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The Children's Action Network (CAN)

CAN provides MNCEC members with current data and information related to state and federal legislation and policies that impact special education professionals, children and youth with disabilities and their families.

CAN Committee Co-Chairs

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The Voice and Vision of Special Education

2010

Legislative Platform

The Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children's Mission

To improve practices and resources for persons working on behalf of individuals with exceptionality in the state of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children Advocates the Following Procedures

MNCEC Supports Adequate Funding for All Education

MNCEC believes adequate, predictable and full funding is necessary to ensure ALL Minnesota students receive a high quality, effective education.

- MNCEC supports simplification of special education funding formulas so that they are easily understood, allow districts to accurately predict revenues and are based on current year expenditures.
- MNCEC supports adopting the funding framework proposed by P.S. Minnesota as it represents a comprehensive approach to adequately funding Minnesota Schools.
- MNCEC supports providing dedicated funding for early intervention and identification for at-risk students, thereby reducing the need for long-term, costly special education services.

MNCEC Supports School Wide Intervention Systems Ensuring the Success for All Learners

MNCEC supports the adoption of school wide positive behavioral supports in conjunction with response to interventions programs targeting academics.

- MNCEC supports schools implementing school wide academic and positive behavior intervention support programs.
- MNCEC supports the creation of growth models as well as other methods of accountability in order for students with disabilities to be included appropriately in accountability systems measuring student proficiency.
- MNCEC believes that Minnesota must establish methods to reduce the number of students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who are inappropriately placed in special education.
- MNCEC believes that Minnesota must ensure that discipline provisions for students with disabilities continue to protect their rights to a free appropriate public education.

MNCEC Supports Measures that Improve the Recruitment and Retention of Special Education Professionals

MNCEC believes funding must be provided to support the mentoring of beginning teachers and the retention of highly qualified teachers in the profession.

- MNCEC supports the expansion of teacher preparation programs to address the shortages of highly qualified special education personnel.
- MNCEC supports ongoing professional development to ensure teachers demonstrate skills and apply evidence based practices specific to their field.
- MNCEC supports evaluating federal regulations and Minnesota rule to ensure compliance without exceeding federal mandates where appropriate to reduce workloads for special educators and further promote a supportive work environment.