



Fulfill The Promise

A National Civil Rights Campaign for Special Education

March 23, 2021

Dear President Biden, Secretary Cardona, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and U.S. Congressional Committee on Education and Labor:

We wholeheartedly sign onto the national civil rights campaign to fulfill the promises to our students with disabilities that the federal government made under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act:

- That all children with disabilities have available to them a free and appropriate public education with support and services designed to meet their unique needs
- That the federal government cover 40% of the additional cost required to provide those necessary services under the IDEA
- That the federal government protect the civil rights of students with disabilities to have their needs met in a comparable way as non-disabled students

We are part of a diverse coalition of parents of students with disabilities, disability rights organizations, educator unions, community organizations, and representatives from our respective communities across the United States. We demand that the federal government step in to fulfill its promises to students, schools, and communities: provide adequate funding for students with disabilities and protect the civil rights of students of color with disabilities who have been so profoundly and disproportionately negatively impacted by the decades' long failure of Congress to fulfill its promises.

We support the remedies requested in the Class Petition for Guidance Documents that will be filed by parents, labor unions, and the Advocacy Institute to the Department of Education on March 23, 2021, some of which include:

- Guidance to meet student needs such as the backlog of IEP evaluations, social and emotional needs, trauma related needs, and the needs of English-language learners with disabilities and students of color with disabilities
- Guidance regarding how to safely provide in-person close-contact special education services while also complying with necessary COVID-19 health and safety protocols to protect a population of students that may be especially susceptible to infection and death
- Guidance to ensure that American Rescue Plan Act funds are spent in equitable ways to assist students with disabilities and students with mental health needs
- Commitment to improving enforcement protocols and boosting the government's oversight capacity to monitor shortcomings and prevent further systematic problems

We are committed to fighting for the necessary resources for our most vulnerable students during this devastating pandemic and as we work towards a new normal where the federal government finally fulfills its promises to all of our students, schools, and communities.

Sincerely,

The Advocacy Institute

Laquana A. parent of M.M.

Alicia B., parent of J.H.

Boston Teachers Union

Education Austin

Tiffany G., parent of I.G.

Anna H., parent of Z.H., B.H., and L.I.

Evelyn P., parent of D.P.

Perla S., parent of A.S.

Madison Teachers Inc.

Manuela P., parent of A.P.

Martha S., parent of J.S.

Milwaukee Teachers' Education Assoc.

National Disability Rights Network

Oakland Education Association

United Teachers Los Angeles

