

To Members of the Senate Education Finance & Policy Committee,

We, the Minnesota Collective for Educational Equity (MnCEE), would like to formally offer our support for [SF788](#). The crisis of academic, discipline, and social-emotional inequity that continues to plague Minnesota schools is a systemic problem that requires a systemic solution. Thus, we are calling upon our state leaders to support SF788 in pursuit of the implementation of a Minnesota MTSS (MnMTSS) framework along with its numerous meaningful updates toward promoting inclusive environments, promoting the use of evidence-based instruction, and increasing the number of BIPOC educators in Minnesota.

Of utmost importance to MnCEE is the inclusion of the MnMTSS definition, as we have continuously promoted [Equity-Centered MTSS](#) as a foundation for meaningful progress in Minnesota's schools. MnMTSS is an evidence-based framework that is designed to effectively allocate resources within our schools. Extensive research has demonstrated support for MTSS as an innovation that can meaningfully reduce disparities in education. Much of the initial research that informed the development of MTSS was born in Minnesota in the 1970s; however, Minnesota students have been denied the opportunities it provides as our state leaders have historically failed to support implementation of this approach. Meanwhile Minnesota educators have watched as our neighboring states (e.g., Wisconsin) have implemented a statewide MTSS model and demonstrated its effectiveness in reducing disparities in the areas of academic achievement and the use of exclusionary discipline practices. It is time for Minnesota leaders to embrace Equity-Centered MTSS through SF788.

Minnesota is presently faced with the opportunity to do what is right. For years, MN educators and students have watched state leaders vow to close the opportunity gap in Minnesota with no comprehensive statewide implementation support for evidence-based methods. SF788 provides us with an opportunity to support *every* student in MN schools. If we want *every* student to thrive in our schools, Minnesota must embrace the MnMTSS definition in SF788.

As a collective, we believe that the updates within SF788 offer a meaningful path toward addressing our unacceptable inequities in education. Through the MnMTSS framework along with policies that meaningfully address the need for mental health systems, promote welcoming and inclusive environments, guide productive approaches to disciplinary practices, promote attendance, and increase the percentage of BIPOC teachers, we know that we can take meaningful steps toward opportunity that is truly afforded to every student in Minnesota.

Respectfully,
Minnesota Collective for Educational Equity