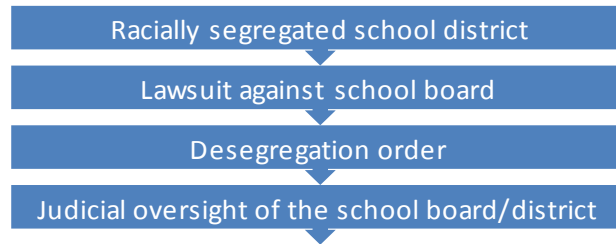


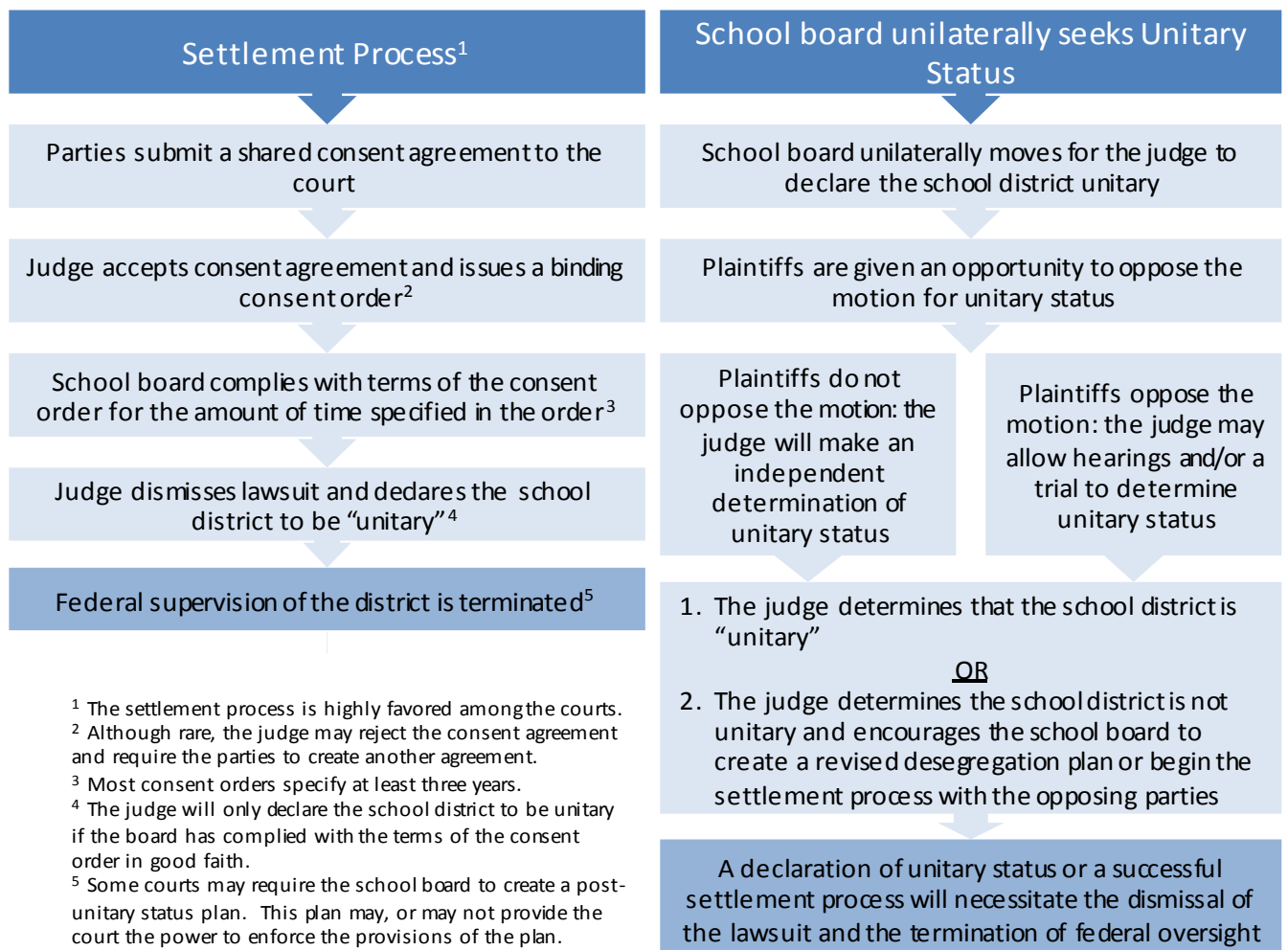


The chart below illustrates the typical stages of desegregation litigation:



The process to resolve desegregation litigation may be initiated by:

1. The school board petitioning the court to resolve litigation, OR
2. The plaintiff or other interested party claiming a violation of the desegregation order, thus reopening the litigation, OR
3. The judge independently calling a status conference to initiate action to resolve the desegregation.



<sup>1</sup> The settlement process is highly favored among the courts.  
<sup>2</sup> Although rare, the judge may reject the consent agreement and require the parties to create another agreement.  
<sup>3</sup> Most consent orders specify at least three years.  
<sup>4</sup> The judge will only declare the school district to be unitary if the board has complied with the terms of the consent order in good faith.  
<sup>5</sup> Some courts may require the school board to create a post-unitary status plan. This plan may, or may not provide the court the power to enforce the provisions of the plan.

