10 Best Opportunities to Reduce Special Education Costs While Improving Student Outcomes

1. Track the time that special education teachers and therapists spend instructing students.
2. Review the service delivery model for providing academic support.
3. Increase student independence by reducing paraprofessional support when appropriate.
4. Create clear criteria for entry into special education. Don’t confuse insufficient learning with a disability.
5. Create clear exit criteria for special-needs services. Success means that services are no longer required.
6. Provide intensive general education supports, especially in reading.
7. Ensure that general education curriculum leaders manage and monitor the achievement of students with special needs.
8. Create detailed staff schedules and allocate to schools based on students needs.
9. Create a system to measure and manage special education costs led by the business office.
10. Serve more students with severe needs in-district.