

School Racial Balance Order Will Be Obeyed

ANNAPOLIS (AP) — Anne Arundel County school officials say they will abide by an order of the State Board of Education ordering the county to achieve better racial balance at Parole Elementary School near here.

"I'm glad the state board is taking a strong stand," John B. Wright, president of the county education board, said Thursday.

The state board, at its monthly meeting Wednesday, ordered the county board to cancel a desegregation plan it had approved for the school last September and institute a plan that would more fully integrate the school Feb. 15. If the second plan is approved, it would take effect next fall.

Under the original plan, an attendance zone was established that would have changed the school's racial makeup from all Negro to 15 per cent white.

In effect, the state board ordered the county actively seek racial balance while retaining the "neighborhood school" concept. A board spokesman said the decision was actually a policy statement and could be applied to every Maryland school district.

The state board did not spell out, however, what degree of racial balance would be considered acceptable.

Dr. David S. Jenkins, superintendent of Anne Arundel County schools, said the county would abide by the decision, but "perfect racial balance is beyond us."

A state board member, who asked that his name not be used, said the decision "leaves no doubt where Maryland stands nationally on the question of desegregation."

"The opinion puts Maryland in the forefront," he said.

Maryland State Board of Education Order to De-Segregate Parole Elementary

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