

Segregation is making a comeback in U.S. schools.

JESSE J. HOLLAND
KIMBERLY Helfing

AP) — Segregation is making a comeback in U.S. schools. Progress toward integrated classrooms has largely been rolled back since the Supreme Court issued its landmark *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* decision 60 years ago, according to a report released Thursday by the Civil Rights Project at UCLA. Blacks are now seeing more school segregation than they have in decades, and more than half of Latino students are now attending schools that are Associated . . . In New York, California and Texas, more than half of Latino students are enrolled in schools that are 90 percent minority or more, the report found. In New York, Illinois, Maryland and Michigan, more than half of black students attend schools where 90 percent or more are minority. Project co-director Gary Orfield, author of the "Brown at 60" report, said the changes are troubling because they show some minority students receive poorer educations than white students and Asian students, who tend to be in middle-class schools. The report

urged, among other things, deeper research into housing segregation, which is a "fundamental cause of separate-and-unequal schooling." Although segregation is more prevalent in central cities of the largest metropolitan areas, it's also in the suburbs. "Neighborhood schools, when we go back to them, as we have, produce middle-class schools for whites and Asians and segregated high-poverty schools for blacks and Latinos," Orfield said. Housing discrimination — stopping or discouraging minorities from moving to majority-white areas — also plays a role in school segregation and "that's been a harder nut to crack," said Sherrilyn Ifill, president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, which argued the *Brown* case in front of the Supreme Court. School performance can be entwined with poverty, too. "These are the schools that tend to have fewer resources, tend to have teachers with less experience, tend to have people who are teaching outside their area of specialty, and it also denies the opportunities, the contacts and the networking that

occur when you're with people from different socio-economic backgrounds," said Dennis Parker, director of the American Civil Liberties Union Racial Justice Program. For students like Diamond McCullough, 17, a senior at Walter H. Dyett High School on Chicago's South Side, the disparities are real. Her school is made up almost entirely of African-American students. She said her school doesn't offer physical education classes or art, and Advanced Placement classes are only available online. McCullough noted the school is named after a famous musician, Walter H. Dyett, and the school no longer has a band class. "We don't have a music chorus class," she said. "We barely have the basic

classes we need." Aquila Griffin, 18, said she transferred from Dyett to another high school 20 blocks away because she needed biology and world studies to graduate. The two traveled to Washington this week for a labor-sponsored rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court in support of public education. "Many blame the schools for failing, or teachers, but they never blame the bad policies put in place in schools," Griffin said. "A teacher can only teach to a certain extent with the resources. It's the policies put in place that's failing the students." On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court ruled: "In the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place.

Segregated School Continue page 5

Custom Loans Built Here.



Austin Bank

200 E. Commerce • Jacksonville • 903-586-1526
1700 S. Jackson • Jacksonville • 903-589-8800
216 S. Main • Rusk • 903-683-2254

www.austinbank.com
30 Locations Throughout East Texas

EVERY ONE IS IMPORTANT.

You can help keep your child healthy with regular checkups and vaccines. Every one is important. And they're free with Children's Medicaid.

Your child will also get other health benefits like free prescription drugs, dental care, eye exams, and glasses. Even rides to and from the doctor or dentist's office. Call today or visit our website to apply.

www.CHIPmedicaid.org
1-877-KIDS-NOW

Children's Medicaid
We've got your kids covered.

CHILDREN WITH MEDICAID CAN GET FREE RIDES TO THE DOCTOR OR DENTIST'S OFFICE. CALL 1-877-MED-TRIP TO LEARN MORE.

O. T. Allen & Son

Provides all your funeral needs.

703 East San Antonio
P. O. Box 495
Alto, Texas 75759
936 858-4111

Serving area
families over 85
years