

COALITION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

March 7, 2023

Education Policy Committee
Minnesota Senate
95 University Ave. W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Cwodzinski and Members of the Education Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Coalition for Children with Disabilities, we are writing to express support for provisions in House File 1311, the Senate Education Omnibus Policy bill. We thank the chair for the focus on non-exclusionary principles and policies. We support the following provisions in the Omnibus Education Policy Bill that provide:

- School policy on malicious and sadistic conduct (Article 2, Section 3)
- Additional teacher training for online teaching (Article 2, Section 5)
- Requirements for use of non-exclusionary practices before dismissal in discipline cases (Article 5, Section 2,5)
- Ending suspensions and limiting expulsions for K-3 students (Article 5, Section 4)
- Suspension policies focused on inclusion and support for students including requiring educational supports for those who have been suspended 5 days, readmission supports, supports for students who have been bullied, prohibition for exclusionary practices for early learners, prohibiting exclusionary practices for attendance and truancy issues, and a complaint process for parents to dispute discipline decisions (Article 5, Sections 6-11,14)
- Additional restrictive procedure policies (Article 5, Section 12, 16)
- Discipline complaint procedure (Article 5, Section 15)

Items we would like to see included:

- A prohibition of teachers to withhold recess as form of discipline

We are concerned about the inclusion of pupil withdrawals in a student's educational record, as typically the main advantage of engaging in a pupil withdrawal agreement is not having an expulsion on a student's record (Article 5, section 3). If there is an opportunity to re-consider this provision, we would welcome the discussion.

Coalition for Children with Disabilities

Autism Society of Minnesota • The Arc Minnesota • Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota • Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid/Minnesota Disability Law Center
Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance • Minnesota Council on Disability
Multicultural Autism Action Network • PACER Center
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of Minnesota • Proof Alliance