

**Resolution Title:** **Resolution on Brown vs. Board of Education**  
**Submitted by:** **Professional Staff Congress, Local 2334**

Whereas, in 1954, Chief Justice Earl Warren concluded, “ . . . in the field of public education the doctrine of ‘separate but equal’ has no place;’ and

Whereas, that conclusion appeared in the landmark Supreme Court decision in the case of *Oliver Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka Kansas*; and

Whereas, the case was the culmination of years of struggle by civil rights activists and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) that had been, prior to the decision, laying the legal groundwork for such a case; and

Whereas, NAACP counsel, Thurgood Marshall, said that “even where segregated schools could prove equal classrooms, teachers, and facilities, segregation was unconstitutional because it stigmatized black children, thereby denying them the equal protection guaranteed by the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment;” and

Whereas, the case overturned the 1896 decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that established the separate but equal precedent of legal segregation in the South and *de facto* segregation in the North; and

Whereas, the movement to desegregate public schools was also an impetus to open public higher education to underrepresented groups; and

Whereas, according to Julian Bond of the NAACP, “It is Brown’s promise that has been broken - betrayed by a failure of presidential leadership, defeated by a lack of Congressional oversight and action, ruined by a retreat by the federal bureaucracy charged with enforcement, and crushed by a series of unfavorable court rulings, ranging from the adverse to the hostile;”\* and

Whereas, Bond further states that “The goal of putting minorities and whites in the same classrooms is not only to equalize education, but also to change the formative racial experiences of the next generation;”\*\* and

Whereas, the fiftieth anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, is an opportunity to reflect upon and assess the outcomes of the decision; therefore be it

Resolved, that the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) continue to strive to achieve equity for students of color and to call upon the federal government to provide financial incentives to school districts that achieve a balanced student body.

\*Bond, Julian “The Broken Promise of Brown,” [http://www.tompaine.com/articles/the\\_broken\\_promise\\_of\\_brown.Php](http://www.tompaine.com/articles/the_broken_promise_of_brown.Php)

\*\*See above.

//www.tompaine.com/articles/the\_broken\_promise\_of\_brown. Php

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I hereby certify that the above resolution was approved for submission to the 2004 AFT Convention by the:

Delegate Assembly at a meeting held on May 27, 2004

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(President) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Secretary)

Professional Staff Congress

Local or Retiree Council Name

Local 2334

AFT#