



District
Management
Group

MANAGER'S TOOLKIT

Are there opportunities to improve special education in your district?

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Manager's Toolkit

Are there opportunities to improve special education in your district?

Nearly 50 years since the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), despite much hard work and investment, many districts continue to be challenged by a persistent achievement gap between students with disabilities and their non-disabled peers. But there is hope: when implemented with fidelity and integrated as a system, best practices can improve outcomes for both students with mild to moderate disabilities and students without disabilities and can be more cost effective.

Take this test and see if your district might have opportunities for improvement.

Questions	Always	Mostly	Sometimes/ Maybe	Rarely/ Don't Know
General education teachers have primary responsibility for the instruction for students with disabilities.				
Interventions are provided by general education teachers or other content-strong teachers.				
Elementary students receive at least 90 minutes a day of literacy instruction.				
Elementary students who struggle in reading are provided an additional 30 minutes a day of additional reading instruction from skilled instructors.				
Secondary students who struggle with grade-level content are provided an extra period each day in the relevant subject area.				
Performance data from short-cycle assessments are reviewed with regularity to monitor progress and make adjustments.				

Questions	Always	Mostly	Sometimes/ Maybe	Rarely/ Don't Know
Psychologists, social workers, counselors, and behaviorists spend the majority of their day with students.				
Principals, special education leaders, and general education leaders meet and plan regularly together.				
Data is used to track progress and inform improvements to keep the focus on getting results for students.				
Teachers and staff hold high expectations for our students with disabilities.				

Total number of check marks in each column				
Multiply	x 1	x 5	x 10	x 15
Total score by column		+	+	+
				Total Score <input type="text"/>

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 might make a very big difference.

51–75: Some important pieces are in place, which reflects the high value placed on best practices. There are additional opportunities to strengthen and align support services.

75–plus: As in many districts, there are opportunities to make improvements to better support your students with disabilities.