



## The SMART-est IEP process: **AN IEP TIME STUDY**

A fourth-grade student diagnosed with autism was due for her annual IEP review in December 2023. This student has areas of need in English/language arts, math, social, communication, behavioral, and gross and fine motor skills. She gets instruction based on a modified core curriculum aligned to extended standards and takes part in alternate assessment. When her IEP was up for renewal a time study was conducted comparing two different IEP writing processes. One involved using n2y Benchmark assessments and the Polaris IEP development solution, while the other involved unaided baseline data collection and other common IEP development processes.

## The student's IEP was written using two approaches, with and without Polaris:

### IEP Time Comparison

	Existing Process	Polaris Process	The Polaris Difference
Administer benchmarks and assessments	8 hours	1 hour, 45 minutes	Benchmarks are engaging, quick, and easy to use with students.
Write present level statements	1 hour	10 minutes	Benchmarks provide a collective summary that automatically writes a compliant present levels.
Write SMART goals/objectives	4 hours	30 minutes	SMART goal/objective suggestions, based on the data, guide where to focus for student progression.
Complete other components of a compliant IEP	1 hour	20 minutes	Accommodation and modification suggestions show how to make the environment, materials, and more accessible.  Resource library is helpful for IEP teams and families.
<b>TOTAL TIME</b>	<b>14 HOURS</b>	<b>2 HOURS, 45 MINUTES</b>	<b>POLARIS SAVED 11 HOURS, 15 MINUTES</b>

Polaris is making it possible to write high-quality and high-impact IEPs in less time while providing teachers with step-by-step IEP writing guidance, SMART goal recommendations, and visualizations supported by data. Teachers spend less time on burdensome paperwork, and administrators know that IEPs are compliant because of Polaris.

“ I actually just helped write an IEP, and Polaris generated the next steps and goals. [The] parent said it was the **best IEP she's ever had**, and her kid's been on an IEP since preschool. That was a huge buy-in for my teachers to be like, “Oh yeah! And it didn't take me eight hours to write the IEP!”

- Rebecca Moore, Student Services Support Specialist, Massillon Ohio

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