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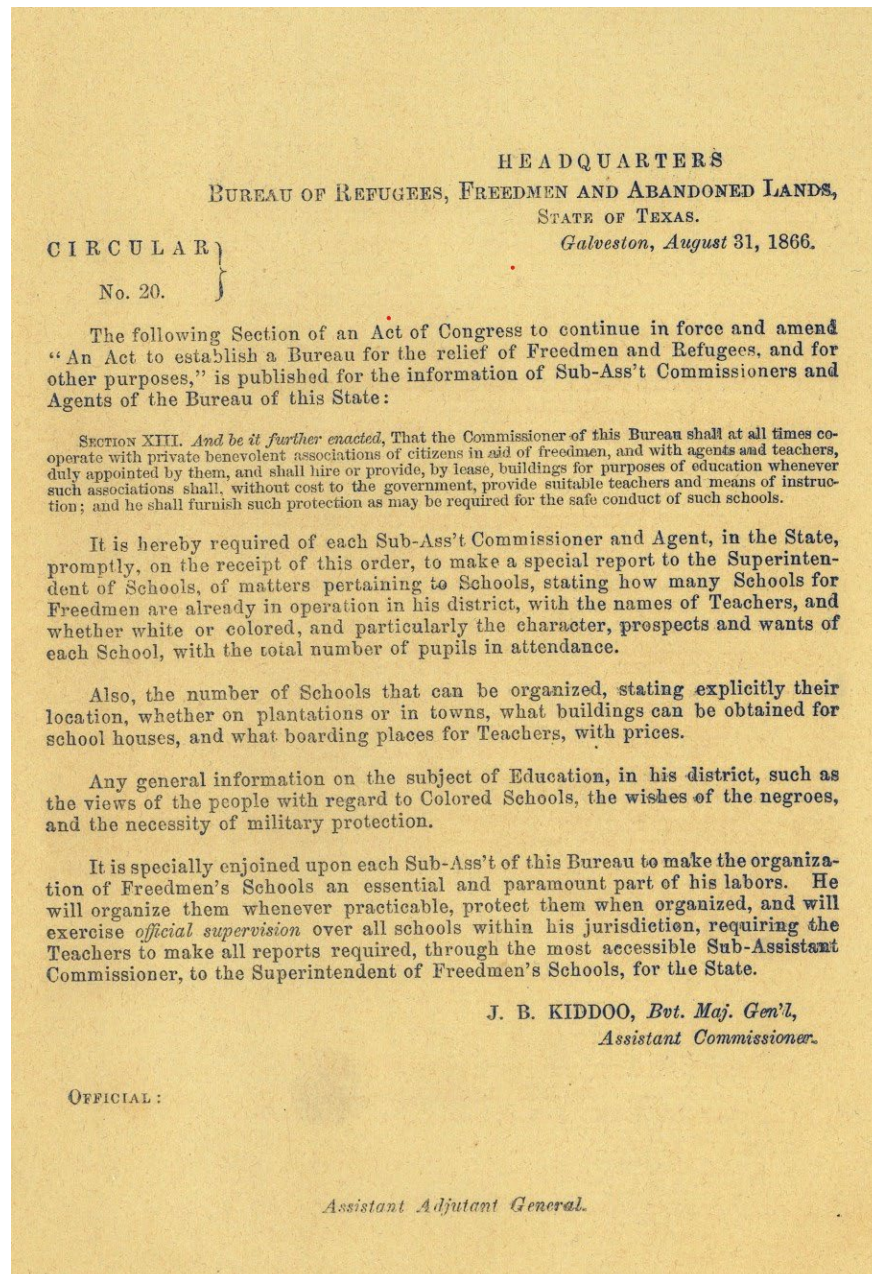
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## Voices of Reconstruction: African American and Women's Perspectives

### Primary Source Analysis: Freedman's Bureau, Circular No. 3

**Instructions:** With a partner, examine the primary source excerpts below and answer the questions that follow. Transcription of this document is below.



**Read Circular No. 20, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, Galveston,  
August 31, 1866**

HEADQUARTERS  
BUREAU OF REFUGEES, FREEDMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS,  
STATE OF TEXAS  
*Galveston, August 31, 1866*

CIRCULAR  
No. 20

The following Section of an Act of Congress to continue in force and amend "An Act to establish a Bureau for the relief of Freedmen and Refugees, and for other purposes," is published for the information of Sub-Ass't Commissioners and Agents of the Bureau of this State:

SECTION XIII. And be it further enacted, That the Commissioner of this Bureau shall at all times cooperate with private benevolent associations of citizens in aid of freedmen, and with agents and teachers, duly appointed by them, and shall hire or provide, by lease, buildings for purposes of education whenever such associations shall, without cost to the government, provide suitable teachers and means of instruction; and he shall furnish such protection as may be required for the safe conduct of such schools.

It is hereby required of each Sub-Ass't Commissioner and Agent, in the State, promptly, on the receipt of this order, to make a special report to the Superintendent of Schools, of matters pertaining to Schools, stating how many Schools for Freedmen are already in operation in his district, with the names of Teachers, and whether white or colored, and particularly the character, prospects and wants of each School, with the total number of pupils in attendance.

Also, the number of Schools that can be organized, stating explicitly their location, whether on plantations or in towns, what buildings can be obtained for school houses, and what boarding places for Teachers, with prices.

Any general information on the subject of Education, in his district, such as the views of the people with regard to Colored Schools, the wishes of the negroes, and the necessity of military protection.

It is specially enjoined upon each Sub-Ass-t of this Bureau to make the organization of Freedmen's Schools an essential and paramount part of his labors. He will organize them whenever practicable, protect them when organized, and will exercise official supervision over all schools within his jurisdiction, requiring the Teachers to make all reports required, through the most accessible Sub-Assistant Commissioner, to the Superintendent of Freedmen's Schools, for the State.

J. B. KIDDOO, *Bvt. Maj. Gen'l,*  
*Assistant Commissioner.*

### ***Analysis Questions***

1. Based on Section XIII of the document, what is the Commissioner of the Bureau responsible for?
2. What information must the Superintendent provide upon request?
3. Why might the government need to order these kinds of updates on the status of schooling for African Americans in Texas?