



February 18, 2025

Senate Education Policy Committee

Subject: SF 0507 - IEP Accessibility

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Committee members,

The Arc Minnesota strongly supports SF 507, which improves the accessibility of the IEP process for parents who have a disability themselves or parents who speak a language other than English at home.

Founded by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in 1946, The Arc Minnesota is a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes and protects the human rights of individuals with IDD, supporting them and their families in a lifetime of full inclusion and participation in their communities. We are a chapter of The Arc of the United States, the largest national community-based organization advocating for people with IDD and their families.

The Arc Minnesota is committed to ensuring all children in our state have access to high-quality education. We know that the IEP process is cumbersome, opaque, and complex for all parties involved. It is especially difficult to navigate for parents who speak a language other than English or parents who have a disability themselves.

One of core principles of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is the right of parents to participate in educational decision making regarding their child with a disability. Yet we far too often hear from families about what happens when they do not have equal access to the IEP process:

- Families whose children have been moved to more restrictive settings without their consent or understanding of what that meant. Families who had their IEPs revoked altogether without their consent.
- Families who did not understand that their children were placed in remedial classes.
- Families who requested disability accommodations only to have those requests denied and without any recourse.

We strongly believe that when schools and parents collaborate, students win. This bill brings common sense provisions to ensure collaboration between IEP teams and parents. We therefore respectfully ask for your strong support of SF0507.

Sincerely,

Tina Rucci, Public Policy Director