

Financing Special Education in New Jersey
New Jersey School Boards Association
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Appendix D: Biographies of the Authors

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Mari Molenaar retired from the New Jersey State Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs after 25 years, most of which was as their Senior Research Analyst. In that capacity she analyzed special education trends, designed the state's web based data collection systems and published the state's annual statistical reports. She also designed and programmed their tracking systems for the due process, complaint investigation and monitoring systems. She represented OSEP on their special education funding projects. Dr. Molenaar has been an independent special education consultant since 2002. Her clients included many districts that were undergoing self-assessment and special administration services for Dunellen Public Schools.

Dr. Molenaar received her Doctorate in special education from Rutgers University, Masters in Early Childhood Education from Kean College and Bachelors in medical technology from Hamline University. She was a Fellow at the National Center for Educational Statistics. She holds certification in New Jersey as a Principal, Learning Disability Teacher-Consultant, Teacher of the Handicapped, and Elementary School Teacher.

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Michael Luciano has been a professional consultant with extensive experience in special education since 2002 when he retired after more than 35 years in New Jersey education. During his career he served as assistant superintendent, director of pupil personnel services, director of guidance, guidance counselor and English teacher.

Mr. Luciano received his Bachelors in English from St. Francis College in New York and his Masters in Student Personnel Services from Rider College [University]. He also attended Rutgers University and Trenton State College [College of New Jersey] for professional certifications. He holds certification in New Jersey as a chief school

administrator, principal, director of student personnel services, student personnel services and secondary English teacher.