



MANAGER'S TOOLKIT

Are There Opportunities to Improve Special Education in Your District?

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DMC Manager's Toolkit

Are There Opportunities to Improve Special Education in Your District?

All districts want to improve outcomes for students with special needs and for students who struggle, but practices are not always aligned to meet this objective most effectively. Take this test to see whether there might be opportunities for improvement in your district.

QUESTIONS	All the Time	Most Times	Sometimes	No, or Don't Know
Parents, staff, and principals feel resources are sufficient to close the achievement gap.				
General education teachers are primarily responsible for the success of students with special needs.				
All elementary students who struggle in reading are provided an additional 30 minutes of reading instruction five times a week.				
All secondary students who struggle in math are provided an extra period of math five times a week.				
Only special education teachers with strong backgrounds in math support students who struggle in math.				
Struggling readers are supported by teachers rather than by para-professionals.				

QUESTIONS	All the Time	Most Times	Sometimes	No, or Don't Know
Social workers spend the majority of their day with students.				
Each school is supported by at least a half-time behaviorist.				
Staff and school schedules are reviewed by a scheduling expert.				
Principals, special education leaders, and general education leaders meet regularly to plan together.				
Total number of checkmarks in each column				
Multiply	x 1	x 5	x 10	x 15
Total score by column		+		+
				TOTAL

YOUR SCORE	YOUR DISTRICT'S OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE SPECIAL EDUCATION
0-25	You are doing almost everything right. Keep it up!
26-50	You have many key elements in place. Adding a few missing pieces could make a very big difference.
51-75	Some important pieces are in place, which reflects that a high value is placed on best practices. There is an opportunity to better align efforts to reinforce and strengthen each other.
76 plus	As in many districts, there are opportunities to make improvements to better support your students.