

ARKANSAS

The Searcy Independent School District, approximately 50 miles North of Little Rock, has achieved complete desegregation. The school system has absorbed all its 168 Negro students into schools attended by 2,000 white students. In the 1965-66 school year, Searcy had less than a third of its Negro students in school on a desegregated basis. In the 1964-65 school year, Searcy was fully segregated. *Superintendent, James W. Ahlf.*

The Jonesboro Independent School District has desegregated 64 percent of the Negro students in the current school year, up from 6.7 percent the previous year, involving some massive changes in historical enrollment patterns. *Superintendent, C. H. Geis.*

GEORGIA

On August 29, 1966, the Baker County School District was notified that a Federal hearing examiner had recommended termination of its Federal assistance because of racial discrimination. The school administration then moved to admit 59 Negro students into predominantly white schools, immediately creating serious tension in the white and Negro communities.

The Atlanta Daily World published a news article on October 6, 1966, which stated that Negro parents were threatening to boycott all Baker County Schools "if nothing is done to halt harassment and inequities directed at Negro students."

The article said the sheriff had done nothing about white youth who pointed pistols at Negro students. Several Negro students said they had been attacked at school, and subjected to insults by teachers, principals, and bus drivers.

On November 1, the Baker County Board of Education passed a forcefully-worded resolution which was distributed to all students, teachers, and school staff, and which brought an end to much of the mistreatment. Three weeks later the Federal assistance was restored for Baker County. The positive and well-publicized commitment of the school board to desegregation is credited by EEOC staff for the relative success accomplished in Baker in the face of fire community opposition. *Superintendent, H. E. Hall.*

In Floyd County, Ga., the school district abandoned a freedom of choice plan in favor of geographic zoning, and full desegregated its student body. This year, the Floyd County schools have 618 Negro students in formerly all white schools, ending a harsh discriminatory system that had involved transportation of almost all of the Negro children in the county system to Negro schools in Rome, Ga. In addition, Floyd County made a better beginning in faculty desegregation than many other Georgia districts. *Superintendent, H. A. Lindsey.*

FLORIDA

Okeechobee County is a rural area which had operated a dual school system prior to the 1965-1966 school year. The usual dire predictions of racial violence preceded efforts of the school district to desegregate successfully under a freedom of choice plan. At the beginning of the 1965-66 school year, all but about eight Negro high school students elected to enter the white high school. As a result, the former Negro high school was closed and all students assigned to other schools. Okeechobee is perhaps most noteworthy because freedom of choice worked. After it desegregated, the community went about its business in relative peace. The school system this year is almost fully desegregated. *Superintendent, Carl T. Durrence.*

Osceola County, Fla., moved from 21.3 percent desegregation of its Negro students in 1965-66 to 60 percent in the current school year. About 640 of the 4300 students in Osceola are Negro. *Superintendent, William B. Stephens.*

Hanatee County, Fla., provides an excellent example of success under capable school leadership. Manatee has enrolled 580 of its 3800 Negro students in school with white children (approximately 15 percent). Partly responsible for Manatee's progress is a newsletter issued by the school superintendent, which said:

"We believe we are dealing with more than the force of the Federal government. We are facing the consciences of a public which increasingly believes that the racial injustices of the past century must at long last be corrected. The pressures of the times—not the rioting on the streets, but the convictions of decent and