



Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, case in which on May 17, 1954, the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) ruled unanimously (9–0) that [racial segregation](#) in public schools violated the [Fourteenth Amendment](#) to the [Constitution](#), which prohibits the states from denying [equal protection](#) of the laws to any person within their jurisdictions. The decision declared that separate educational facilities for white and [African American](#) students were inherently unequal. It thus rejected as inapplicable to [public education](#) the “separate but equal” doctrine, advanced by the Supreme Court in [Plessy v. Ferguson](#) (1896), U.S. Supreme Court decision that established the legality of racial [segregation](#) so long as facilities were "separate but equal." The case involved a challenge to Louisiana laws requiring separate railcars for African Americans and whites.

**Did you know you can visit the Supreme Court to research this case and or just to visit.

Supreme Court of the United States
1 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20543

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/81780/Brown-v-Board-of-Education-of-Topeka>

The site includes videos and audio.