



PRESS RELEASE
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**Arkansas Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Study on IDEA Compliance and Implementation in Arkansas Schools, Calls for
Public Comment**

The Arkansas Advisory Committee (Committee) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will conduct a study of IDEA Compliance and Implementation in Arkansas schools.

The Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA)¹ requires state and local education agencies to “provide a free and appropriate public education to children with disabilities.” In this study, the Committee will examine the extent to which students with disabilities are receiving the services to which they are entitled under the IDEA, and how the achievement of students with disabilities compares to the achievement of their non-disabled peers. In addition, the Committee will study whether and the extent to which the provision of services to students with disabilities in Arkansas has resulted in disparities in both educational access and effectiveness based on race, color, sex, national origin, or religion. The Committee will work to identify policy recommendations to address any related areas of civil rights concern.

As part of this study, the Committee invites Arkansas families, students, educators, and other stakeholders to share their experiences regarding educational opportunity for children with disabilities in Arkansas schools. Written statements may be submitted via email at mwojnaroski@usccr.gov. Please submit statements by November 1, 2021. In addition to written statements, the Committee will host a series of web-based meetings to hear public testimony. Meeting details are forthcoming. Please visit www.usccr.gov or consult the federal register at <https://www.federalregister.gov/agencies/civil-rights-commission> for more information.

Committee Chair, Robert 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 Advisory 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

¹ 20 U.S.C. §1400, *et. seq.*

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](#).