

## **PACER Center 2023 Legislative Priorities**

### **Ensuring Equitable Funding for Special Education Tied to Improved Outcomes**

PACER seeks increased state funding to ensure that the nearly one of five or twenty percent of Minnesota students who qualify for and receive special education services are well prepared for community inclusion and can contribute to Minnesota's future workforce. This includes permanently fulfilling the promise of fully funding special education and ensuring that this funding results in improved outcomes for students with disabilities.

### **Increasing Access to Mental Health Resources**

PACER supports initiatives that increase student access to equitable and appropriate mental health approaches, services, and supports both in and out of school.

### **Increasing Support and Funding for Paraprofessionals**

PACER supports increasing funding for paraprofessionals to ensure they receive paid time for trainings, professional development, meetings, and can sustain their important work as a career. Students with disabilities benefit from trained, consistent, experienced paraprofessional support.

### **Decreasing Exclusionary Discipline Practices**

PACER supports legislation that decreases the use of suspensions, exclusions, and expulsions, and other harmful disciplinary practices such as withholding recess, that neither meet the needs of students nor promote a positive school culture.

### **Increasing Parental Access to the IEP Process**

PACER seeks to increase the ability of all parents including those with disabilities to access reasonable accommodations that support their full participation in the IEP process.

### **Increasing Access to Educational Services including Transportation**

PACER seeks to address concerns around school aged children who are not receiving educational services because of placements with other service providers.

### **Supporting Students and Young Adults to Transition to Adulthood**

PACER supports enhancing services and resources to support students and young adults with disabilities to develop skills needed to successfully transition to adulthood in areas such as employment, education, independent living, and others.

### **Reducing Parental Fees**

PACER seeks to eliminate or greatly reduce the parental fees for the Medical Assistance TEFRA and Waiver programs. These high fees can cause financial stress, resulting in many families not accessing important home- and community-based services that would be extremely beneficial to children's health and development.