“Unless Our Children Begin to Learn Together…”
The State of Education in Halifax County, NC

A comprehensive analysis of the history, educational impacts and legal implications of maintaining three separate school districts in Halifax County, NC.

REP. ANGELA R. BRYANT
District 7- Halifax and Nash Counties
“This report is very helpful to us in that it recounts the historical, racial, cultural and community dynamics surrounding our three school districts, and thereby, can help create community understanding especially among those who were not born and raised here. I look forward to informed community engagement to achieve a vision for successful educational outcomes in the county for all our students as we go forward.”

REVEREND WILLIAM BARBER II
President, North Carolina State NAACP
“The battle to provide high-quality, constitutional, well-funded, diverse public education for every child is still an ongoing moral and social crisis of our time. This crisis is exacerbated in Halifax County, and we cannot move forward as a state until we turn this system around. So goes Halifax, so goes the nation.”

PHIL TEGELE
President and Executive Director, Poverty and Race Research Action Council (PRRAC)
“This rigorously researched and eye-opening report illuminates the historical roots of segregation and inequality in a rural southern county – and conclusively demonstrates the continuing harms of a separate and inherently unequal system on today’s children. The racial gerrymandering of the pre-Brown v. Board of Education era is still alive and well in parts of the rural South.”

MARTY STRANGE
Director, Policy Program, Rural School and Community Trust
“The State of Halifax County Education is a real eye-opener to the sad history and the tragic inequities in the county’s school system today. Small schools and small school districts are generally better for kids in many ways, but they should never be misused as a barrier to desegregation. Let’s hope this report helps the people of Halifax County find their way to a better day.”

GENEVIEVE SIEGEL-HAWLEY
Research Associate, The Civil Rights Project / Proyecto Derechos Civiles at UCLA
“This urgent new report shows clearly that separate schools continue to be profoundly unequal schools. It highlights the central role that school district boundaries play in structuring segregation and educational opportunity; persuasively making the case for remedial efforts that seek to bridge those dividing lines. The study also sheds light on the way patterns of school segregation directly impact opportunity for students in a rural community – a vital but less frequently considered dimension of an issue often dominated by an urban/suburban dichotomy. Fundamentally, this report represents a call to action for a community that has not yet taken significant steps to desegregate its students more than fifty years after the landmark Brown v. Board of Education ruling.”

DEREK BLACK
Director of Education Rights Center, Howard University Law School
“This is a powerful piece that reveals what I suspect most people have either conveniently forgotten or never knew about the three separate districts in Halifax County: that the racial segregation between them is neither happenstance, nor normal. Unfortunately, history continues to haunt these schools districts in concrete ways that produce serious inequalities. I have no doubt that the report will be extremely enlightening and meaningful for those who live in Halifax.”

KATHERINE MELLEN CHARRON
Professor, Department of History, NC State University
“The importance of this report cannot be overstated: it clearly demonstrates how the historical legacies of segregation continue to impact new generations of students, teachers, and communities almost sixty years after the Brown v. Board of Education decision. It also reminds us that segregation is expensive, both literally and in terms of the long term costs that result from underinvestment in human capital. If we truly value all children, we must act to redress this injustice and to strengthen public education now. North Carolina can, and should, do better.”