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MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
LANSING

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W. M. BARTLETT  
SUPERINTENDENT

To School Superintendents:

Since the 1954 decision of the U. S. Supreme Court, attention has been devoted to the provision for appropriate educational facilities and programs, free from discrimination, for all youth in the public schools of our nation. In 1963, the late President Kennedy called a meeting of educational leaders which I attended and urged that everything possible be done to speed the implementation of this court decision.

I called together a group of superintendents and discussed with them the request of the President. The group felt that a committee should be appointed to examine the problem and to advise me on appropriate action. Such a group was invited to meet with me and their recommendation was the preparation of a statement of guidelines to be made available to local schools as to ways in which more equal educational opportunities for all youth could be provided. After a series of meetings, a statement was carefully prepared by the small sub-committee named in the document and recommended by the larger committee for my adoption for the Department of Public Instruction as a policy statement.

This statement reviews the major concerns of educators and other citizens for the fullest provisions in our schools for meeting the educational needs of all youth, regardless of their race, nationality, or religion. It also suggests in a positive way some of the things that can be done to reach this goal.

I send this to you for your examination and study. I suggest that you review it with your board of education and your staff and in the light of the nature of your community, establish a program to accomplish what needs to be done to assure the youth of your community the benefits of the kind of educational program the statement calls for. I also suggest the desirability of establishing in your community, a council of community agency representatives and other citizens to study plans for improving educational programs.

The members of my staff and I stand ready to assist you in every way we can in moving forward on this problem.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

Lynn M. Bartlett

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