

Thus busing for racial balance would continue for at least four more years, but the extent of the busing would decrease from the present level (which requires that each school must maintain a racial balance that is within 10 percent of the districtwide average).

C. Several sections deal with what the authors of the Consent Order call "behavior management" and "conflict resolution". This used to be called "discipline," but it is not just the vocabulary that is new. Where earlier generations of school authorities generally supported teachers when there were confrontations with students, the Coalition believes, and the State Board seems to concur, that it is often the fault of teachers if students are disruptive or perform below grade level. This perspective is manifest at a number of points in the Consent Order. Thus

- \* The Order requires teachers to fill out numerous forms and attend several conferences before suspending unruly children. The order states that in the elementary grades suspensions are to be used "only as a last resort and only after and in consultation with the District Supervisor." The Order's goal for older students is to reduce "the number of children pulled from regular classrooms," and to make sure that teachers put these students in settings that are not "more restrictive than necessary."
- \* Instead of reassigning slow learners and suspending or expelling bad actors, teachers and administrators are urged to develop greater "sensitivity" to the supposedly different cultural styles of troublesome students. The Order calls for teachers to develop special examinations for minority students -- examinations that are "culturally sensitive." It calls for "an integrated assessment system" that will provide "culturally-sensitive assessments," "alternative assessments," and "performance-based assessments" that will "allow students to demonstrate proficiency in different ways."
- \* The Order also urges teachers to develop classroom strategies "that are sensitive to individual learning styles." In addition, the Order calls for government expenditures to establish new programs to train administrators and teachers in "multi-cultural awareness and cross-cultural communication techniques." The Order further says that all teachers should develop