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Headline:

## **Alexandria Studies Pupil Assignment Plan For Use In Local Schools**

**Plan Being Devised to Keep Open As Many Schools As Possible**

Working on the pupil assignment plan devised to keep open as many schools as possible should the Supreme Court order to integrate be upheld, Alexandria School officials are studying criteria designed and used by Arlington, Charlottesville and Norfolk Schools officials in rejecting Negro applications to white schools.

Federal Judge Albert V. Bryan has been requested to admit 14 Negro students to white schools without hearing the Alexandria desegregations case on its merits.

The School Board, claiming that it has no authority in the matter of making pupil placements, contends that the suit on the part of the Negro children has been brought against the wrong party or parties. The Board maintains that only the State Placement Board has the power to assign certain children to certain schools, according to a statement by Earl F. Wagner, attorney for the local School Board.

Claiming that Alexandria schools officials have admitted that pupil assignments to city schools are made solely on the basis of race. Frank D. Reeves, attorney for the Negroes, maintains that the trial of the case on its merits is not necessary.

While assignment criteria have not yet been finally established, those being considered are fundamentally the same as those employed in Arlington – achievement, school boundary lines, over crowding, psychological factors and adaptability.

Negroes have applied for admittance to Patrick Henry, Ficklin, and William Ramsey Elementary schools and George Washington and Francis Hammond High Schools.

In answer to questionnaire filed in Federal Court by the Negroes attorney, School Board Superintendent T. C. Williams said that the 14 children would have been admitted to the schools to which they applied had they not been Negroes.