

Realizing the Promise of Brown V. Board of Education in the New Era of Hope
Petition to End Discrimination Against Detroit Students in Ferndale and Other Area Schools

For the first time in forty years, Detroit students have the economic and social power to create equal, quality, integrated schools for students throughout the metropolitan Detroit area. Tens of thousands of Detroit students currently attend public charter schools in Ferndale and other suburban school districts, providing these districts with desperately-needed new school revenue. The revenue generated from Detroit students, from both public and private sources, is being used to give a growing number of suburban district students racially-integrated, diverse, college-preparatory educational opportunities, including multiple career-paths, art, sports and music programs and Advanced Placement (AP) classes, which are being denied to Detroit students.

Detroit students attending schools in suburban districts, including Ferndale School District, are being placed in intensely racially-segregated, under-resourced schools, stigmatized as Detroiters and denied access to the better suburban public schools they are helping fund. This exploitation of Detroit students to create the new Jim Crow separate

and unequal educational system being implemented in Michigan is illegal, unfair, and discriminatory, and it cannot continue.

Millions of young black, Latina/o, Arab, Asian and progressive white people, filled with the new spirit of hope, desire schools which are integrated and diverse, offer interesting and challenging courses, and in which students treated with respect and dignity. The right-wing attacks against public education, based on free-market education “schools of choice” have done nothing to improve educational opportunity or access for minority students, and have extended the school budget crisis regularly facing Detroit to virtually every school district in Michigan.

Organizing the social power of Detroit-area students, teachers, parents, and communities can end the crisis of public education and make the promise of *Brown v. Board of Education* finally real for Detroit students and students who live in Ferndale and other suburban districts.

We the undersigned call on the Ferndale School District and the other suburban districts who are instituting two-tier discriminatory educational policies to:

1. Provide the resources needed to raise the level of the suburban schools that Detroit students attend to be equal to the other public schools in the district. For example the overwhelmingly black, Detroit student attended Ferndale’s University High School must become equal in all ways to Ferndale High School.
2. Open all the schools in their districts to Detroit students. In Ferndale, Ferndale High School must be open to Detroit Students.
3. End their practice of creating separate and unequal segregated educational opportunities for Detroit students and support equal, quality, integrated educational opportunities for all.
4. Join with Detroit students, parents, teachers, community members and officials to go to Lansing and Washington D.C., to demand increased and equitable funding for all school districts in Michigan.
5. Support the call for a single metropolitan Detroit public educational plan that can end the current state-sponsored system of unplanned, chaotic, market-based patch-work of failing schools and crisis-ridden school districts. A planned tri-county educational system is the only rational way to marshal the resources needed to end the cycle of educational cuts, teacher layoffs and yearly budget crises that every individual school district is currently experiencing, and to create diverse, integrated, high-quality educational opportunities, specialized school programs and innovative educational choices that would benefit every student in the region.

	Signature	Printed Name	Phone Number	Email	School/Organization
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					

Endorsed by: The Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration & Immigrant Rights and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary (BAMN); The Progressive Alliance of the University of Michigan; Minority and Women Affairs Advisory Committee of the Wayne State University Student Council; Wayne State University Students for Choice; John Riehl, President of AFSCME Local 207; The Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning at the University of Michigan; Sanctuary Fellowship Baptist Church

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Circulator information: Name: _____ Date: _____ Location: _____ Event: _____

<p style="text-align: center;">University High School Ferndale School for Detroit Residents</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ferndale High School Ferndale School for Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak and Oak Park Residents</p>
School in old converted elementary school building	School housed on a modern high school campus with large library, tennis courts, and full football field
Closed campus	Open campus, students may leave and go out for lunch
Only 3 AP course offerings	Access to 20 Advanced Placement (AP) courses
Uniforms only	Free dress everyday, including shorts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next to no sports programs • Girls Volleyball and Basketball • Boys Basketball 	Complete after school sports program with three seasons (fall, winter & spring) including swimming, wrestling, and golf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next to no electives or class time set aside for creative endeavors • Knitting and Home Economics 	Complete elective offerings including Theater I & II, Newspaper Production, Debate, Forensics, Cartooning, and Ceramics I & II
No enrichment classes in practice. In theory, students have access to CASA, but class schedules are designed to prevent students from actually taking CASA classes.	Full access to CASA (Center for Advanced Studies and the Arts) for all Ferndale High students an Oakland County-wide program that offers 44 different courses including 18 AP classes. For example; Sculpture, 2D & 3D Design, AP Statistics, Application of Genetics, and Dance
Only one foreign language offered; Spanish	French 1-5, German 1-4, Spanish 1-5 at Ferndale High and Japanese 1 & 2 and Russian 1 & 2 offered through CASA
Only 1 Career Pathway	6 different Career Pathways
Over 95% black student population	Integrated school about 60% black and 40% white
Students tracked for jobs in auto industry	Students encouraged to reach for the stars and pursue every and all career opportunities