

I. PREAMBLE

The schools of this country represent America's hope and plan for a better society. The public school--open to all, regardless of race, economic status, or creed--was and is a basic institution through which Americans are to be prepared for cultural, economic, and political participation in our community.

America has asserted from the start that our democratic goals cannot merely be expressed through written documents or verbal pronouncements. We recognized very early that personal associations are important for the realization of these goals. Thus: American education, through the public schools, must provide the opportunity for all children of various ethnic, racial, religious, and economic backgrounds to meet, learn, and work together.

Today we recognize that this goal has not been fully realized. Educators, citizens, and courts assert that prevention of personal associations through segregation--whether "de jure" or "de facto"--seriously affects the quality of education. Segregation, particularly involuntary segregation, whether it is social, ethnic, economic, or racial, diminishes equality of educational opportunity for all children. If Michigan's schools are to achieve our state and national democratic goals, sound educational procedures and practices must be created by all schools to overcome these obstacles to equality of educational opportunity in all school districts.