

After uprisings rocked several major cities in 1967, **LBJ** issued an Executive Order to investigate the causes and potential solutions.

The committee findings were clear: **The cause of the 1967 uprisings was white anti-Black racism.**

While many American leaders ignored the suggestions of the **Kerner Commission**, members of the Grand Rapids School Board sought to put the Commission's suggestions into action.

Kerner Commission Report, 1967

"Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal...white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it."

Education Recommendations (except):

1) Increasing Efforts to eliminate de facto segregation: Substantially increase aid to school systems seeking to eliminate de facto segregation either within the system or in cooperation with neighboring school systems.

a) Such strategies include school pairing, busing, open enrollment, boundary changes, strategic use of site selection, enlargement of attendance areas, and consolidation of schools to overcome racial imbalance...

2) Provide quality education to Black Neighborhood Schools... provide for greater concentration of aid to school districts having the greatest proportion of disadvantaged students (exclude affluent school districts with less than specified minimum numbers of poor students).

3) Improving Community-School Relations

a) Community Participation in the Educational Process Should be Encouraged.

b) Ghetto Schools should serve as community centers.

Highlight, underline, or circle: What are the key suggestions in this report?

A statement from the Michigan's State Board of Education, 1961

"Creative efforts by individual school districts are essential in reducing segregation...local school boards must consider the factor of racial imbalance in making decisions about selection of new school sites, expansion of present facilities, reorganization of school attendance districts, and transfer of pupils from overcrowded facilities since each of these situations present an opportunity for integration."

Robinson, *City within a City*, pg 45

In 1967, the **Kerner Commission** signaled that school segregation was a major problem that led to social unrest. **You are about to become a School Board Member and need to come up with a solution.** Our state board of Education already advised us 7 years earlier to “get creative” and prioritize integration by taking racial imbalance into account when we make decisions. Before you weigh your options and make a decision, take a few notes / annotate the situation in GRPS high schools

