

# From Administrative Chaos to *School Management Excellence*

How MySchool helped The Study Academy  
handle daily admin work **200% faster** and  
make studying **easier** for 2E students.



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## A Smooth Transition to *Unified School Management*

Choosing a school information system (SIS) is one of the most critical decisions an independent school can make. A new system has to address a vast range of staff and student needs, and must be flexible enough to adapt as those needs evolve.

The Study Academy in Toronto faced mounting frustration with outdated, fragmented tools that slowed down staff and created confusion for families. After evaluating multiple options, the school selected MySchool for its flexibility, ease of onboarding, and ability to meet the Study Academy's very specific needs in areas such as individual education plans (IEPs). MySchool's strong alignment with the demands of Canadian independent schools' was also seen as a real benefit.



Since transitioning, **The Study Academy has cut administrative time by more than 200%, improved communication with families, and simplified critical processes like scheduling and reporting.** Lower School Principal, Bradley Gunter, calls it “smoother than any previous SIS transition,” with visible results in just weeks.

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“Smoother than any previous SIS transition – results were visible within weeks .”

– Bradley Gunter, Lower School Principal

Principal Gunter agreed to share his experience, hoping it would help schools like his make the dream of a powerful, unified management system a reality.

# About The Study Academy

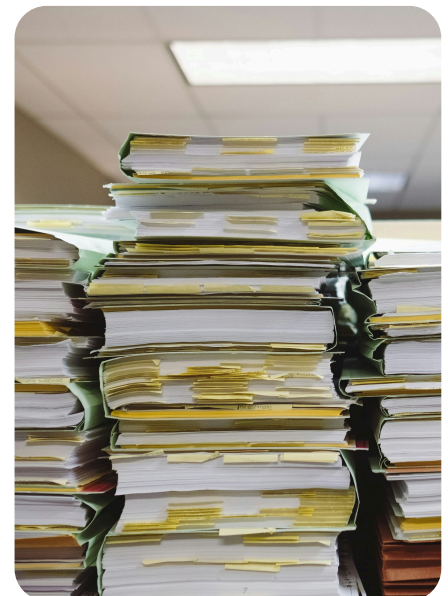
Located in Toronto, Ontario, The Study Academy is an independent school specializing in supporting 'twice-exceptional' (2E) students – those who are both gifted and face learning challenges. Governed by a board and with dedicated principals for Lower and Upper Schools, the Academy prides itself on inclusive education, responsive pedagogy, and strong family engagement.



## The Challenge

### Fragmented, Inflexible Tools and Limited Support

Like many independent schools, The Study Academy relied on outdated systems and disconnected tools. Its legacy SIS, Maplewood's connectEd, was used by a single staff member for provincial reporting and end-of-year grade reporting but wasn't able to deliver the all-in-one school management system that the Study Academy desperately needed.



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“Everything else had to be done in a lot of different spreadsheets, folders, and files on Google Drive. It was a nightmare handling so much school data like that.”

The situation was further complicated by the school's unique approach to individualized education plans (IEPs) for 2E students. Simple document-sharing systems could not provide the required combination of accessibility for staff and confidentiality for students' sensitive information. However, the school also found that even many SIS solutions couldn't offer the combination of easy templating and customizability that the Study Academy needed.



The school was well aware of the benefits that could be gained from a unified school management system, however two previous attempts at implementing such a system had failed. Unexpected costs had been an issue, as many SIS solutions carried steep setup fees and then wanted to charge extra for every customization. Effective support to help the school adopt the new systems was also found to be lacking, with providers offered little assistance with onboarding or ongoing training.

A further issue was the lack of a Canada-oriented approach, meaning that the pricing plans had to be converted to CAD for each payment. As for security, the fact that neither could offer servers in Canada was another major concern.

After two unsuccessful attempts with alternative systems, frustration was growing.

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“We started the process of implementing Solution X, but once we started the costs were outrageous. Initial setup charges would have been half a decade’s worth of annual fees for us.”

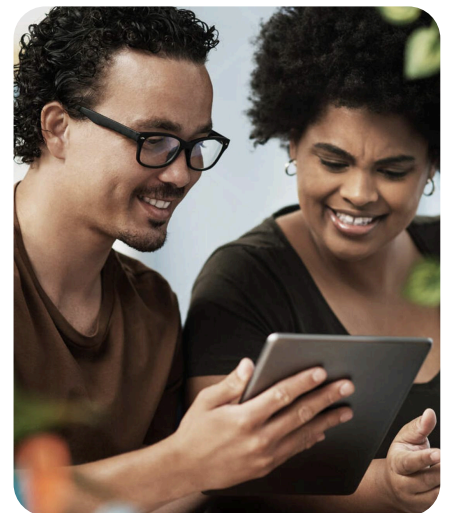
### The Requirement

## *A Flexible Solution* with Outstanding Support

Principal Gunter realized that the Study Academy could not rely on an inflexible, one-size-fits-all solution if it was to achieve its goals. The school couldn’t afford to pay for expensive modifications that most providers seemed to want to charge for, therefore needed a system that was highly customizable.

The team drew up a list of key requirements for a new, unified school management system.

Non-negotiables included:





## Flexibility and Affordability

The school didn't want to compromise on the experience it delivered for students and parents. Based on previous, painful experience it knew that it needed a system that could be **easily configured** to meet its specific needs without having to pay prohibitive tailoring costs.



## Compliance with Provincial Reporting

In Ontario submitting provincial reports like OUAC, OCAS, and OnSIS can be a lot of work, particularly when hindered by systems that don't adhere to standards and are built on complicated interfaces and inaccessible servers. The new system had to make reporting more immediate and intuitive.



## Secure, Customizable IEPs for 2E Students

Given the schools focus on 2E students customizable, secure, and rich IEP management system was a must.



## A Commitment to Customer Success

Having experienced the frustration of working with unresponsive providers, Principal Gunter knew that having the right support would be critical to a successful implementation.



## Highest Data Security Standards

Concerned with the security of sensitive school data the Study Academy were keen to find a provider that adhered to the higher, EU-level standards for data security, rather than the more lax American standards.

The list didn't end there. To meet the needs of all users, other key requirements included:

- Full attendance tracking
- Customizable report card generation
- Admissions processing
- Behavior reporting
- Tailored user access based on roles
- User-friendly interface
- Integration with QuickBooks
- Multi-platform
- Embedded grade books
- Timetable building

Separately, each of the requirements didn't seem like much to ask. However, Principal Gunter discovered that finding a single solution that could bring them all together cohesively and reliably wasn't straightforward. Many platforms offered pieces of the puzzle, but few could deliver the full solution without complications or compromises.

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“The real challenge wasn't identifying the features we needed – it was finding a single solution that could bring them all together.”

### The Outcome

## *Efficiency and Clarity Across the School*

His long and thorough research, which involved reviewing over 30 different platforms, eventually brought Principal Gunter to **MySchool – the unified school management system built for Canadian independent schools**. After extensive evaluation it became clear that MySchool could deliver the functionality, the security and the support that the Study Academy needed.

## Successful Implementation and Delighted Staff

Implementation was smooth and highly successful – far exceeding previous experiences with other platforms. Principal Gunter highlighted that onboarding and staff adoption were immediate, requiring minimal effort yet achieving a 100% success rate. **Staff were, in his words, 'blown away by the product.'**

The school has also been delighted by MySchool's ongoing support and commitment to customer success.

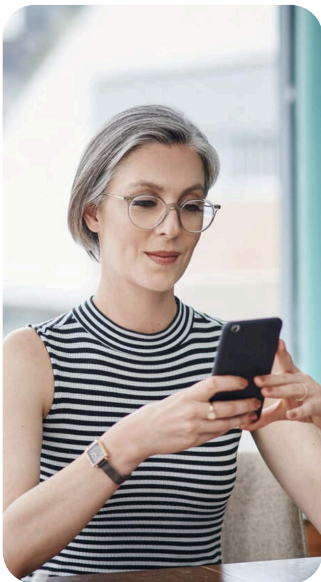


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“Their attention to detail, their care and their understanding of our particular needs is really amazing.”

## Tangible *Benefits* at All Levels

With MySchool fully implemented the school has seen significant benefits in all areas of its operations.



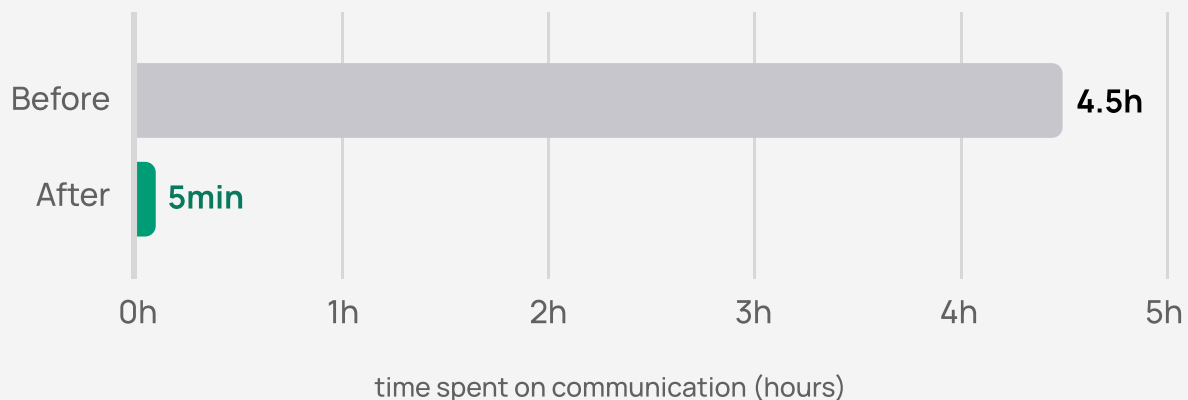
### Improved Communication Efficiency

With MySchool, the Study Academy moved from cumbersome manual processes to near-instant outreach, saving over 4 hours per week and improving family engagement.

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“School-wide announcements that once took 15-20 minutes now take **15-20 seconds.**”

**4+ hours of admin time saved per week**







## Real-Time Scheduling that Works for Everyone

Course changes and timetable updates now propagate instantly, eliminating confusion from outdated PDFs and reducing leader workload during peak times.



“We can build a whole school year’s schedule in about an hour. Teachers now see live schedules instead of old PDFs.”

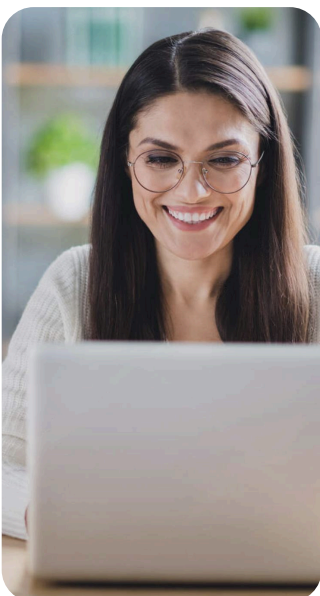


## Attendance Follow-Up in Minutes, Not Hours

The school’s approach to student attendance has also been revolutionized. With built-in group messaging tools and automatic identification of unaccounted-for students, staff can send out text or email alerts in seconds.



“Our front desk used to spend 90–120 minutes each morning on attendance. Now it takes just a few minutes.”



## Digital Forms and Permissions: No More Paper Trails

The introduction of digital questionnaires and consent forms, and instant reminders has further streamlined processes reducing hours of admin work and cutting errors.



“We’ve moved consents and permissions into MySchool. Now it’s seamless – reminders take seconds instead of hours.”



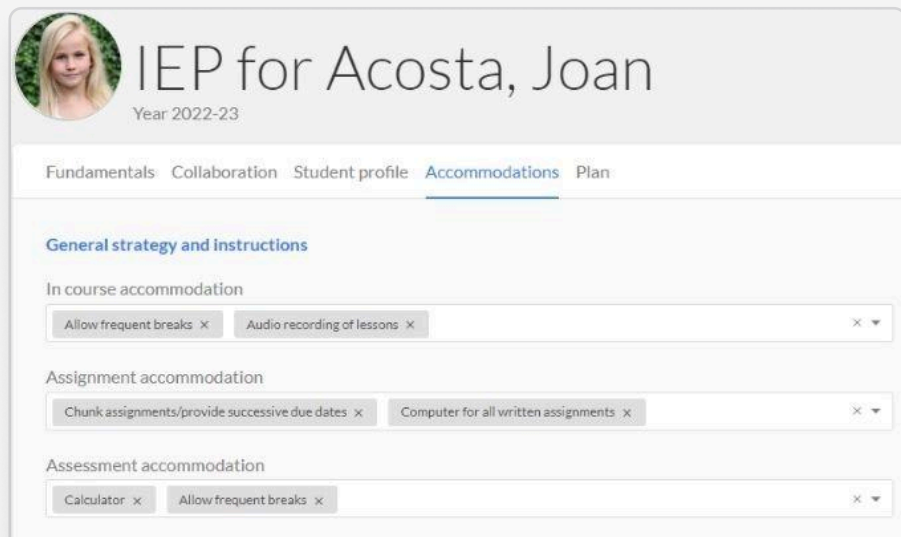
## Behavior Tracking Aligned with School Values

Centralized logging allows all stakeholders to input once and share instantly, creating consistency and clarity in behavior management.

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“The behavior module is effective, easy to use, and allows everything to be input once, sent to stakeholders, and logged.”

UI example



IEP for Acosta, Joan  
Year 2022-23

Fundamentals Collaboration Student profile **Accommodations** Plan

**General strategy and instructions**

In course accommodation

Allow frequent breaks x Audio recording of lessons x x

Assignment accommodation

Chunk assignments/provide successive due dates x Computer for all written assignments x x

Assessment accommodation

Calculator x Allow frequent breaks x x



## Data and Reporting that Powers Reflection

Teachers can now view attendance, behavior, and grades side-by-side, unlocking insights never available before and supporting targeted student support.

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“The grade reports and data tools are phenomenal. Everything lives in MySchool, and it’s simple to use.”

## UI example

Assessment group: French 10A

completion stats: Q1 Q2 Q3 Final end of year Q4

Student name	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final grade	Override	Letter grade	Educator yearly...
Bowman, Miriam	Not completed	75	65	90	79	77		77 (C)	Great work melvin
Bruno, Albert	Not completed	75	65	80	79	75		75 (C)	Good effort Albert
Carr, Angel	Not completed	75	65	80	79	75		75 (C)	well done Angel

Assessment

French 10A

Rafael English  
Grade 10 B

L. Green, T. Teacher

Full year

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final grade	Override
75	65	80	79	75	75

Letter grade  
75 (C)

## The MySchool Difference

# Built for Canadian Independent Schools

MySchool is a highly customisable, unified school management system, offering a comprehensive suite of modules for independent K-12 schools. All modules are built on a single data repository, ensuring data accuracy and offering a true **360° perspective on school operations**.

MySchool stands out because it is focused on meeting the specific needs of Canadian independent schools. That means **local servers for data hosting, invoicing in CAD, and full compliance with provincial reporting requirements**. Schools are also supported by a dedicated success manager and a proven onboarding process tailored to limited-resources environments.

This **Canada-first approach** eliminates concerns over data privacy and currency fluctuations while providing flexibility for schools to configure workflows and modules to their own needs.



## Conclusion

# *A Trusted Partner* in School Management

The Study Academy's journey with MySchool reveals what's possible when the right tools align with a school's values, vision, and workflows.

What began as a search for efficiency became a broader transformation – **streamlining daily operations, empowering staff with real-time information, and creating more meaningful connections with families.**

By replacing outdated, fragmented systems with one unified platform, the school has gained not just time, but clarity, transparency, and confidence in how it communicates, plans, and supports its community.

For Canadian independent schools facing similar challenges, The Study Academy offers a clear example of what's possible with MySchool: **streamlined processes, real-time insight, and stronger connections with the community.**

Repeat The  
Study Academy's  
*Success!*

Book a Demo

