



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**NEW YORK STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RELEASES REPORT ON  
EDUCATION EQUITY IN NEW YORK: A FORGOTTEN DREAM**

The New York State Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights (SAC) has released a report on the inequity of school funding in New York. The Committee heard testimony at its public briefing in June, 2019, that New York students of color are being deprived of the right to participate in civil society as a result of a lack of access to a fundamental quality education, simply based on their poverty or their color. The Committee found several factors contribute to this inequity including the historic underfunding of the state's Foundation Aid program.

In its report, the New York SAC found, among other things, that (i) New York State has failed to fully fund Foundation Aid, to the disproportionate detriment of Black and Latinx children (ii) the Foundation Aid formula that determines most of state aid to schools is based on outdated data, has distortive arbitrary caps and floors and fails to adequately assess the needs of underserved districts and (iii) New York state needs to fund high-need, mostly Black and Latinx school districts, at the level that wealthy communities are funded in order to bring equity to the property-tax based funding system.

Alexandra D. Korry, chair of the New York SAC, states: "It is shameful that in an era in which we build skyscraping apartments that sell for mega-millions we cannot dream big enough to provide a quality education to our most underserved students. New York's failure to provide a decent education to its poorest students, many of whom are students of color, violates the very precepts of a civil and just society and deprives our children of even the possibility of participation in society. This is the civil rights issue of our time."

The report is posted on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights website at <https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2020/02-10-Education-Equity-in-New%20York.pdf>. A print version of the full report is also available from the Regional Program Unit of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and can be obtained by contacting Carolyn Allen at [callen@usccr.gov](mailto:callen@usccr.gov).

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report.

The Commission, by Congressional mandate, establishes Advisory Committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Committee members conduct reviews and produce reports and recommendations concerning local civil rights issues, including justice, voting, discrimination, housing, education, and other important themes. For information about the Commission and our Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).