**Jessica Minahan, MEd, BCBA: Expert presenter on mental health and behavioral best practices**

****Jessica presented her work on mental health and behavioral best practices at the LEAP Convening: Building Inclusive and Equitable Learning Opportunities on March 16, 2018. Jessica is the co-author of [***The Behavior Code and The Behavior Code Companion: Strategies, Tools, and Interventions for Supporting Students with Anxiety-Related or Oppositional Behaviors***](https://jessicaminahan.com/the-behavior-code/)**.**

Since 2000 Jessica has worked with students who struggle with mental health issues and challenging behavior in public school systems. She specializes in training clinicians and teachers and creating behavior interventions for students who demonstrate explosive and unsafe behavior, have emotional and behavioral disabilities, trauma, or anxiety disorders. She provides professionals with preventive tools, classroom-friendly strategies, and interventions for reducing anxiety, increasing self-regulation, accurate thinking, and self-monitoring in students.  These easy to implement interventions will lead students to more appropriate, constructive behavior and reduced anxiety in and out of school.

***The Behavior Code: A Practical Guide to Understanding and Teaching the Most Challenging Students***

Minahan, Jessica, & Rappaport, Nancy. *The Behavior Code: A Practical Guide to Understanding and Teaching the Most Challenging Students*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press, 2012. Print.

Learn a systematic approach for deciphering causes and patterns of difficult behaviors and how to match them with proven strategies for getting students back on track to learn. Jessica Minahan and Nancy Rappaport – a behavior analyst and a child psychiatrist – reveal a systematic approach for deciphering causes and patterns of difficult behaviors and how to match them with proven strategies for getting students back on track so they can learn effectively. We provide the conceptual background for breaking the code of what we believe are the four most challenging students in the classroom: students with anxiety-related, oppositional, withdrawn and sexualized behaviors. We provide, in a user-friendly format, a different kind of behavior intervention plan — we call it the FAIR plan — that outlines effective interventions for students demonstrating these challenging behaviors.

More information about Jessica can be found on her website: [Jessica Minahan’s Website](https://jessicaminahan.com/)