

2026 Legislative Agenda

Increase student inclusion, safety, and attendance and reduce use of exclusionary practices

PACER Center believes that all students in all school spaces are entitled to a safe and inclusive learning environment. PACER Center supports legislation, practices and policies that reduce risk of harm and address truancy and exclusion for students whose absences are due to unaddressed bullying, lack of services, access to safe transportation, adequate mental health treatment, or disability-related issues. PACER Center supports maintaining current Medicaid funding for all students with disabilities and efforts that increase schools' access to third party billing. PACER Center will work to ensure that Minnesota's strong laws and rules on special education are maintained.

Increase parental access and empowerment in the education process

PACER Center promotes proposals that increase parents' ability to participate in the IEP and alternative dispute resolution processes that are less expensive and don't require access to an attorney. PACER Center seeks to increase the ability of all parents, including those with disabilities and those who speak a language other than English at home, to access reasonable accommodations that support their full participation in the IEP process. PACER Center supports legislation that makes the dispute resolution process more accessible and uses data to understand how these practices are impacting underserved families.

Support educators to meet the needs of all students

PACER Center supports proposals to improve teacher and staff training on ableism, inclusion, literacy, supportive practices, and de-escalation to reduce seclusion, exclusion, and restrictive procedures. PACER Center supports proposals that seek to address school staff shortages and increase the number of certified teachers and support staff available to work with students with disabilities.

PACER Center improves educational opportunities and enhances the quality of life for children and young adults with disabilities and their families.

