



PRESS RELEASE
April 12, 2024

Contact: Mallory Trachtenberg
mtrachtenberg@usccr.gov

District of Columbia Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Public Briefings on Accessing Services for Students with Disabilities in D.C. Public Schools

The District of Columbia Advisory Committee (Committee) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) is examining the accessibility and provision of services for students with disabilities in D.C. public schools. The Committee is exploring whether current policies, practices, and procedures restrict access to these services based on race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice. The Committee has conducted two briefings and is hosting three additional briefings to take testimony from a broad range of subject-matter experts. After receiving testimony, the Committee will present its findings and recommendations on this topic to the Commission. The Committee has scheduled its additional briefings for the following dates and times, all in Eastern Time:

Briefing III (Virtual): Government and Policy

When: Thursday, May 2, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET; Location: [Virtual Only](#)

Briefing IV (Virtual): After-Hours Public Forum for Impacted Individuals

When: Tuesday, May 7, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET; Location: [Virtual Only](#)

Note: If you are an impacted individual, which includes family members of students with disabilities, and you wish to offer a comment at this forum, please complete the following form by Friday, May 3, 2024, to ensure you are added to the list of individuals interested in speaking: <https://wkf.ms/3U2t4YW>. Individuals who sign up in advance will be invited to speak first. This forum will conclude before 8 pm ET if all those who have indicated interest have already spoken, so please plan to join at 6 pm ET to indicate your interest in speaking. Members of the public may also offer public comment during the May 2nd or May 10th briefings, but this forum has been set up to allow for those who cannot join during business hours to share their experiences with the Committee.

Briefing V (Virtual and In Person): Advocates and Researchers

When: Friday, May 10, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET

Location: 1601 K St NW Room 1A, Washington, DC 20006 and [Virtual](#)

Note: This briefing will be conducted *both* in person and virtually. Members of the public are welcome to attend at the address provided or join virtually via the registration link.

All meeting registration information is available [here](#). At each of these briefings, Committee Chair Wayne Heard will invite members of the public to make brief oral statements on the topic. Please note that the duration of each briefing may conclude before the allotted two-hour time slot if there are few members of the public wishing to offer comments.

Closed captioning is available by selecting “CC” in the Zoom meeting platform. Individuals requiring additional accommodations should contact Sarah Villanueva at svillanueva@usccr.gov at least 10 business days prior to this briefing. Members of the public are encouraged to submit written statements by June 9, 2024 for inclusion in the briefing record. **Kindly email any written statements to svillanueva@usccr.gov, using the subject line: DC Special Education.**

#####

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 information about the Commission, please visit www.usccr.gov and follow us on [X](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).