WHO CAN GETAGOOD EDUCATION?

CALIFORNIA HAS SEGREGATED STUDENTS THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY

Under California law, African American, Native American, and Asian American students have been forced to attend segregated schools. Mexican American students, though not targeted by law, were shunted into segregated, inferior schools. In 1945, **Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez** filed a successful federal lawsuit on behalf of their children and 5,000 Latino students in Orange County. Soon after their victory, the state repealed all school segregation laws.



MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS, LIKE THESE CHILDREN IN THE CITY OF ORANGE IN 1925, WERE SEGREGATED IN DILAPIDATED, POORLY EQUIPPED SCHOOLS FOR DECADES UNTIL THE 1947 FEDERAL COURT DECISION IN MENDEZ V. WESTMINSTER ENDED THE PRACTICE.



WE DIDN'T COME IN AS SPIRITED ZEALOTS-WE 'BACKED IN' BY VIRTUE OF TRYING TO GET OUR DAUGHTER IN A REGULAR ELEMENTARY CLASS FULL-TIME.

- ROBERT HOLLAND

Since 1975, federal law has required integration of students with disabilities whenever possible. But California children with disabilities continued to be segregated. For 5 years, the family of **Rachel Holland** fought the Sacramento School District, which placed Rachel in special education classes because of her developmental disabilities. In 1994, a federal court

ruled in Rachel's favor, stating that children with disabilities have a right to be educated in mainstream classes with supplementary aides and services.



RACHEL HOLLAND AS A GRADUATE OF MCCLATCHY HIGH SCHOOL IN SACRAMENTO.

Class Photo: Courtesy of the Local History Collection, Orange Public Library, Orange

Rachel Holland: Courtesy of the Holland Family