



## LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Sandra Gioia Treadway  
Librarian of Virginia

Dear Public School Records Managers,

The Library of Virginia works with record keepers throughout the Commonwealth to preserve the documentary record and make it available to all researchers. The important story of the desegregation of Virginia's schools is in danger of being lost as a generation ages and records are forgotten (or even discarded). These records reflect a tumultuous time in Virginia's recent history, and by locating and saving them you can help to ensure that these times will be documented and that the voices of participants will continue to be heard.

You can work with the Library of Virginia to preserve the story of the school desegregation, and the civil rights movement, for future generations. History begins with you. You can help us preserve and make available the irreplaceable documentary heritage of twentieth-century Virginia.

The records that document desegregation are of vital importance in telling the story of Virginia. Concern over the preservation of the records of desegregation has prompted a group of archivists and historians to start *The Desegregation of Virginia Education* (DOVE) project. The group is co-chaired by Sonia Yaco, archivist at Old Dominion University, and James Sweeney, a history professor at Old Dominion University. The group is interested in identifying, locating, and preserving records that document Virginia's school desegregation process. The group plans to inventory public and private records held in libraries, archives, and government agencies and compile them in an online catalog.

Records recently transferred to the Library include Virginia Teacher's Registers for African American schools in New Kent County from the late 1950s and early 1960s. The booklets include records of achievement and attendance for the George W. Watkins School, which was involved in a landmark civil rights case, *Green v. County School Board of New Kent County* (1968). These records are currently protected by privacy restrictions, but have been preserved and will be available to future researchers.

As outlined in the *Virginia Public Records Act* (42.1-87), public records such as the New Kent registers must be retained in the locality by their legal custodian (the school or the county clerk, for example), or be transferred to the Library of Virginia. The archival and records management staff at the Library is willing to assist with the transfer of records, and is also available to help with your questions about storage and retention. We encourage you to work with your designated records officer:

<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwedo/records/contacts/searchcontacts.asp>

800 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

[www.lva.virginia.gov](http://www.lva.virginia.gov)

804.692.3500 *phone*  
804.692.3976 *fax*

I want to thank you and your staff for your cooperation and assistance. The preservation of Virginia's public records is a responsibility we all share. Only through such cooperation can it be accomplished. The Library of Virginia works with record keepers throughout Virginia—at circuit courts, local historical societies, archival institutions, museums, schools, and other organizations—to preserve the documentary record and make it available to all researchers.

If you have any questions about your records, please contact me; Jennifer Davis McDaid, local appraisal archivist ([jennifer.mcdaid@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:jennifer.mcdaid@lva.virginia.gov); 804-692-3648); or Amy Judd, records and information management analyst ([amy.judd@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:amy.judd@lva.virginia.gov); 804-692-3601). We will be working with your designated records officer to locate and identify records in your division.

This is a unique opportunity to help preserve important historical records. Your support is essential to accomplishing this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Conley L. Edwards III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a stylized "E".

Conley L. Edwards III  
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