summit Meeting" with Dr. King, Al Raby, and other civil rights leaders and a Ten-Point Agreement was signed pledging the support of city officials and real estate agents for "fair housing."

While there were no stipulations for enforcement of the agreement, Dr. King believed it was "far reaching and creative" and "solid vindication of southern-style protests in a northern city." In September 1966 the Chicago School Board agreed to allow student transfers from overcrowded public schools to underutilized school facilities in any section of the city.



Portable buildings were constructed in schoolyards, rather than allowing black students to transfer from overcrowded public schools to underutilized facilities in white neighborhoods in Chicago.



Black and white students march on the Chicago Board of Education on 19 July 1963 in a demonstration organized by the Congress of Racial Equality.



Posters throughout the city advertised the 22 October 1963 "Freedom Day" school boycott.



The Chicago Daily Defender newspaper provided full coverage of the Freedom Day boycott and declared that it was "Chicago's Finest Hour."



Freedom Day activities culminate with students, parents, teachers, and other protesters filling LaSalle St. during march on Chicago's City Hall and Board of Public Education.



The front page of *The Chicago Daily Defender* on 23 October 1963 heralds the success of the Freedom Day school boycott.



A copy of the "Freedom Diploma" presented to students who attended freedom schools opened throughout Chicago. The diploma includes a note for parents to sign excusing students for missing school on the day of the boycott.



The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (center), Al Raby (left) of the CCCC, and Andrew Young (right) of SCLC at a news conference following the Summit Meeting that produced the Ten-Point Agreement.

# NEW YORK CITY



Poster by the City-Wide Committee advertising the first Freedom Day School Boycott.



Frustrated by the lack of progress on school integration the City-Wide Committee made plans for the Freedom Day School Boycott.



Teenagers participating in protest march at 110 Livingston Street, the Board of Education building, during the boycott.



The first Freedom Day school boycott on 3 February 1964 was a stunning success. It was a testament to the appeal and power of the direct action protest and the organizational skills of Bayard Rustin and the City-Wide Committee.

## "WE DEMAND QUALITY EDUCATION"

New York City's failure to address demands for the integration of the nation's largest public school system led to massive civil rights demonstrations and protests. The "New York City-Wide Committee for Integrated Schools" was formed in July 1963 as a coalition that included six New York chapters of the NAACP, the Harlem Parents Workshop for Equality in New York City Schools, several chapters of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the New York Urban League, and EQUAL, a white parents group. Rev. Milton A. Galamison, former Brooklyn NAACP president and chair of the Parents Workshop, became the chair of the "City-Wide Committee." Veteran civil rights organizer, Bayard Rustin, who had worked on the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the 1963 March on Washington, was called in to help organize the first city-wide boycott of the New York public schools. It took place on 3 February 1964.

On "Freedom Day," an estimated 464,461 pupils, 45 percent of the total, stayed away from their classrooms and between 90,000 and 100,000 children attended "Freedom Schools." There were almost 500 Freedom Schools opened throughout the city that operated between 7:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Classes were taught by volunteers including college professors and students, clergy, social workers, and parents. Freedom school students were taught the history of African American protest movements and how the school boycott was part of the larger civil rights campaigns in New York City.

New York City School Superintendent James B. Donovan denounced the boycott and refused to act, so Rev. Galamison and Harlem Parents Workshop called for a second boycott which took place on 16 March 1964. The offer of concessions from the New York State Board of Education caused divisions among the leaders of the civil rights coalition and this meant that fewer groups supported the second boycott. Nonetheless, it was estimated that over 267,400 students stayed home or attended hundreds of Freedom Schools.

Following the second boycott in March 1964, civil rights leaders and school officials began meeting and by September 1964, a plan was announced to begin the desegregation of junior and senior high schools in 1965. Unfortunately, the proposed plan came under attack from "Parents And Taxpayers" (PAT), a newly formed group of whites opposed to school integration. When school officials refused to change their plans, PAT began organizing its own school boycotts, marches, and other demonstrations. At the PAT school boycott on 14 September 1964, it was estimated 275,630 students stayed home; and on 15 September about 233,000 remained on strike. No alternative educational programs or Freedom Schools were opened for these boycotting students.

Anti-integration protests led to a setback in negotiations to implement the School Boards integration plan. Rev. Galamison and others organized demonstrations and marches at public schools and at the Board of Education building, but they had little impact on school policies. In September 1965 school officials announced that integration efforts would continue only through open enrollment, voluntary transfers, and rezoning, rather than implementing its original massive integration plan.

### School Absence Figures

Absence figures for the city's pupils and teachers yesterday were reported by the Board of Education as follows:

CITYWIDE			
	Total	Number	Per Cent
School total	1,022,222	227,553	22.3
Elementary and Junior H.S.	794,222	187,553	23.6
Academic High	164,411	36,000	21.9
Vocational High	58,589	12,500	21.3
Total	1,022,222	227,553	22.3

TEACHERS			
	Total	Number	Per Cent
School total	10,222	2,275	22.3
Elementary and Junior High	8,222	1,875	22.8
Academic High	1,222	275	22.5
Vocational High	778	175	22.5
Total	10,222	2,275	22.3

School attendance figures for 3 February 1964 were published in the New York Times the day after the first school boycott.



Rev. Milton Galamison meeting with children who were participating in the civil rights protests for quality integrated education on New York City.



School Superintendent James B. Donovan called the Freedom Day boycott "a lawless course of action" and swore that he would not give in to pressure to integrate the NYC public school.



This flier publicizes the school boycott and comments on the similarities between Jim Crow public schooling in the North and in the South calling for "equal education for all."

# MILWAUKEE

## MUSIC AND THE FREEDOM SCHOOLS

In Milwaukee, WI, the movement for "Quality Integrated Education" was spearheaded by the Milwaukee United School Integration Committee (MUSIC), with Lloyd Barbee, attorney and Wisconsin NAACP official, as chairperson. Organized early in 1964, MUSIC represented a coalition of civil rights and religious groups supporting integrated public education and challenging a practice termed "intact busing."

Due to the severe overcrowding in public schools in black neighborhoods, school officials began transporting entire classrooms and their teachers to under-utilized, all-white public schools throughout the city. However, these bused students and teachers were not "integrated" into the classes and programs at their new school. Instead, the black students remained "intact" in separate classrooms in the building, and were not even allowed to have their lunch in the school's cafeteria with the white students. In December 1963 NAACP officials demanded the integration of black students into schools and classrooms where they were bused, and offered a plan for the total desegregation of the Milwaukee public schools by the 1963-64 school year. But school officials refused to act.

In February 1964 MUSIC organized a march with over 300 protesters to the school administration building and later formed "human chains" to prevent the "intact busing" of black children. When school officials continued their stonewalling of school desegregation, MUSIC called for a boycott of the public schools in the North Division District on 18 May 1964.

On "Freedom Day" 18 May 1964, 30 black churches in Milwaukee opened their doors to over 300 volunteers who offered lessons in African American history, focusing on Frederick Douglass, Harriett Tubman, and other "freedom fighters." High school students learned "freedom songs," and discussed and wrote about the ongoing civil rights campaigns throughout the country. It was estimated that over 11,000 students, 60 percent of the African American enrollment, participated in the first boycott and over 8,500 attended Freedom Schools.

Milwaukee school officials condemned the boycott because it reduced the amount of funding the school district received from the state and refused to act. MUSIC leaders called a second boycott for a number of days in October 1965 to impact the school district's budget. Despite threats of disciplinary actions, it was estimated that 7,000 students participated, and over 4,000 attended Freedom Schools. A third boycott took place at North Division High School, on 27 March 1966, supported by MUSIC, but organized by the high school students themselves calling for improvements in the school's facilities and the teaching of African American history. It was estimated that over one-third of the 1,500 students stayed home in protest.

After the summer of 1966, however, the Milwaukee NAACP Youth Council and Roman Catholic priest, Father James Groppi, launched a campaign for "open housing" in racially restricted sections of the city. With the coming of demands for "Black Power," public school activists sought increased authority and pursued "community control" over the public schools in the North Division District after the rioting by young people in Milwaukee in July 1967. Frustrations over racial discrimination and police brutality erupted into violence and contributed to the African American demands for "community schools" and control over social welfare and government services in Milwaukee's North Division.



A poster advertising the first school boycott and Freedom Schools sponsored by MUSIC, Milwaukee United School Integration Committee. The handwritten "HERE" probably indicates that this poster was used to signify an actual Freedom School location.



A "freedom certificate" given to one of the 8,500 elementary and secondary students who attended Freedom Schools in Milwaukee on 18 May 1964.



"Freedom School Certificates" awarded to students who attended the Freedom School during the second boycott in October 1964.



North Division High School students participate in a protest march to the Board of Education building on Freedom Day.



Attorney Lloyd Barbee is interviewed by a TV reporter in front of the Freedom School located at St. Matthews Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.



This poster explains the reasons MUSIC called for a second school boycott on 25, 26 and 27 October 1964.



Lloyd Barbee speaking at a rally organized by MUSIC on Freedom Day on 18 May 1964 in front of African American church in Milwaukee.



Marching into Milwaukee's all white suburbs neighborhoods, NAACP Youth Council members, with Fr. James Groppi, demanded open housing legislation in August 1967.



# RIVERSIDE, CA

Bombs fall on large cities of India, Pakistan [2]

## The Press

### Arson guts Lowell school wing



Arson gutted a wing of the Lowell School Monday night, leaving a large section of the building a mass of rubble. The fire, which broke out at about 3:00 a.m., was contained to the wing but caused extensive damage to the building's structure. The school board is expected to announce plans for the future of the building.

## CALL FOR BOYCOTT

At a meeting Tuesday night concerned parents decided that they would not allow their children to return to segregated schools to receive an inferior education this fall.

The parents felt that they were left with no other choice by the school board's failure to meet the problem of segregated schools and insistence that children continue to use the facilities of Lowell School, which are half-burned out for an indefinite period of time.

Many of the parents who had previously gone along with the compulsory education program expressed regret and disillusion over the realization that the program would have little or no effect on their children and could at best only bring about gradual changes in the future generations.

The feeling of most parents was that something must be done now to improve educational opportunities for our children and that one more day of segregated and inferior education is too much.

The parents further stated that this is not just a matter concerning minority children. It is a matter to show white children a school that does not contain a cross section of the total community when, after leaving school, they go into a world where eight out of ten people are non-white. For this reason several Caucasian parents have expressed interest in participating in the boycott.

At the boycott headquarters, 2170 Carlton Place, preparations are being made to establish freedom schools for the interim education of the children.

## THE FIRE THIS TIME

In Riverside, CA, the burning of the Lowell Elementary School in September 1965 was very likely arson coming just a few days after African American parents and leaders began circulating a petition to close the decrepit facility, along with the Irving Public School. Both had over 95 percent minority enrollments and were extremely overcrowded and in bad repair.

From the late 1950s the Riverside Unified School District (RUSD) allowed white students enrolled at the Lowell and Irving schools to transfer to the predominantly white Longfellow or Emerson Schools. In 1961 when the brand new Alcott School was opened, even more white students were being bused all over the city to attend predominantly white schools. But when African American or Mexican American parents asked RUSD officials that their children be allowed to transfer to other schools, their requests were usually denied. These transfers were requested because it was reported that the performance on standardized tests of students attending the Lowell, Irving, and Casa Blanca Schools was among the lowest in the city.

In the first week of September 1964, African American parents began circulating a petition calling on the RUSD School Board to close the Lowell and Irving schools and to enroll those students in schools throughout the district. That week a community meeting was held between Mayor Ben Lewis and forty African American parents and leaders, but it did not go well because many parents were demanding quality integrated education and Mayor Lewis claimed only the School Board could make those decisions.

The fire at the Lowell school occurred at around 3:00am on Monday, 7 September, and according to African American parents and leaders, later that day when School Board President Arthur Littleworth and School Superintendent Bruce Miller met with them, school officials said that since only six classrooms and the auditorium had been destroyed, the children were to return to the damaged Lowell School, and "double sessions" would be added. This announcement further angered African American parents who met and decided to organize a school boycott and set up alternative Freedom Schools, beginning on Monday, 14 September, the first day of classes.

Rather than send their children to the Lowell or Irving Schools, many African American parents sent their children to one of the five Freedom Schools opened in the city and taught by local clergy, teachers, and UCR students and professors. Over 50 percent of Mexican American parents kept their children away from the Casa Blanca School as well. Up to 250 students attended the Riverside Freedom Schools.

The boycott ended only after School Board President Littleworth agreed to set up a study group to plan for the complete desegregation of the school system. The plan was to be completed within six weeks and over that time period the School Board received petitions with signatures of parents in support of and opposed to school integration. On Tuesday, 18 October 1964, an overflow crowd attended the school board meeting to discuss the plan for "complete desegregation" and to vote on its implementation. Many parents present spoke out against the plan to racially integrate the public schools. However, after several hours of heated debate, the five School Board members voted unanimously to accept the plan, close the Lowell School, and bus the minority students to other schools.

Soon after the Irving and Casa Blanca Schools were also closed and those students were sent to other schools throughout the district. With these educational decisions, the RUSD Schools became one of the first school systems in the country to close older and more dilapidated public schools to guarantee African American and Mexican American students access to quality integrated education.

## APPLICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

IN SENATE

January 13, 1965

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RE: [Illegible]

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## Lowell school parents hope to widen boycott citywide

Boycott headquarters at 2170 Carlton Place Monday night had a meeting to discuss ways to widen the school boycott to include all of the city's schools.

UCR girl dies in Miss. crash

UCR girl dies in Miss. crash

UCR girl dies in Miss. crash

## INTEGRATION PLAN

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

IN SENATE

January 13, 1965

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RE: [Illegible]

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

The Press

India hets it's ready for peace

India hets it's ready for peace

## BEFORE ENROLLMENT STATISTICS AFTER

BEFORE

School	White	Black	Hispanic	Total
Lowell	10	90	0	100
Irving	10	90	0	100
Casa Blanca	10	90	0	100

AFTER

School	White	Black	Hispanic	Total
Lowell	0	0	0	0
Irving	0	0	0	0
Casa Blanca	0	0	0	0