



Boosting IEP Efficiency and Family Engagement

Issaquah School District's Success with Journify Learning

Background

Issaquah School District, located outside of Seattle, WA, serves 2,100+ special education students across 26 schools. Issaquah's special education team is committed to providing personalized support, ensuring IEP compliance, and fostering family communication.

Challenge

Special education teachers in Issaquah were stretched thin — balancing individualized instruction, time-intensive IEP documentation, and creating goal-aligned instructional materials.

High school special education teacher Jamie Carpita described trying to personalize instruction while managing daily demands. Jamie spent hours building materials or searching online, but what she found often wasn't evidence-based or aligned to IEP goals.

"We don't have time to create those assessments or worksheets ourselves...And it was frustrating because a lot of the stuff you get [online] didn't really match and it wasn't very precise."

— Jamie Carpita, Special Education Teacher

Solution

To address these challenges, Issaquah piloted Journify with a small group of TOSAs and classroom teachers. The platform quickly became essential. Tasks that once took hours - analyzing student work, identifying goals, designing interventions - now take minutes.

Joan Lawson, Issaquah's Director of District Special Services Programs, described Journify adoption as "a grassroots kind of growth". Without any top-down directives, teachers began sharing their experiences organically, leading to a wave of bottom-up adoption driven entirely by word of mouth. As teachers saw the impact, more elected to use Journify to make their daily work more efficient.

"It's user-friendly, easy to navigate, and doesn't take long to learn or implement. I know it sounds too good to be true. I'm going into my 28th year in special education and I've never seen anything like this. It does exist and it is amazing!"

— Joan Lawson, Director of District Special Services Programs

With Journify, teachers can now:

- Upload student work for automated analysis
- Generate goal-aligned instructional resources
- Track progress with built-in data visualizations
- Share insights with families clearly and confidently

"I love Journify because it's specific to the student. It takes the goal and identifies what we need next. It's been a huge help that way and a definite time saver."

— *Jamie Carpita, Special Education Teacher*

Results & Outcomes

Journify has transformed how Issaquah educators prepare for IEP meetings and communicate with families. Jamie now uses Journify's visual graphs to help parents clearly understand their student's progress.

"Just having that visual is huge, because they can quickly see the data...Giving parents that visual makes it much more effective in explaining if their student mastered the goal or if we're going to continue it with different supports."

— *Jamie Carpita, Special Education Teacher*

Beyond preparing and facilitating IEP meetings, Issaquah educators used Journify to:

- **Track 1,600+ personalized goals**
- **Generate 750+ instructional supports**
- **Improve IEP compliance** with fewer revisions
- **Strengthen family communication** with clearer visuals
- **Save significant time** across the IEP process

"The teachers that have used Journify, their compliance has increased. And it helps the teachers feel more empowered when talking about their data...It saves them so much time."

— *Joan Lawson, Director of District Special Services Programs*

About Journify Learning

Journify Learning is the evidence-based AI assistant for special education that maximizes educator efficiency, drives student outcomes, and strengthens compliance through centralized data tracking and reporting. Learn more at [Journify Learning](#).

Ready to try Journify? [Sign up for a free district pilot today.](#)

