

# Jack and Terry O'Connor Fund for Educational Excellence and Innovation



The MSAA is collaborating with the Jack and Terry O'Connor Foundation to provide professional opportunities for Educational Professionals in Massachusetts. The fund's intent is to identify programs of Excellence and Innovation and share these opportunities to promote school and district improvement.

This year, we have launched an initiative to include Special Education Professionals as part of the MSAA. In response to our members' request for more training, the following three Professional Development Workshops will be offered **free of charge** for our new members.

**Join today and receive THREE FREE PD Opportunities for Special Education Professionals**  
Members \$150 / Non-Members: \$205 (per workshop)



## The Legal Aspects of Special Education

**Presenter: Catherine L. Lyons Esq., Lyons Educational Law**

**November 17, 2025 ~ 8:30-11:30am**

Attorney Catherine Lyons will lead a vital professional development session using a popular case study style to help all Special Education Professionals—from veterans to newcomers—navigate the ever-changing landscape of federal and state special education laws, guidelines, and best practices.

## Challenges and Celebrations of Practices

**Presenter: Kim Woodford, Special Education Administrator**

**January 15, 2026 ~ 8:30-11:30am**

Leveraging the vast, multi-level experience of retired Special Education Director Kim Woodford, this interactive and relaxed session invites Team Chairs, Coordinators, and Teachers to share ideas, problem-solve common challenges, and learn from field practitioners through specific case studies and current school/district challenges.

## Behavioral Blindspots: Overlooked Strategies to Effectively Support Students with Social Emotional Challenges

**Presenter: Jessica Minahan, Ph.D., BCBA**

**February 26, 2026 ~ 8:30-11:30am**

Jessica Minahan, Ph.D. an internationally recognized BCBA and Special Education Professional, specializes in training school staff to create behavior intervention plans that effectively combine behavioral strategies with best practices for students with complex mental health profiles, anxiety, trauma histories, and challenging behaviors.

**Workshops were made possible through the generous support of the following donors:**

- The Battles Foundation
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