

# THE STRUGGLE OVER SCHOOL DECENTRALIZATION

## Presented to the people of Detroit by PARENTS and STUDENTS for COMMUNITY CONTROL

The most important element of any adopted School Decentralization Plan is that voters control each region.

This not only determines who controls the quality of education in each school within the region, but also what individual will represent that region on the central school board (which controls how much money each region gets). The following table gives the important facts on each of the decentralization plans proposed by the Detroit Board of Education:

PLAN	% Black Students under white control	number of white controlled regions	number of Black controlled regions
B	81%	6	1
B-2	81%	6	1
A	80%	6	1
E	65%	5	3
F	42%	6	4
C	37%	4	3
D	33%	4	4

The School Board's planners have reached these terrifying results in a very simple way. They have 'gerry-mandered' regions by including at least one very strong white voter area with one not quite so strong Black voter area in such a way that the white voters outnumber the Black ones. Plan B of the Board's Decentralization Plan, for instance, lumps Redford High School area (which voted only 6% for Austin in the mayoral race) with Central High School area (which voted 94% for Austin). When Mackenzie High, a somewhat integrated area, is added to the preceding region of Plan B, white voters from Redford High area, along with the help of some white voters from the Mackenzie High area, are able to control all three (3) schools.

Plans A, B, and B-2 of the Board's Decentralization plan are illegal because they use the most effective (and also the most obvious) way of lumping white racist voter areas with Black voter areas. They put one outer-city or fringe area school with one inner-city school, forming regions which are not even in one piece. This type of region is a non-contiguous region. Federal courts have ruled against these type of regions.

### THE SCHOOL BOARD AND INTEGRATION.

The excuse that the School Board uses for having white people control Black schools is that they have to form 'integrated' districts. Their interest in 'integration' is only a front!

First, very few changes in actual school boundaries are proposed. This means that most students would go to the same schools they go to now. The Black inner-city will still have Black schools, all white areas will still have white schools, and only places where Black and white people live together will have integrated schools.

Second, the plans of the Board even put white racist areas in control over integrated schools. For instance, in Plan B-2, Redford (97% white) controls Cooley (41% white). Third, even if magic could 'integrate' all the Black and white students into the same schools, unless Black voters had the power to direct the education of their own children the 'integration' would harm the children. The master and slave were physically and geographically mixed. However, the master controlled the slave. This is the kind of integration the Detroit School Board is proposing.

## THE BLACK PLAN

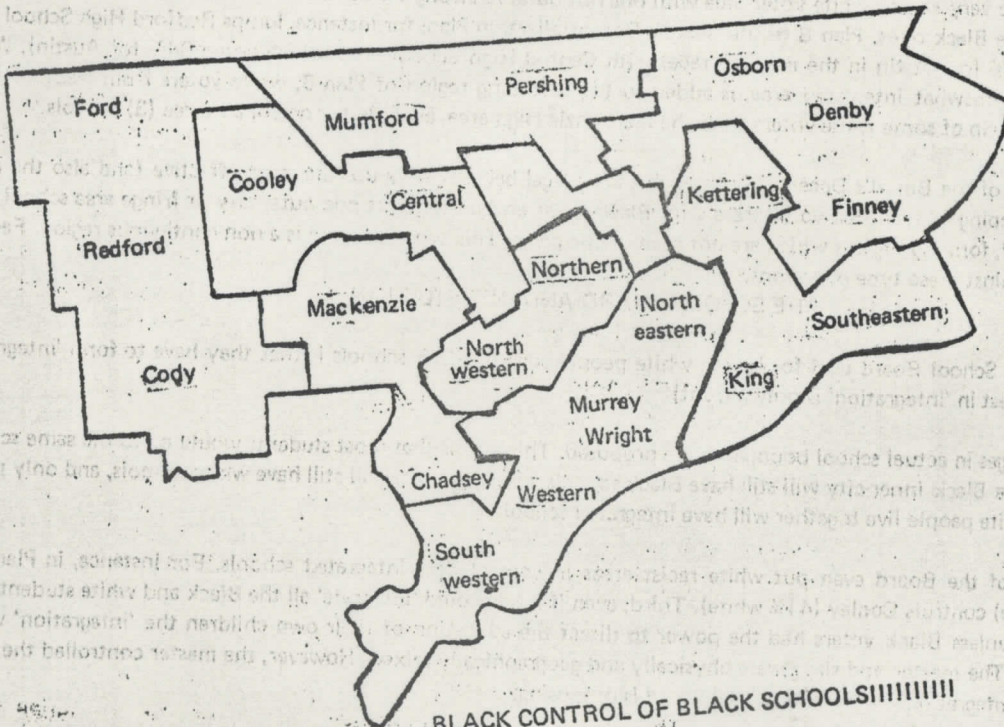
For the Black community to avoid this slavery, of powerlessness, it must force the School Board to draw regional lines which follow the natural patterns of neighborhoods in the city. This will permit Black voters to elect regional boards for Black schools. Unfortunately the Black Plan will also allow white racist voters to control white children; but this plan at least saves as many children especially Black school children from white racist control.

The School Board has tried to confuse people with their publicity on decentralization. First, they have published a 'decentralization kit' which included no relevant information at all concerning decentralization. Next the Board published 'Progress Report No. 2', which included 'information' on (transportation routes, boundary problems and capacity problems). Ignore all of this so-called information. None of it applies to decentralization. Some of it does not apply to schools at all. Its only purpose is to confuse and frustrate the public. The basic issue is who will control the new regions and the new central board. The following Black Plan's region were made up with one thing in mind: to keep as many children as possible out of the control of the racists. The plan puts only 8.6% of Black students under white control. It puts 6 regions under Black control and 2 under white control.

The Parents' and Students' for Community Control (an alliance of the West Central Organization, city-wide Black Student United Front and over 20 other Black community based groups) urge you to consider very carefully our plan and other positions on decentralization.

We feel that with the conference on decentralization and community control of schools which we held this past December at the University of Detroit along with the various resources and expertise in Education and other related fields which we have been able to tap that are planned for the implementation of decentralization is much more just and realistic than the Board of Education's.

The following is the map of our proposed BLACK PLAN:



**BLACK CONTROL OF BLACK SCHOOLS!!!!!!!!!!!!**  
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