

Introduction to the Collection

Through an agreement with the Concerned Organization for Quality Education for Black Students, Inc. (COQEBS), the USFSP Digital Archive hosts online documents related to the mission of that organization. Materials address matters related to education, school readiness, and the modifications to the 1971 federal court order that has governed school desegregation and equality of educational access as a legacy of the *Bradley v. Board of Public Instruction of Pinellas County*, launched by Leon W. Bradley Sr. and other plaintiffs on May 7, 1964.

A deed of gift outlining the non-exclusive right of the Poynter Library to share the content of COQEBS within the USFSP Digital Archive or other digital means is included in bitstreams embedded to this document. For more information regarding this deed of gift, please contact the USFSP Digital Archive.

Organizational Background

COQEBS is a coalition of community organizations and individuals organized for the purpose of working to ensure the Pinellas County School District fulfills its commitment to provide quality education for black students; as was agreed by the final class action settlement agreement dated August 10, 2010. This order was issued in the Circuit Court for the Six Judicial District in Pinellas County, Florida. This agreement provides for the substitution of COQEBS as the party plaintiff in this case, and for purposes of monitoring the School District's future and continuing compliance with this settlement, with respect to Student Achievement, Student Discipline, and Assignment to Programs and Classes."

Organizational Mission

(a) To promote, advance, and monitor public education of black students in Pinellas County and other regions within the Tampa Bay area.

(b) To ensure that the Pinellas County School Board fulfills its commitment to provide quality education for black students; as well as work to close the achievement gap between black and non-black students enrolled in Pre-K through Post Secondary school.

(c) To support, generally through educative and other efforts, those public and private non-profit educational institutions in which black students are enrolled. Specifically, these efforts will include, but are not limited to, student achievement, association, discipline, quality of education, and diversity.