



## KEAN

### INFORMED CONSENT

**Title of Project:** Identifying biases in New Jersey special education eligibility

**Principal Investigator (PI): Megan Papandrea M.A., CCC-SLP**

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**Kean University Institutional Review Board (IRB):**

Phone: 1-(908)-737-3461; Email: [IRB@kean.edu](mailto:IRB@kean.edu)

You are invited to participate in this research study, an online survey, which aims to examine assessment and eligibility determinations of child study team practitioners in the state of New Jersey (NJ). This study is important because it can potentially contribute to improving special education procedures.

The survey will be conducted through an online program, Qualtrics. You will be asked multiple choice questions, yes/no questions, 4-point Likert scale questions, "check all that apply" questions, open-ended questions about your identification, assessment, and eligibility practices as a child study team member, and an implicit association test (IAT) through "Project Implicit" via Harvard University.

The following people are invited to take this survey: licensed speech-language pathologists (SLPs), licensed school social workers, licensed school psychologists, or licensed learning disabilities teacher consultants (LDTCs) who presently work in a NJ public school, and have worked in such an environment for at least 10 months. Participants who do not meet these qualifications will be excluded from the research study.

#### **Information Regarding Participation:**

- This survey will take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete. Please take this survey at the most convenient time for you.
- Your participation is 100% voluntary, and you can exit this survey at any time.
- Your participation is 100% confidential. If you wish to volunteer to be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 Amazon Gift card, you may choose to enter your email address. Participation in this drawing is completely optional, and entering an email address is entirely up to the participant. If you should choose to enter the drawing, your email address will only be shared with the PI and the faculty advisor. It will be stored on the PI's password protected computer. No other identifying questions will be asked, and the PI disabled the ability for Qualtrics to collect computer or location-based information to protect your anonymity.

- Digital data from Qualtrics will be stored and retained for 5 years on the PI's password-protected computer. All data will be electronically shredded after 5 years.
- You may complete this survey on any device and in any place of your choosing. It is recommended that you complete this survey in a quiet location to ensure your privacy and concentration.
- You will not receive direct benefits for participating in this survey. However, your responses may help us learn more about existing special education identification and assessment procedures.
- There are minimal risks for participating in this survey. The survey may be time-consuming, but you are encouraged to take it whenever is convenient for you. Additionally, if you become aware that you require more information or education about this topic, resources will be provided upon completion.
- You are under no financial obligation to participate in this study.
- You will not receive compensation for participating in this study. However, a drawing to win a monetary prize will be conducted for those who wish to participate. This drawing will randomly select one participant who completed the study and volunteered their email address as a winner of a \$100 Amazon gift card.

If you should have any questions or concerns regarding this study, you may contact the PI, Megan Papandrea, at [papandrm@kean.edu](mailto:papandrm@kean.edu), or the faculty advisor, Dr. Mahchid Namazi at [mnamazi@kean.edu](mailto:mnamazi@kean.edu). You may also contact Kean University's IRB if there are any questions regarding your rights as a research participant [IRB@kean.edu](mailto:IRB@kean.edu).

If you should feel uncomfortable or distressed at any point throughout this survey, please use the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) HelpLine for support by calling 800-950-6264 or emailing [info@nami.org](mailto:info@nami.org).

**Agreement to Participate:**

(You may print a copy of this consent form for your records).

By choosing "yes" below, you consent to the following:

- You have read the above information.
- You are a licensed professional (SLP, school social worker, school psychologist, or LDTC) in the state of NJ.
- You currently work in a NJ public school, and have worked in this environment for at least ten months.

YES, I consent to participate in this study.

NO, I do not consent to participate in this study.