

**Questions for the Record from
REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICA S. WILSON**

**Committee on Education and the Workforce
Full Committee Hearing:
“Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Department of Education”
Tuesday, May 16, 2023
10:15 a.m.**

**Representative Frederica S. Wilson (D-FL)
Questions for Secretary Miguel Cardona**

1. In 2021, I hosted a briefing with the Bard Prison Initiative, highlighting the importance of higher education in reducing recidivism amongst formerly incarcerated individuals.
 - a. With Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated individuals arriving in July, how will the Department ensure equitable and widespread access to these newly available funds?
2. Secretary Cardona, as you may know, the President’s FY24 budget proposal requested an increase for HBCUs. As a proud alumna of Fisk University, I know firsthand how HBCUs educate our young adults for their respective careers and future endeavors.
 - a. As students continue to navigate their educational journey post-pandemic, could you elaborate on the Department’s responsibility for ensuring adequate and sufficient funds are made available for those institutions?
3. A 2018 Government Accountability Office report found that Black boys are disproportionately suspended, expelled, referred to law enforcement, and subjected to corporal punishment. Additionally, the Department’s Civil Rights Data Collection has shown persistent disparities in the use of exclusionary discipline. In 2014, the Obama Administration published cross-agency guidance, which was intended to support schools in reducing racial disparities in the administration of school discipline, but the Trump Administration later rescinded it.
 - a. Secretary Cardona, does the Department plan to reinstate and improve upon the 2014 school discipline guidance? Precisely, how does the Department plan to address discipline disparities?
4. Secretary Cardona, many students have experienced significant trauma over the last few years because of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially students in economically distressed communities. According to a 2019 Government Accountability Office (GAO) study, schools that adopt a trauma-sensitive approach report many positive outcomes, including decreased

disciplinary actions, improvements in school climate, and better relationships between teachers and students and among students.

- a. How are states and districts using American Rescue Plan funds to implement trauma-informed practices and support students' social and emotional needs?
5. In the 2015-2016 school year, only half of the nation's public schools had a full-time registered nurse (RN) on staff. I sponsored the One School, One Nurse Act of 2023 to ensure every elementary and secondary school has a full-time registered nurse available.
 - a. Can you discuss how states and districts utilized ARP ESSER funds to increase their school nurse workforce?
6. Secretary Cardona, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title I Part D is an important program to help support children and youth who are neglected, delinquent, or at-risk by investing in educational services for these students, providing them with services to successfully transition from institutionalization in juvenile justice facilities to further schooling or employment, and preventing youth who are at-risk from dropping out of school. The COVID-19 pandemic especially impacted this population of students.
 - a. What measures is the Department taking to ensure they have complete and accurate data from Title I Part D grant recipients?
 - b. How is the Department ensuring that states are carrying out their Title I Part D plans, and what oversight is the Department conducting over states' implementation of these programs?