

## **Coalition for Children with Disabilities 2018 State Legislative Priorities Highlights**

### **Secure Adequate Funding for Special Education**

Minnesota's funding commitment to educate students with disabilities has historically been strong. However, schools continue to rely on part of their local operating budgets to cover all special education costs. The Coalition seeks increased state funding for special education to ensure all Minnesota children receive the quality of education they need.

### **Support Training Time for Paraprofessionals**

The Coalition supports providing professional development and training time for paraprofessionals across the State. Paraprofessionals play an important role in supporting students with disabilities. This training time will allow paraprofessionals to better understand the unique needs of the students they work with and identify targeted strategies to improve student success.

### **Limit the Use of Extreme Disciplinary Measures for All Students**

The Coalition strongly supports legislation that eliminates the use of seclusion and reduces the use of restrictive procedures. Additionally, the Coalition supports the reduced use of suspension and other exclusionary discipline practices. Furthermore, the Coalition supports requiring schools to notify parents immediately if police become involved or a student is taken to a police station.

### **Improve Services for Children with Emotional Behavioral Disorders**

The Coalition seeks ways to improve educational services for young children with emotional or behavior disorders and mental health needs by increasing funding and training options for early childhood educators on challenging behaviors and mental health concerns. The Coalition will also continue to pursue opportunities to improve mental health services, including supporting increased funding for school-linked mental health programs.