

To Members of the Senate's Education Finance and Policy Committee,

We, the Minnesota Collective for Educational Equity (MnCEE), would like to formally offer our support for SF960. The crisis of academic, social-emotional, and disciplinary 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 SF960 in pursuit of the implementation of a Minnesota MTSS (MnMTSS) framework.

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. Furthermore, the MTSS framework would be meaningful in supporting the integrity of evidence-based instructional programs (e.g., LETRS) which are also being introduced within present policy. This support would be vital in ensuring the success of such programs in reducing our disparities while improving outcomes for *every* student. It is time for Minnesota leaders to embrace Equity-Centered MTSS through SF960.

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. SF960 provides us with an opportunity to support *every* student, educator, family, and community.

Respectfully,
Minnesota Collective for Educational Equity