



PRESS RELEASE
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**Kansas Advisory Committee Announces Public Meetings:
Barriers to Equal Access to Educational Opportunity**

Washington, DC – The Kansas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene three public meetings – via webinar - to discuss barriers to equal access to educational opportunity which may have a discriminatory impact on students based on race, color, disability status, national origin, and/or sex. In March 2017, the Kansas Supreme Court found that the state’s funding formula, currently structured as a block grant, is unconstitutional because it fails to provide adequate education to approximately one-fourth of its students, primarily those from “harder-to-educate” groups.

The public meetings will take place as follows:

- **Monday, March 5, 2018:** Researcher/Academic Panel: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm CST
Public dial: 877-741-4240; conference ID 9385776
Ready Talk: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/x754spq2wlk4&eom>
- **Thursday, March 22, 2018:** Legislator Panel: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm CST
Public dial: 877-340-7912; conference ID: 6019760
Ready Talk: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/tljh8wkwil3f&eom>
- **April 2018 (Date TBD):** Community Panel (details forthcoming: www.usccr.gov)

Members of the public will be invited to speak during open comment periods at each meeting. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to mwojnaroski@usccr.gov by May 31, 2018.

Committee Chair Mildred Edwards said, “Equity in education means that personal or social circumstances such as gender, ethnic origin or family background are not obstacles to achieving educational potential and that all individuals reach at least a basic minimum level of skills. For the benefit of our nation and our state, I believe the protection of these civil rights should be a primary goal of all citizens.”

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