



## Coalition for Information on School Desegregation Records (S0448)

**Collection Number:** S0448

**Collection Title:** Coalition for Information on School Desegregation Records

**Dates:** 1954-1984

**Creator:** Coalition for Information on School Desegregation (Saint Louis, Mo.)

**Abstract:** The Coalition for Information on School Desegregation was founded in 1981 to provide information on school desegregation in the St. Louis metropolitan area through a speakers' bureau, resource center, and newsletter. This collection includes reports, meeting minutes, newsletters, news clippings, and court documents on school desegregation cases.

**Collection Size:** 4 cubic feet  
(325 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center-st-louis). If you would like more information, please contact us at [stlouis@shsmo.org](mailto:stlouis@shsmo.org).

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Coalition for Information on School Desegregation Records* (S0448); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Nancy Bowser in March 1984 (Accession No. SA2607).

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### Historical Note:

During the fall of 1980, the League of Women Voters of St. Louis began research that revealed a need to provide information to local citizens about the voluntary desegregation plan for St. Louis

Public Schools. The League initiated a volunteer coalition of organizations and individuals to collect and disseminate such information. Members of seventeen metropolitan organizations first met in March 1981 to discuss plans for the group. At a second meeting in April, several member groups founded the Coalition for Information on Voluntary School Desegregation. Lois Bliss served as chairperson, and the Coalition received a grant from the Danforth Foundation to help kickstart its operations.

By May 1981, the Coalition included twelve member organizations representing civic, educational, and religious community groups. It hired Mary Bartholomew as the project coordinator, formed steering and executive committees, and created task forces to accomplish its goals. The Coalition also established an office in space provided by the Conference on Education. The group's activities included: a speakers' bureau, which provided trained volunteer speakers to organizations and neighborhood meetings; a resource center with literature on voluntary desegregation; and a newsletter, *Update*, to report on developments in local desegregation efforts.

In September 1981, the Coalition broadened its focus after a desegregation case, *Liddel vs. City Board of Education of the City of St. Louis*, changed from examining intra-district desegregation of St. Louis City Schools to an inter-district exchange with county school districts. The Coalition changed its name to the Coalition for Information on School Desegregation, reflecting its expanded purpose of collecting and distributing information on mandatory as well as voluntary desegregation. District Court Judge William C. Hungate issued the settlement agreement in the *St. Louis Metropolitan School Desegregation* case on March 30, 1983. After the decision, inquiries to the Coalition decreased drastically.

The Coalition completed 89 speaking engagements from 1981 through May 1983, attended by over 2500 people. It also sent representatives to appear on radio and television programs, sponsored several seminars, and hosted a public forum on January 24, 1983. The mailing list for *Update* expanded to approximately 900 by 1983. In December 1983, the Coalition members agreed to disband. Its office closed in February 1984.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into three series and one subseries:

Legal Documents

Coalition Records

    Coordinating Committee for the Voluntary School Desegregation Plan Records

Newspaper Clippings

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The Coalition for Information on School Desegregation Records, 1954-1984, document the organization's activities from 1981-1984. The collection includes three series, Legal Documents, Coalition Records, and News Clippings. The materials in this collection are arranged chronologically from 1954 to 1984, except the Coalition Records series and its subseries, which are alphabetical.

## Legal Documents

This series is the largest of the collection and contains court orders, motions, memorandum, reports, decisions, and an index of court orders. These document the St. Louis Metropolitan desegregation case, Liddell, et. al. vs. City Board of Education of the City of St. Louis, et al. This series also includes the United States Court of Appeals' decisions on the St. Louis case. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically from 1980 to 1984.

## Coalition Records

This series documents the Coalition's speakers' bureau, seminars, its public forum on January 24, 1983, and its resource center. It contains reports, correspondence, minutes, position statements, pamphlets, proposals, newsletters, bibliographies, and a history of the St. Louis Desegregation Case (1972-1982). This series contains one subseries: Coordinating Committee for the Voluntary School Desegregation Plan Records (1981-1983).

The Coordinating Committee for the Voluntary School Desegregation Plan Records contains budgets, bylaws, correspondence, proposals, meeting minutes, and reports documenting the governance and activities of the committee. Topics also included are desegregation cases in Kansas, Georgia, and Pennsylvania. The materials in this subseries date from 1981 to 1983 and are arranged alphabetically.

The materials in this series date from 1954 to 1983 and are arranged alphabetically.

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