



Summary of *Milliken v. Bradley* 1977

The *Milliken v. Bradley* case of 1974 determined that the Detroit school system be issued a decree for desegregating its schools after it was found to have violated constitutional principles. While formulating the plan, the District Court found that in its decree it would be necessary to include components such as reading, in-service teacher training, testing, and counseling, and that the cost of these additional components would be the responsibility of the Detroit School Board and State of Michigan.

In 1977, the Detroit School Board and State of Michigan appealed this decision, which the Court of Appeals affirmed. Per petition for certiorari, the case was heard by the United States Supreme Court. The Court applied principles established in *Brown v. Board of Education* which stated that in designing decrees for desegregation, the courts would be guided by equitable principles, and, in applying such principles, the courts are to focus on the scope of the violation and the interests of state and local authorities in managing their own affairs. In this case, the Court found that the remedy did not exceed the violation, and the remedy was designed to correct the conditions that were found to be unconstitutional. Based on these principles, the Court affirmed the decisions of the lower courts.

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