

DOLLARS & SENSE

TENNESSEE SCHOOL FINANCE
LEARNING SERIES

Session 5 Speakers



Zahava Stadler joined the Education Trust in 2020 as the Special Assistant for State Funding and Policy after having led policy research and analysis at EdBuild. At the Education Trust she supports state-led advocacy on funding reform, providing analysis and research. At EdBuild she participated in the production of a number of reports and research projects, and led the study of state school funding formulas, resulting in the fifty-state formula database FundEd. She also created a detailed set of model funding formula policies, presented in the report *Common Sense and Fairness* and the interactive web tool EdBuilder. Prior to working at EdBuild she focused on human capital needs of high-need schools and districts, primarily through projects implemented with Race to the Top funding. She has a B.A. from Princeton University, and an M.A. in Education Policy and an M.A. in Public Administration from the University of Pennsylvania.



Neil Kirschling is the director of policy and advocacy at Rodel. His work includes strategic planning, policy development, coalition management, program management, and local and national stakeholder engagement to advance student-centered policies across all of Rodel’s focus areas. Previously, he served as a legislative fellow in the Delaware General Assembly, conducted research for the University of Delaware’s Institute for Public Administration, and participated in the Delaware Department of Education’s “Future Education Policy Leaders” program. Neil graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Arts degree in public policy and a Master of Public Administration.