



District
Management
Group

MANAGER'S TOOLKIT

Can You Improve and Expand Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Supports Despite Tight Finances?

Originally published in *District Management Journal*, v.22, Fall 2017

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Nearly all districts are challenged by the growing need for social, emotional, and behavioral supports, but in an era of tight budgets, some districts feel there isn't much they can do to expand and improve services. A number of practical strategies do exist that don't require new funding. Can your district take advantage of some of these opportunities?

QUESTIONS	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely	Not Sure
Do social workers and counselors spend more than half their day providing counseling to students?				
Is attendance at meetings carefully reviewed to include only the most essential participants?				
Are school psychologists assigned behavior-support roles for which they have specialized training?				
Do all staff members supporting a student's social, emotional, and behavioral needs have time to plan together each week during the school day?				
Do classroom teachers have ready access to skilled experts for advice in supporting students with behavioral challenges?				

QUESTIONS	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely	Not Sure
Do discipline policies effectively prevent repeat infractions?				
Do behavior supports focus primarily on preventing problematic behaviors?				
Does a central office leader devote significant time each week to finding and managing outside partners?				
Total number of checkmarks in each column				
Multiply	x 1	x 5	x 10	x 15
Total score by column		+		+
				TOTAL

Your Score	Are there opportunities to improve and expand social, emotional, and behavioral supports despite tight finances?
5–20	You are doing almost everything right. Keep it up!
21–40	You have many key elements in place. Adding a few missing pieces could make a very big difference.
41–60	There are some opportunities to help you better meet the needs of your students.
61-plus	As in many districts, there are significant opportunities to expand and improve social, emotional, and behavioral supports.