



**NEWS RELEASE**

August 28, 2023

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**West Virginia Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
Announces Public Briefing on the Civil Rights Impact of Disparate and Exclusionary School Disciplinary  
Policies & Practices in West Virginia Public Schools**

The West Virginia Advisory Committee (Committee) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) has been examining the civil rights impact that exclusionary and punitive school disciplinary policies, practices, and procedures may have on students of color, students with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ students in West Virginia public schools (K-12). Over the years, a number of articles, reports, and studies conducted by federal and state governments, researchers, scholars, and non-profit entities have found that school students of color, students with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ students experience disciplinary decisions and exclusions more often and harsher than their counterparts.

Since August 2021, the Committee has held several virtual briefings and heard testimony from national and state experts, as well as impacted individuals. The Committee will conduct a final virtual panel briefing to hear testimony from West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) officials and staff about disciplinary data, policies, practices, procedures, guidance, and training in West Virginia public schools. The Committee will submit a written report to the Commission about what was learned from this review, including findings and recommendations. More details about this panel briefing will be shared on our information page [here](#).

Date: Friday, September 29, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Meeting Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1602346859>

Telephone Access (Audio Only): 1-833-435-1820, Meeting ID: 160 234 6859#

Committee Chair Lisa K. Younis said, “WV Advisory Committee members have conducted seven virtual briefings. Like the Commission, this Committee relies on the information provided by school discipline subject-matter experts. Committee members look forward to the data and information that will be shared by the WVDE.”

After the Chair announces that the panel briefing has concluded, she will invite members of the public, if any, to make brief oral statements on the topic, with each statement not exceeding five minutes. Closed captioning is available by selecting “CC” in the Zoom meeting platform. Individuals requiring additional accommodations should contact [svillanueva@usccr.gov](mailto:svillanueva@usccr.gov) at least 10 business days prior to this panel briefing. Additionally, members of the public are encouraged to submit written statements via email. Statements received within 30 days after the virtual briefing, i.e., October 27, 2023, will be included in the briefing record.

**Kindly send the statement to [ero@usccr.gov](mailto:ero@usccr.gov), using the subject line: WV School Discipline.**

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the 1957 Civil Rights Act, is the only independent, bipartisan federal entity charged with advising the President and the Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Its 56 advisory committees offer broad perspectives on civil rights concerns in their jurisdictions. For more information on the Commission and Committees, please visit [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).