



NAACP

ST. LOUIS BRANCH

PRESIDENT

Adolphus M. Pruitt, II

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Rev. Elston K. McCowan

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Kathy Brown

THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT

Marva J. Johnson

SECRETARY

Donna Gilyard

ASST. SECRETARY

TREASURER

Claude Brown Jr.

ASST. TRESURER

Martha Davis

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ned Amos

David Beckford

Andre Benson

Sylvester Bolden

Harold Brown

Ethel Byndom

Patricia Bynes

Cedric Clarkson

Yaphett El Amin

Angelia Elgin

John Fisher

Atty. Frankie M. Freeman

Percy Green, III

Priscilla Harris

Kenneth Hutchinson

Abram Pruitt

Norman R. Seay

Rev. E. G. Shields, Sr.

Atty. Elaine H. Spearman

Eugene Wallace

Bob Williams

NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER

Harold Crumpton

OFFICE MANAGER

Josephine Stokes - Wheat

April 20, 2012

(Via email) commissioner@dese.mo.gov

Dr. Chris Nicastro, Commissioner of Education
Missouri Department of Education

Re: Imagine charter schools Students

Commissioner Nicastro:

It is my understanding that as many as 3,800 St. Louis City children (predominately African American) must find new schools as a result of your decision to shutter the Imagine Charter Schools in the City of S. Louis.

In 2010, the Missouri Supreme Court found that students are owed free transfers and neighboring schools must take them. Public schools in Missouri follow the guidelines of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The MO Supreme Court addressed three key issues in their July 2010, Clayton vs. Turner ruling:

1. Held 7-0 that SLPS is subject to the requirements of the applicable statute and that those requirements are not trumped by the legal settlement/legislation related to the deseg program.
2. Held 7-0 that plaintiffs' tuition contracts trump any rights under the unaccredited statute (167.131) and that plaintiffs are not entitled to relief for any years they have signed contracts.
3. Held 4-3 that the accredited school districts are bound by the language of Sec 167.131.

It is my further understanding that a state transition team & office has been established at Harris-Stowe State University and has a transition coordinator and an assistant employed by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Why is this transitioning office restricting the educational opportunities for these African American students to City schools and not the high performing County schools?

Sincerely,

Adolphus M. Pruitt, II
President
34-479-4427

Cc: Mary Ratliff, President – Missouri NAACP
Walle Amusa, Chair – Missouri NAACP Education Committee