



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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Contact: Melissa Wojnaroski  
(202) 618-4158  
[mwojnaroski@usccr.gov](mailto:mwojnaroski@usccr.gov)

**Arkansas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
Holds Public Hearing:  
IDEA Compliance and Implementation in Arkansas Schools**

The Arkansas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will host a series of web-based public hearings on IDEA Compliance and Implementation in Arkansas Schools.

The first meeting will take place via web conference on **Friday August 6, 2021 from 1-2:30 pm Central Time**. The public may register for the event online (audio/visual), at: <https://bit.ly/3hSnEwk>. The public may also join the call by phone (audio only) at 800-360-9505; Access code 199 366 3521. Closed captions will be provided. 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.

The Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA)<sup>1</sup> 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.

The Committee will hear testimony from additional speakers to be scheduled throughout fall of 2021. Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment period near the end of each meeting. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to [mwojnaroski@usccr.gov](mailto:mwojnaroski@usccr.gov) throughout the duration of this project.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 20 U.S.C. §1400, *et. seq.*

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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. For information about the Commission, please visit [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).*