



SPECIAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY REVIEW

Analyze current practices and identify opportunities to better serve students in special education and other struggling students



District Management Group
Helping Schools and Students Thrive

Identify high-impact opportunities to help struggling students

Recommendations based on deep analysis and best practice research

Despite the rising share of funding directed to special education and the hard work of so many caring people, the achievement results of students in special education and other struggling students are a source of frustration for teachers, parents, and students alike.

But achieving better results is possible. Based on a synthesis of pedagogical research, our in-depth study of districts most successful in this area, and our extensive analytics database, District Management Group has identified best practices for helping districts to improve equity and outcomes for struggling students, both with and without IEPs.

There is a better way. And a best-practices approach may cost no more than current efforts.

With these best practices and benchmarking information as guideposts, we perform an in-depth analysis of current practices in your district and then provide key recommendations to drive better results for students in special education as well as for students who struggle.

We have worked with over a hundred districts in the past decade, and with our approach have helped districts realize significant gains in achievement and inclusion and expand services for students with disabilities. The cost may be no more than current efforts and these strategies have helped other struggling students, including struggling readers, students living in poverty, those requiring Response to Intervention (RTI), at-risk students not yet identified for an IEP, and even students with social, emotional, or behavioral needs.

KEY BENEFITS

- Gain an in-depth understanding of **how students are actually being served** based on data captured with our schedule-sharing software

Detailed information includes:

- ✓ Data on service delivery models being used across the district
- ✓ Detail on group size
- ✓ Staffing information showing who delivers specific services
- ✓ Breakdown of how much time staff spend with students, in meetings, and doing paperwork

- **Focus on students who struggle** as well as students in special education
- **Benchmark your district's practices** and key staffing roles to those of similar districts across the country with our proprietary databases
- Receive recommendations on how to **align your current practices to best practices** and improve equity in outcomes
- **Full-day planning retreat** facilitated by DMGroup to prioritize recommendations and help your team begin to develop a detailed action plan





DMGroup has helped districts achieve greater equity and improved outcomes for students who struggle

DMGroup's approach compares your practices to best practices to help you set priorities and drive improvement

Analyze how students are actually being served

DMGroup's schedule-sharing software captures staff's self-reported activities during a typical week. This is combined with quantitative data and qualitative information gathered from interviews, focus groups, parent surveys and classroom observations to gain a holistic understanding of district practices. All this data is then analyzed to provide insights into how struggling students are being served and how staff time is being leveraged.

Benchmark district practices to those of similar districts across the country

DMGroup has gathered an extensive database regarding the delivery of special education services. Seeing how your district ranks vis a vis similar districts provides elucidating information that can help identify opportunities to improve delivery of services for students and increase equity among staff.

Review best practices and identify opportunities

Based on a synthesis of pedagogical research, our in-depth study of districts most successful in this area, and our analysis of data from hundreds of districts, District Management Group has identified best practices for improving special education. Armed with your district data, we review your district's approach relative to our list of best practices and identify recommendations that will have the greatest impact for your struggling students and best leverage the time and talents of your staff.

Conduct prioritization retreat to put recommendations into action

As a final step in the Opportunity Review, DMGroup will facilitate a full-day retreat to prioritize the recommendations put forth and to help your team begin to craft detailed action plans tailored to the culture of your district.

DMGroup is available to work with your district to provide ongoing implementation support. We have experience putting our high-impact, cost-effective recommendations into action with districts as they seek to improve results for students in special education and other students who struggle. **Contact us at 877-362-3500** to learn more.



By having clear, insightful data about our special education practices, our conversations became action-oriented. Our team immensely benefited from comparing and contrasting our data with neighboring and other like-districts, and from learning about DMGroup's recommendations on best practices.

– Patty Phillips

Superintendent, School District 622
North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale (MN)



District Management Group

Helping Schools and Students Thrive

District Management Group was founded in 2004 on the belief that management techniques combined with educational best practices are key to addressing the challenges facing American public schools. Our focus is on partnering with school districts to achieve measurable and sustainable improvement in student outcomes, operational efficiency, and resource allocation to help schools and students to thrive.

Contact us for more information



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