

Janna Townsend  
Belgrade, Maine

Janna Townsend is an educator with 40 years of experience. She taught children in the classroom, and instructed teachers on the strategies of teaching and learning by modeling them in a classroom setting. Always interested in teaching struggling learners, she began as an art teacher, using a blackboard and colored chalk as a major teaching tool. Janna became a specialist in 'learning abilities' and mediation, which helped her to build collaborative educational settings where general and special educational students are taught together. A teaching model mandated by law, also 40 years old.

Building inclusive programs in NYC elementary and middle schools, she provided professional development training and taught college courses on collaborative team teaching, cooperative learning, behavior management and peer mediation. Janna developed a Principal's Academy, where school principals were required to learn key concepts of collaborative education and how to support its use prior to embracing the techniques within their schools. This action led the way to delivering direct support to northern district schools to create team teaching classrooms that strategically and effectively taught students with special needs alongside their general ed peers.

Presently retired, Janna now lives in Maine where she and her family have been vacationing for over 30 years. Here, she became involved in her community, offering her time and skills to numerous community efforts. Janna tutors and directs programs for Literacy Volunteers -Waterville Area, where she sits as President of the Board of Directors. With an eye on those with special needs, Janna also sits on the Snow Pond Arts Advisory Board, and serves as Treasurer of Friends of Messalonskee, where she is committed to creating a LakeSmart community and fiddling in her garden.