U.S. public schools trend toward resegrega

regation; segregation is also severe in smaller central cities and in the suburban rings of large metros;

There has been a substantial slippage toward segregation in most of the states that were highly desegregated in 1991. The most integrated state for African-Americans in 2001 was Kentucky. The most desegregated states for Latinos are in the Northwest;

• American public schools are now only 60 percent white nationwide and nearly one fourth of U.S. students are in states with a majority nonwhite students. However, except in the South and Southwest, most White students have little contact with students of color;

· Asians are the most integrated and by far are the most likely to attend multiracial schools with a significant presence of three or more racial groups and

· The vast majority of intensely segregated minority schools [90 to 100 percent minority] face conditions of concentrated poverty, which are powerfully related to unequal educational opportunity.

The most segregated states, as measured by black exposure to white students and the percentage of African-Americans enrolled in majority white schools, are: New York, Michigan, Illinois and California. In New York and California, only one black student in seven was in a majority White school and the typical black student was in a school with 82 percent nonwhite students in New York and 77

percent in California. Although frequent references are made to the case technically called Brown et al. v. Board of Education of Topeka et al, there was more that one court decision. On May 17, 1954, the court ruled: "We conclude that in

the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs and others similarly situated for whom the actions have been brought are, by reason of the segrecomplained deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth

Amendment." The decision effectively overturned the court's 1896 ruling in Plessy v. Ferguson, which sanctioned separate but equal facilities.

It was in 1955 when the Brown case was again before the court over failure to comply with the court's order. It was then that the Supreme Court ruled that schools had to be desegregated "with all deliberate speed." In 1979, the Brown case was reopened when a group of parents, including the former Linda Brown, for whom the case is titled, charged that the school board Topeka still refused "to fully carry out" the 1954 court decision. An appeals court agreed with them, saying, "Topeka has not sufficiently countered the effects of both the momentum of its pre-Brown segregation and its subsequent acts in the 1960s." That order was not lifted until 1999.

What are collectively referred to as the "Brown" case involved four school districts. Two of them were rural - Clarendon County, S.C. and Prince Edward County, Va. - and two were urban -Topeka, Kansas and Wilmington, Del.

The Harvard study, led by Professor Gary Orfield, perhaps the preeminent desegregation expert in the country, observed: "For many years now integration has been the greatest in parts of the South and the most intense segregation has been in the great metropolitan black communities in every part of the country are experiencing increasing segregation, though nowhere near the level of pre-civil rights South."

Charts included in the study show that the percentage of African-Americans attending majority white schools increased slowly the first decade, moving from none in 1954 to 2.3 percent a decade later.

"The period of the civil rights revolution produced revolutionary changes in Southern schools from 1964 to 1972 as Congress and the Johnson Administration committed themselves to an unprecedented effort to enforce civil rights in the South," the report notes. "Change came with the passage and implementation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which forbade discrimination in any institution receiving federal aid and as the Supreme Court greatly tightened the constitutional requirements to be enforced by federal courts."

Black enrollment in majority white schools reached its peak in 1988, with 43.5 percent enrolled. Over the next seven years, however, that percentage has declined each year, dropping to 30.2 percent in 2001. The authors attribute the decline to a series of Supreme Court decisions between 1991 and 1995 limiting school desegregation and authorizing a return to segregated neighborhood schools.

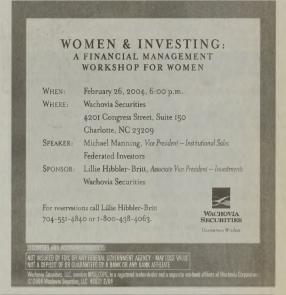
Judging by the percentage of African-Americans in schools where 90 to 100 percent of the students are of color, the most segregated states, in order, are: Michigan (62.7 percent), Illinois (61.0 percent), New York (60.8), Maryland (52.1), Jersey (50.8),New Pennsylvania (48.1),Wisconsin (44.7), Alabama (44.3), Mississippi (43.8), Louisiana (42.3), Missouri

(40.2), California (37.6), Texas (37.3), Georgia (36.5), Ohio (36.0), Connecticut Florida (32.0),(31.5),Massachusetts Arkansas (21.5) and Indiana

When looking at three yardsticks for measuring school desegregation - per-centage of blacks in majority white schools, percentage of blacks in 90 to 100 percent minority schools and black exposure to white students -Kentucky ranks tops in all categories.

THE CHARLOTTE POST (USPS 965-500) is published weekly for \$40.00 per year by the Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Camden Rd. Charlotte, NC 28203-4753. Periodicals postage paid at Charlotte, NC. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE CHARLOTTE POST, PO Box 30144, Charlotte, NC

Kentucky stands out in the list of the most integrated states for black students,' the report says. "It was a state with a history of de jure segregation and experienced a bitter struggle over the initiation of desegregation in metropolitan Louisville nearly 30 years ago.





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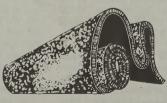
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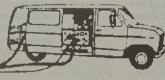


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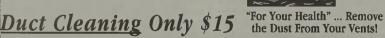




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