

RACE & EDUCATION

Legislation, Legal Rulings, Practice

-
- 1849**
In *Roberts v. City of Boston*, the Massachusetts Supreme Court rules that the state's constitution permits **racially segregated schools**.
- 1868**
The **Fourteenth Amendment** is ratified, promising **"equal protection under the law."**
- 1879**
The first federally-funded off-reservation Indian boarding school is founded. Native American boarding schools remove indigenous children from their communities and cultures until most boarding schools close in the 1970s.
- 1890**
The first **Jim Crow law** is passed, mandating segregated accommodations for Whites & Blacks.
- 1896**
In *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the Supreme Court rules that the "separate but equal" doctrine is constitutional.
- 1940**
In *Alston v. School Board of City of Norfolk*, a federal court rules that Black and White teachers must be paid equal salaries.
- 1954**
In *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court overturns *Plessy* by ruling that **separate is inherently unequal**.
- 1957**
The **Little Rock Nine** desegregate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- 1959**
In order to avoid desegregating, officials close all public schools in Prince Edward County, VA.
- 1964**
The **Civil Rights Act of 1964** is passed. Title IV addresses school desegregation and Title VI prohibits discrimination in federally funded programs.
- 1965**
The **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)** is passed, dedicating **Title I federal aid** to support equal opportunity efforts.
- 1966**
The **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)** is passed, dedicating **Title I federal aid** to support equal opportunity efforts.
- 1972**
Title IX of the Educational Amendments is passed, **prohibiting sex discrimination** in federally funded education programs.
- 1973**
In *San Antonio Independent School District v. Rodriguez*, the Supreme Court rules that education is not a "fundamental right" and that states do not have to provide equal distribution of education expenditures.

1974

In *Lau v. Nichols*, the Supreme Court rules that schools must educate students whose first language is not English

1981

The **Education Consolidation and Improvement Act** (ECIA) is passed, decreasing the federal government's role in the regulation of Title I.

1978

In *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, the Supreme Court rules that while race can be a factor in higher education admissions, racial quotas are unconstitutional.

1982

In *Bob Jones University v. U.S. and Goldboro Christian Schools v. U.S.*, the Supreme Court rules that private religious schools that receive tax exemptions cannot discriminate.

1990'S

Progress in narrowing the achievement gap in the 1970s and 1980s plateaus and then remains stagnant.

1990

The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** and the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** are passed, prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities.

1995

In *Missouri v. Jenkins*, the Supreme Court rules that the state only has to address de jure segregation but not de facto segregation, emphasizing local control of school districts.

1994

The **Improving America's Schools Act** is passed, renewing the role of the federal government in regards to Title I funding.

1996

In *Hopwood v. Texas*, a federal appeals court ends affirmative action in the district by prohibiting the use of race in higher education admissions.

2001

No Child Left Behind, a reauthorization of the ESEA, requires standardized testing to guarantee student proficiency in math and reading from 3rd to 8th grade.

2003

In **Grutter v. Bollinger and Gratz v. Bollinger**, the Supreme Court rules that while race can be a factor in higher education admissions, point systems are unconstitutional.

2003

A study by Harvard's Civil Rights Project finds that schools were more segregated in 2000 than in 1970 when busing for desegregation began.

2005

In **Lynn v. Comfort**, a federal appeals court rules that race can be a factor in K-12 school assignment.

2007

In **Parents Involved**, the Supreme Court rules that voluntary school integration plans are unconstitutional.

2015

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a reauthorization of the ESEA, is passed in part in response to criticisms that NCLB actually increased educational gaps instead of decreasing them.

2016

In **Fisher v. University of Texas**, the Supreme Court rules that the race can be a factor in higher education admissions and that the University of Texas at Austin's race-conscious undergraduate admissions policy is constitutional.

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity

Sources:

Teaching Tolerance (2004). *Brown V. Board: Timeline of School Integration in the U.S.*

Office for Civil Rights. (2016). *2013-2014 Civil Rights Data Collection: A First Look Washington, D.C.*

U.S. Department of Education. (2016). *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965: As Amended Through P.L. 114-95, Enacted December 10, 2015.*