

Upgraded Schools Urged As the Route to Integration

By LEONARD BUDER

A court-appointed special master has recommended that Mark Twain Junior High School in Coney Island be reorganized next year as a special school offering a wide range of courses that would, it is hoped, attract an integrated student enrollment.

In calling for a "magnet" school, the special master, Curtis J. Berger, rejected other proposals for the involuntary busing of hundreds of children to give Mark Twain and other middle schools in Brooklyn's Community School District 21 better balanced enrollments.

In today's emotional climate, Mr. Berger said, "forced busing to achieve integration must be a solution of last resort and not the place to begin." But, he added, "if all else fails, the court may have no other alternative but to direct this remedy."

Mr. Berger, a Columbia University law professor and urban affairs specialist, made the recommendations in a 73-page report submitted to Judge Jack B. Weinstein of the Federal District Court. He said that a second report, dealing with "the physical and human renewal of Coney Island," would be presented next Monday. Judge Weinstein is scheduled to hold hearings on the proposals starting July 10.

Violations Charged

Last April, Judge Weinstein appointed Mr. Berger to formulate plans for desegregating Mark Twain, which is predominantly black and Puerto Rican, although the surrounding area has a heavy elderly white population.

In a sweeping decision handed down in January, Judge Weinstein ruled that both Chancellor Irving Anker of the city schools and the District 21 school board were in violation of the Constitution for failure

to correct racial imbalance at the school.

Judge Weinstein said that the housing situation had contributed to racial imbalance in the area's schools, and he directed city, state and Federal housing authorities, along with city agencies, and central and local school officials, to submit proposals to correct the imbalance.

In his report to the court, Mr. Berger said his recommendation for the reorganization of Mark Twain Junior High School represented a modification of a proposal made by the District 21 board for the conversion of the school into an institution for gifted and talented children.

John Dewey High Cited

Mr. Berger said that the school should be modeled, where feasible, after the John Dewey High School, which is also in District 21 but operated under central jurisdiction. The Dewey school, established five years ago, has attracted wide attention for innovative educational programs.

In line with the John Dewey High School concept, Mr. Berger said, the revamped junior high school should not only be a school for the gifted and the talented but also should serve "those who have special skills or interests" in a wide range of fields.

Judge Weinstein's decision was handed down in a suit sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.