



District
Management
Group

MANAGER'S TOOLKIT

Can Your District Manage Special Education More Effectively?

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This quiz will gauge how big an opportunity exists in your district to rein in special education costs, without decreasing student learning or parent satisfaction.

Can Your District Manage Special Education More Effectively?

Take this quick test to find out how big an opportunity exists

All districts are struggling with the growing cost of providing services to students with special needs, but many administrators consider these expenses as unavoidable. Are you just hoping and waiting for more state or federal dollars to solve the problem? Districts can become more proactive. This quiz will gauge how big an opportunity exists in your district to rein in special ed costs, *without* decreasing student learning or parent satisfaction.

Do you agree with the following statements?	Completely Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
My front line special ed teachers and building based administrators genuinely believe special ed costs can be reduced without reducing necessary services for children.				
At least half my senior special ed administrators have strong financial skills and a passion for crunching numbers.				
The number of students attending out-of-district placements has declined over the last few years.				
We would open a new in-house substantially separate program if 2 or 3 students could be served.				
My front line special ed teachers and building based administrators genuinely believe teaching assistants (paraprofessionals) for inclusion seldom improve student learning.				
Most aides in classrooms stay for just a few hours per day and have a very specific student learning focus.				
Special ed transportation is managed by a team of financial and routing experts who communicate weekly with special ed staff.				
I know for certain that our special education staffing levels are in line with like districts.				
Remediation in math, English and reading is provided by teachers certified in these subjects.				
We have a large scale partnership with non-profits to provide counseling, social workers, and drug & alcohol support to our students.				



Score Your Results

How big an opportunity exists in your district to lower special ed costs while actually improving student achievement and parent satisfaction?

Give yourself **1 POINT** for every time you answered **COMPLETELY AGREE** _____

Give yourself **5 POINTS** for every time you answered **SOMEWHAT AGREE** _____

Give yourself **10 POINTS** for every time you answered **DISAGREE** _____

Give yourself **15 POINTS** for every time you answered **DON'T KNOW** _____

TOTAL SCORE _____

Your Score	Your Opportunity to Reduce Costs
0 - 25	You're doing most everything right. Not much more you can do.
26 - 50	You have a good handle on costs, but some opportunities still exist.
51 - 75	Don't beat yourself up, but many options are available to better control special ed costs.
75 plus	Like many districts, there is much work to be done. Ask yourself, do you have the people and data to start the task? Also ask can you afford to wait?

You might be wondering, why answering "don't know" counts so much? If senior district leaders don't know the answers to these questions, then you probably don't have a detailed understanding of the day-to-day procedures and services in your district, which often leads to unnecessary and unproductive spending.