



To Members of the Education Policy Committee,

Minnesota School Psychology Association (MSPA) strongly supports the inclusion of **Minnesota Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MnMTSS)** in **HF3401**. MSPA firmly believes in the MTSS framework as an evidence-based foundation for positive social, emotional, behavioral, developmental, and academic outcomes for every student.

Minnesota's students, families, and educators are operating in a system that is not equipped to succeed. The opportunity gap continues to widen, and the school-to-prison pipeline phenomena and other dire outcomes are becoming more prominent. Implementing isolated programs into an unjust system is not sufficient enough to sustain and amplify positive change in our schools. The state's response to this issue must be on the same scale which follows the intensity of the problem. MnMTSS provides school districts with a framework for structure, equity, and accountability to ensure students' needs are being met. To reach true equity within education requires a collaborative relationship between the community members and those the legislation is intended to serve.

School systems that begin implementing MnMTSS will be provided access to layered tiers of culturally and linguistically responsive, evidence-based practices. The MnMTSS framework relies on the knowledge that every student can learn and thrive, and it engages an anti-bias approach to examining policies and aims to ensure an equitable distribution of resources.

MSPA and the school psychologists of Minnesota are adding our voices to highlight the significance of this bill and MnMTSS. We urge the Committees to support HF3401 and its inclusion of MnMTSS along with numerous additional policy updates that promote just experiences and outcomes in Minnesota's schools. Thank you for considering this important issue.

Respectfully,

Dr. Meghan Hickey, President, Minnesota School Psychologist Association
Damion Smith, President-Elect, Minnesota School Psychologist Association
Daniel Knewitz & Miranda Bernier, MSPA Legislative Chair & Co-Chair

cc: Brad Lundell, Dr. Sally Baas, Dr. Marilyn Leifgren, Amanda Hensgen, Dr. Jessie Kember, Anna Li