



U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Report: The Federal Response to Teacher Shortage Impacts on Students with Disabilities

Washington D.C. -- Today, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights releases its report entitled, "[*The Federal Response to Teacher Shortage Impacts on Students with Disabilities*](#)."

The Commission began this investigation to better understand how the national teacher shortage is affecting students with disabilities and to examine how the federal government, especially the U.S. Department of Education, has responded to this challenge.

This work builds on reports from the Commission's [Advisory Committees](#), which are active in every state, Washington D.C., and the U.S. territories. In January 2023, the Arkansas Advisory Committee released a [report](#) examining the state's compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In January 2024, the Nevada Advisory Committee published a [report](#) on unfair learning conditions stemming from teacher and staff shortages. Lastly, in December 2024, the D.C. Advisory Committee released a [report](#) regarding access to special education and transportation services in D.C. for students with disabilities.

As part of the examination, the Commission held a [public briefing](#) in November 2024 in Washington, D.C. where educators, advocates, and people directly impacted by these issues shared their stories and recommendations. Then, in December, the Commission hosted a [virtual listening session](#) so parents, students, and teachers from across the country could speak about how these shortages have affected them.

"Under President Trump and Secretary McMahon's leadership we are seeing a renewed commitment to empowering families—giving parents greater educational choice and influence at the state and local levels to ensure all children receive the education they deserve. Every child, regardless of ability, must be guaranteed access to a quality education and we must act with urgency to uphold these promises. As we confront the challenges of teacher shortages, especially for students with disabilities, we remain committed to ensuring federal protections for our disabled students remains a priority. Together, we can build a future where students, and families are prioritized over antiquated and failed systems." – Commissioner Stephen Gilchrist

###

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 56 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 www.usccr.gov.