Summary of Lesson: In this lesson students will examine the integration of schools in Delaware through a case study of the Milford desegregation crisis of 1954. Through videos and primary sources, students will analyze the background of the Supreme Court’s decision of Brown v. Board and what happened when the Milford School District attempted to integrate its high school four months after this landmark case.

Resources Needed:
- Resource 1: School Insurance Evaluation Report, 1941
- Resource 2: Redding Telegram
- Resource 3: Segregation Letter
- Resource 4: Burton Letter
Delaware Content Standards:

**History One 9-12a:** Students will analyze historical materials to trace the development of an idea or trend across space or over a prolonged period of time in order to explain patterns of historical continuity and change. *Essential for Grade 11*

**Civics 9-12b:** Students will understand that the functioning of the government is a dynamic process which combines the formal balances of power incorporated in the Constitution with traditions, precedents, and interpretations which have evolved over the past 200 years. *Essential for Grades 9 and 11*

Lesson Essential Question

* How can we use historical materials to evaluate changing interpretations of the 14th Amendment? To what extent did civil rights in education for African-Americans change over time?
Instructional Strategies Strategy One: Gathering Information Google Doc (see format below)

Timeline of School Integration in Delaware

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plessy vs. Ferguson</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School Insurance Evaluation</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown v Board of Education</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redding Telegram</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduce students to the 1896 Supreme Court ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which established the doctrine of *separate but equal*. Students watch the video:

The History Channel: Sound Smart: Plessy v Ferguson  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sj54KP16lw

For more information on *Plessy v. Ferguson* and the 14th Amendment:  
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_plessy.html

Have students fill in the section for *Plessy v. Ferguson* on the *School Integration Google Doc* (above)

**Strategy Two: Extending and Refining Google Doc Graphic Organizer**


Have students read in pairs about the Supreme Court Ruling on *Brown v. Board of Education*. Emphasize that two Delaware court cases, *Belton v Gebhart* and *Bulah v Gebhart* were consolidated and were part of the Brown decision. The plaintiffs in these cases were represented by Jack Greenberg and Louis Redding. Redding was the first African-American attorney in the history of Delaware.

Students watch the following videos about *Brown v Board of Education* and the Civil Rights Movement

May 17, 1954 - Brown v. Board of Education
Instruct students to complete the Brown v. Board of Education section on the Google doc Graphic Organizer


Ask students to compare this document to the separate but equal principle established in the 14th Amendment. Have them answer: To what extent were schools for African-American children equal to those for whites?

**Strategy Three: Application** Distribute the final two documents – the Resource 3: Segregation Letter and Resource 4: Burton Letter. Instruct students to complete these sections on the Google Doc Graphic Organizer. Reading Strategy: These two letters present two contrasting views of school integration. Ask students to identify words in each letter that reveal the author’s opinion of integration. Students can use a web to organize these words from the texts.

Example: Segregation Letter
- unconstitutional
- school integration
- communistic enslavement

What do these documents tell us about the educational experience for African-Americans after school segregation was legally ended by Brown v. Board of Education?
Closure/Exit Ticket
• To what extent did civil rights in education for African-Americans change over time? Use specific examples from three of the documents to support your answer.