



Transition Begins



The 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* declared separate educational systems, like those in Kentucky, to be unconstitutional. School desegregation in Kentucky did not take place all at once, however, because the state left its implementation up to each county.

Some of the first small signs that change was taking place were visible on the basketball court.

In 1956, the high school all-star selection process included black students for the first time. For the 1956-57 school year, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association began to admit historically black high schools, provided they were in integrated school systems. Lexington's Douglass and Dunbar high schools, Louisville's Central High and Lincoln Institute were the first to become KHSAA members.



National Guard troops helped eight black students enter Sturgis (Kentucky) High School in 1956 before county schools integrated. *(Photo from the Library of Congress.)*

Presented by



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