

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION TO EXAMINE WHETHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE FACILITATING OR IMPEDING SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

Commission probes whether school districts are implementing the supplemental educational services program.

What: Meeting of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, an independent, bipartisan agency charged with monitoring and protecting civil rights

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) has assembled three expert panels to discuss whether school districts are implementing or impeding the Supplemental Educational Services (SES) program under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The SES program is intended to provide low-income students with academic assistance, including tutoring and remediation, as well as summer school. Some school districts have been criticized for failing to provide appropriate SES and for failing to provide parents with adequate information about their rights.

The speakers will include a panel of experts, a panel of parents, and a panel of government officials and representatives. The experts will include Hon. Eugene Hickok, former Deputy Secretary of Education; Maite Arce, vice president, Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options; Harrison Blackmond, Jr., president and CEO, Detroit Chapter, Black Alliance for Educational Options; Derrell Bradford, deputy director, Excellent Education for Everyone; and Joel Packer, director, Education Policy and Practice Department, National Education Association.

Parents will include Sakyibera Fitzgerald, parent, Newark, New Jersey; Ernestine Francies, district parent coordinator, Passaic, New Jersey; Juan Granados, parent, Dallas, Texas; Nytasha Lee, parent, Camden, New Jersey; and Shelba Woods, parent, Detroit, Michigan.

Government representatives will include Newark, New Jersey, Superintendent Marion Bolden; Camden, New Jersey, Superintendent Leonard Fitts; Detroit Public Schools Executive Director Badriyyah Sabree; Passaic, New Jersey, Supervisor, Department of Testing, Research, and Evaluation, Christine Krenicki; and Reginald M. Felton, director, Federal Relations, National School Boards Association.

Public comments may be provided through February 26, 2007, by e-mail, accessible on the Commission's Web site (www.usccr.gov), at: NCLBCOMMENTS@USCCR.GOV or mailed to: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Office of Civil Rights Evaluation, Room 740, 624 Ninth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20425.

When: Friday, January 26, 2007, 9:00 a.m.

Where: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 624 Ninth Street NW, Room 540 Washington, D.C.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with monitoring federal civil rights enforcement. Members include Chairman Gerald A. Reynolds, Vice Chairman Abigail Thernstrom, and Commissioners Jennifer C. Braceras, Peter N. Kirsanow, Arlan D. Melendez, Ashley L. Taylor, and Michael Yaki. Kenneth L. Marcus is Staff Director. Commission meetings are open to the media and general public.

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