

THE FLORIDA CONSENT DECREE: A SUMMARY

August 2007 marked the seventeenth anniversary of the Florida Consent Decree.

In August, 1990, a judge of the United States District court, Southern District of Florida, signed a Consent Decree giving the court power to enforce an agreement between the Florida State Board of Education and a coalition of eight groups represented by Multicultural Education, Training, and Advocacy, Inc. (META). The coalition of Florida legal services attorneys drafted this agreement regarding the identification and provision of services to students whose native language is other than English. The plaintiff organizations involved in the case represent a broad spectrum of the civil rights/educational community. They are:

- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
- ASPIRA of Florida
- The Farmworkers' Association of Central Florida
- Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches
- Haitian Refugee Center
- Spanish American League Against Discrimination (SALAD)
- American Hispanic Educators' Association of Dad (AHEAD)
- Haitian Educators' Association

The Consent Decree settlement terms focus on the following six issues:

- Identification and assessment
- Equal access to appropriate programming
- Equal access to appropriate categorical and other programming for Limited English Proficient (LEP) students
- Personnel
- Monitoring
- Outcome measures