

Desegregation Timeline Montgomery County, Maryland, Public Schools

1860 Maryland establishes public schools for white students.

1872 Maryland establishes separate public school for black students.

1892 Montgomery County opens first public high school (through grade 11) for white students, in Rockville.

1927 Montgomery County opens first public high school (through grade 11) for black students. Rosenwald Fund aids addition to Rockville Colored Elementary School.

1935 Lincoln High (recycled building) replaces overcrowded Rockville Colored High School.

1936-37 William B. Gibbs, Jr. files a suit against the Montgomery County Board of Education for parity in teacher pay. Case is settled out of court, but Gibbs loses his job.

1945 State establishes 12 year public school curriculum.

1950-52 County opens new Negro schools. Consolidated elementaries are Longview, Edward U. Taylor, Rock Terrace, and Sandy Spring. Carver High School and Junior College is first for black students built with parity to white schools. Lincoln becomes the junior high.

May 17, 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* ends segregation in American public schools. In August, Montgomery County Board of Education establishes an Advisory Committee on Integration.

February 28, 1955 Advisory Committee majority recommends a 12-year integration plan, starting with kindergarten and extending to an additional grade each year. Dissenting committee members advocate for the integration of schools over a 3-year period.

March 21, 1955 Board adopts policy on integration: employment offered on merit basis, school boundaries drawn without regard to race, students attend schools nearest their homes and, to relieve overcrowding, boundaries redrawn or new facilities constructed.

April 28, 1955 Board votes to close four substandard Negro elementary schools – River Road, Ken Gar, Takoma Park, and Linden – and to send students to all-white schools serving those areas. Negro students in grades 7-12 who live in Blair, B-CC, and Wheaton high school areas may enter those schools if they desire, or attend Lincoln or Carver.

Spring and Summer, 1955 Implementation of Board's integration policy after assurance by State Superintendent and Attorney General that legal barriers to desegregation have been removed. Maryland Board of Education abolishes segregation in its 5 teachers' colleges. Montgomery Junior College begins to accept black students. PTAs in all elementary schools vote on specifics of Norris' desegregation plan; votes echo the conflicting responses of County parents and teachers to integration. Different plans for desegregation over time are proposed by BOE members. Parent protests lead to appeals to overrule County authorities. Variety of organizations weigh in on process and solutions. Montgomery County Recreation Dept. opens all 49 recreation centers on an integrated basis, and buses are integrated.

Fall, 1955 330 Negro children from 4 closed substandard schools assigned to 13 formerly white elementary schools with total enrollment of 6,161. 160 Negro students attended 9 previously white junior, senior highs with total enrollment of 8,574. Six Negro elementary teachers move to down-County white schools. Adult Ed and special classes are integrated.

1955-56 Black and white school, church, veteran, and civic groups help prepare teachers, students, and citizens for integration via forums, meetings, fact sheets, newspaper articles.

Schools, General
Integration

April 23, 1956 Board adopts second phase of Norris' integration plan, which provides for integration of certain up-county schools. By end of school year, 16.1% of black children attend desegregated schools, all down-County.

1956-57 Montgomery Junior College and George Washington Carver Junior College are combined. Carver became the Rockville branch of MJC.

September, 1956 Group of Poolesville citizens hold anti-integration demonstration at the County Office Building and argue against integration of their school before the Board. Parents who refuse to send their children to the newly-integrated school relent after Norris threatens to take them to court for failure to comply with state attendance laws.

May 6, 1957 Board adopts integration plan for 1957-58, affecting students in grades K-9 in areas of B-CC, Montgomery Blair, Northwood, Wheaton, and Walter Johnson high schools.

October, 1958 BOE publishes *Facts and Figures Affecting the Next Steps in Desegregation*; 60.1% of Negro children are still enrolled in segregated elementary and secondary schools. Final year for 4 all-black schools: Rock Terrace, Taylor, Longview, Sandy Spring.

1959-60 All County Colored School teachers and principals are assigned to integrated schools. Margaret T. Jones (Rock Terrace Colored Elementary) becomes first black principal of a formerly all-white school, Bannockburn.

1961 Montgomery County Public School integration is declared complete.

1960s Substandard former Negro elementary schools are closed and turned to other uses, such as recreation or community centers and maintenance depots, or are demolished and land used otherwise. Newer facilities are closed, later converted to new uses. Nina Clarke selected as first black teacher-specialist in Language Arts.

1967-71 Busing becomes a tool for achieving racial balance; school officials and parents divided on this strategy. Magnet programs in Montgomery Blair and B-CC areas begin.

1976-81 Board experiments with volunteer plans, pairs schools in Chevy Chase to achieve racial balance. Rosemary Hills symbolizes County efforts to improve racial integration. In 1981 the Board and superintendent end period of lawsuits, appeals, and chaos by stabilizing school assignments, reducing busing, and upgrading facilities.

1983 Black principals head 31 of 152 schools. Almost 10% of County teachers are black.

2009 William B. Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School opens in Germantown.

2011-12 statistics, per MCPS website Jan. 2013:

Number of public schools 201 Number of teachers 9,950

Students pre-K - 12 146,456 Average per grade c. 10,500 48.7 female, 51.3 male

Ethnic composition of students:

21.2 black/African American 26.0 Hispanic/Latino 14.3 Asian 33.8 White 4.7 Other