

Polaris Beta Implementation Guide

What is Polaris?

Polaris organizes your IEP work around IEP Roadmaps, designed to guide you through the full planning process. When you enter the IEP Roadmaps screen, you'll see a list of all students you've seated in Polaris, along with the status of each roadmap.

Drafting Present Levels Using ULS Data

Polaris automatically surfaces existing ULS data, like Observational Profiles and Benchmark Assessments, to support rich, data-driven present levels.

Within the roadmap:

- **Benchmark Assessments:**
 - Polaris recommends specific benchmarks based on the profile and selected focus areas.
 - Completed benchmarks are auto-integrated into draft present levels.
 - If not yet delivered, you can add assessments and either save to administer later or administer them right away, then refresh the roadmap for updates.

You can review and edit Polaris' drafted language in each section at any point—seeing how each data source shapes the evolving present level narrative.

[Administering Profiles and Adding Profile Results in Polaris Beta](#)

Starting a New IEP

For students with an IEP due in the next 60–90 days, choose **Plan a New IEP**. Polaris will ask where the student is in their IEP cycle. You'll then:

- Enter or estimate IEP start/end dates (editable later).
- Select areas of focus (e.g., English, Math) based on student need.

This generates a custom roadmap that leads you step-by-step through:

- Pulling in relevant data

- Drafting Present Levels
- Selecting aligned goals
- Identifying accommodations

[How do I create a new IEP in the Beta?](#)

Setting Goals, Accommodations, and Modifications

Once you've built strong Present Levels, Polaris moves you into the Goals & Supports phase of the roadmap.

Goal Recommendations

Polaris analyzes the student's data and areas of focus to automatically recommend SMART goals that are:

- Aligned to present level insights,
- Editable for district-specific language,
- Optionally paired with suggested objectives.

You can choose from these goal suggestions, edit the language directly, and customize mastery criteria to reflect your district's expectations and student-specific progress markers.

Accommodations & Modifications

Polaris also uses this data to recommend accommodations and modifications based on the focus areas and student profile you've developed. This ensures alignment across the roadmap and helps you:

- Reduce manual lift,
- Address compliance requirements,
- Build toward a fully supported plan.

By the end of this phase, most of the IEP—including Present Levels, Goals, and Supports—is pre-drafted and aligned, making final formatting and district-specific edits faster and easier.

[Writing IEP Goals in Polaris Beta](#)

Once the IEP meeting is complete, you can finalize your roadmap in Polaris to begin progress monitoring.

Tracking Progress for Existing IEPs (Active IEP Roadmap)

For students who **do not** have an IEP due in the next 60–90 days, Polaris still supports your day-to-day work by allowing you to enter goals from your [Existing IEP](#).

In this pathway, you:

- Enter the current IEP dates and areas of focus.
- Type in the existing IEP goal text and mastery criteria.

This doesn't create a full new IEP but it **pulls your current goals into Polaris** so you can begin **progress monitoring** right away. That means you can centralize all your goal data for the entire caseload, not just students with upcoming meetings.

Once goals are entered, you're ready to start collecting data from instructional activities, probes, or classroom tasks.

Progress Monitoring & Data Collection

With either a new IEP roadmap or current IEP goals in place, Polaris helps you:

- Collect goal data as you teach (using the activities and routines you already have).
- Track progress toward mastery over time.
- Refer back to the roadmap to see how data, goals, and accommodations connect.

This makes it easier to speak to growth, adjust instruction, and prepare for annual reviews or progress reports.

Next Steps & Ongoing Implementation

Over the next **30–60–90 days**, a realistic implementation plan might be:

- **First 30 days:**
 - Add and seat students.
 - Start at least one roadmap for a student with an IEP due soon.
- **Next 30 days:**
 - Continue building roadmaps for upcoming IEPs.
 - Enter existing IEP goals for students whose meetings are further out, so you can begin progress monitoring.
 - Use Polaris to pull in assessment data and refine present levels
- **By 90 days:**
 - Have most or all of your caseload entered into Polaris.
 - Be actively using Polaris for both drafting and monitoring.

Best Practices

Use the [Caseload Document](#) to decide whether each student should be set up with a **Draft IEP** roadmap or **Active IEP**.

Use the Polaris Beta extension to easily transfer/auto-fill IEP information from Polaris into your state IEP writing system.

[How to Install and Deploy the Polaris Extension in Google Chrome](#)

Resources

- [Polaris Clickthrough Demo](#)
- [Polaris - Knowledge Base articles](#)
- [Smart Start](#)