



PRESS RELEASE
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Arkansas Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Public Hearings:

IDEA Compliance and Implementation in Arkansas Schools

The Arkansas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is continuing its ongoing study of IDEA Compliance and Implementation in Arkansas Schools. The Committee seeks to better understand the extent to which students with disabilities are receiving the services to which they are entitled under relevant law and how the achievement of students with disabilities compares to the achievement of their non-disabled peers. The Committee is also reviewing the extent to which the provision of services to students with disabilities in Arkansas has resulted in disparities in both access and effectiveness based on race, color, sex, national origin, or religion.

The second and third panel discussions in this ongoing series will take place:

- **Panel II: Friday, November 5, 2021** from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm CST
 - Public comment begins at 2:40pm CT
 - Online registration at: <https://bit.ly/2YEQ7QR>
 - Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505; Access code: 2760 339 7872
- **Panel III: Friday, December 10, 2021** from 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm CST
 - Public comment begins at 2:10pm CT
 - Online registration at: <https://bit.ly/3AG1bds>
 - Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505; Access code: 2760 998 4863

Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment period near the end of each meeting. As part of this ongoing inquiry, the Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to mwojnaroski@usccr.gov throughout the duration of the study.

Closed captions will be provided. People who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and providing the Service with the above listed conference call number and access code. Individuals requiring other accommodations should contact the regional program unit at (202) 618-4158 five business days prior to the meeting to make their request.

Committee Chair Rob Steinbuch said, “I’m very excited that the Arkansas Committee is undertaking this study. As a longtime academic, I share the interest of all the Committee members in focusing our attention on education in Arkansas. Nothing is more important for the state and the nation than ensuring that our youth be given all the opportunities to compete on the world stage.”

The Arkansas Committee will issue findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission after all testimony has been received.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).