



## Transcript for Failing Students

**Desiree Platt, Santee Indians:** But we had white teachers, which we shouldn't have had, but we had white teachers. Then when the blacks and the whites start going to school together. The teachers that taught me and taught my daughter came to my house and she said, Desiree I want to ask a favor of you, I said why now. I said all along you didn't want favors out of me so why now. She said the blacks are coming in the school, and that was Med Becker, that was our schoolteacher. She said the blacks are coming into our schools and we want you to get all of your people to come to school. And she said if we can get all of you in school it will crowd the school out and blacks can't get in. I said I wouldn't waste a minute trying to get my people to come to your school to keep the blacks out. I said thank God the blacks is getting into your school. I said if my children got to go to school there I'll send them if there is no other school, because they closed this school down. They closed all the country schools down. I said if my children got to come to your school I'll send them, but I won't ask or find where the rest of the community are sending their children. I said I'm not crowding your school out to keep the blacks out. I said let the blacks take it. I said when we wanted to go to school after the grades of our school was up, I said, you didn't want us there. I said don't ask favors of me.

**Dr. Will Goins:** So most of the folks when they graduated from here what did they do?

**T.S., Santee Indians:** They didn't give you that opportunity.

**Dr. Will Goins:** They didn't give you that opportunity. They didn't allow you to go pass...

**T.S., Santee Indians:** You could have got straight A's up until that last month and they'd fail you.

**Dr. Will Goins:** Just so you'd stay here.

**T.S., Santee Indians:** To make you repeat. They wanted you to quit. With failure you couldn't go on to another school you had to repeat that class. At the end of the next year they'd fail you again, don't care if you made straight A's all the way through, they'd fail you on that last test. And they kept failing the students and



finally the child would say I can't do that, he'd quit going and get him a job digging ditches or something like

**Desiree, Santee Indians:** Back in my mom and dad days they'd just finish with school here. And some of them really didn't finish with school here because they would have them out cutting wood to heat the building instead of putting them in school and getting an education.

*End of Video.*