

Important Places for Desegregation of U.S. Schools

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Desegregation of schools in the United States has been immensely helped along the way by a few important places. These places are very significant to African American history in the United States. *Bolling vs. Sharpe* in District of Columbia, *Brown vs. Board of Education* in Kansas, and *Green vs. New Kent County*, Virginia were three cases in three places that were very influential to this cause.

Bolling vs. Sharpe, which took place in District of Columbia was a key case in the beginning of integration of U.S. schools. Gardener Bishop wanted his daughter to attend an uncrowded white school nearby, because her current school was farther away and overcrowded. From 1948 until 1951, they fought for equal rights for African American children. This was one of the events that lead up to *Brown vs. Board of Education* and the desegregation of schools.

Brown vs. Board of Education, which took place in Kansas, during the year of 1954, was the year they declared an end to segregation in schools. They had made a critical decision for the modern civil rights movement. Chief Justice Earl Warner said, "To separate them from others of similar age and qualification solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely to ever be undone." By creating an equal environment in the schools, it would help to change the socialization and attitude of everyone. This was a huge step towards desegregation of schools.

Desegregation of schools was helped greatly by a case that happened in Virginia. In 1968, Green vs. New Kent County decision helped this cause to advance even further. This case put laws into action to determine whether a certain desegregation plan was acceptable. These laws would help to make sure the ratio of white to African American students and faculty would be more equal. Also it ensured equality in extracurricular activities, facilities, and transportation. Freedom of choice plans were no longer acceptable. Before this, integration wasn't happening quickly enough. Because of this case, the percentage of African American students attending integrated schools went from 32% to 79% in just two years.

There are many places in the U.S. that helped push forward the desegregation of schools. Some of the most influential cases happened in District of Columbia, Kansas, and Virginia. Each of these was a stepping stone to the integration of the U.S. schools, and we wouldn't be where we are today without them.

Works Cited

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