



PRESS RELEASE
May 13, 2020

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Web Conference on Disparities in School Discipline Vermont Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

On May 21, 2020, the Vermont Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, will host a web conference to share findings and recommendations documented in the Committee's recent report "[Disparities in School Discipline in Vermont](#)." Catherine E. Lhamon, Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, will provide opening remarks.

Committee Chair Curtiss Reed said, "While Vermont educators speak in aspirational terms to close the disparities in student discipline, students and their families continue to suffer the indignities and loss of education resulting from disparate treatment. Our recommendations are designed to cultivate equity as an operational norm throughout Vermont schools."

WHEN: Thursday, May 21, 2020 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Eastern Time (ET)

WHERE: Registration:
<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/meetings/mu5830v8mo1s/step2#>

To participate, please access webinar **and** call into the conference line:
Audio: 1-877-628-4685; ID: 9016813

The Vermont Committee reports that students of color and students with disabilities are overrepresented in cases of exclusionary discipline in Vermont. The Committee made the following findings:

- Vermont has significant racial disparities in school discipline based on race
- There is no long-term or continuous plan for addressing implicit bias in the state
- Zero-tolerance policies, which are ineffective and create racial disparities are still used in school districts in Vermont
- Current data collection practices hinder efforts to address racial disparities
- Students are being informally expelled from school
- There is insufficient training of teachers to deal with students of color and students with emotional disturbances

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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. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit www.usccr.gov and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).