

NORTH CAROLINA )  
                                  )  
SWAIN COUNTY     )

PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SWAIN COUNTY,  
NORTH CAROLINA:

I

That the undersigned is a citizen and resident of Swain County, North Carolina.

II

That there is now in existence a school on the secondary level in Swain County that is being used for the exclusive purpose of the white population of Swain County.

III

That the students on the secondary level of the Negroid ancestry and being termed the colored students of Swain County on the secondary level are being transported to the unaccredited school in Jackson County, a distance of some forty miles round-trip per day.

IV

That the Supreme Court of the United States unequivocally decreed that such discriminatory treatment of any segment of the population is unconstitutional, and cannot and will not be allowed to exist.

V

I, therefore, call upon the Board of Education of Swain County to immediately integrate the public schools of this County, and specifically to integrate the courses being offered in the public schools of Swain County on the secondary level.

VI

I respectfully request that an answer to this petition be forthcoming within the next seven days so that the undersigned parents will not have to suffer the agony of their children being deprived of the proper training during the school term now ensuing.

Wherefore, it is my formal request that the board of Education of our county take immediate steps to permit and enroll all qualified students of Swain County into the education program now being offered, regardless of race, creed, or national origin.

Signed *J. E. McDowell*

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 1956

*Annie Mae Truett*  
Deputy Clerk Superior Court