

Reimagining the Classroom

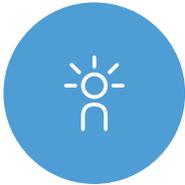
Three basics of good classroom design



1. Naturalness – Responsible for 50% of the classroom’s impact on learning, naturalness is about the instructor’s and students’ need for physical comfort. Elements include light, sound, temperature, air quality, and “links to nature.”



2. Stimulation – The vibrancy of a classroom is responsible for 25% of differences in attributable to the classroom environment.



3. Individuality – How well the classroom meets the needs of students is responsible for 25% of differences in attributable to the classroom environment.¹

Tips for getting started

1. Involve students in the design process.

2. Think about student experiences, not furniture.

- What are the desired student experiences and learning outcomes?
- How will you measure success?
- What is your plan to provide the necessary professional development/learning for educators working in your new spaces?

3. Avoid groupthink by focusing solely on your space.

- Don’t commoditize to the point where you lose your ability to be creative in your decision-making.

4. Make removing the front of the classroom a priority.

- Progressive and innovative schools are opting for multiple non-touch flat-screen TVs around the classroom in lieu of front-of-the-classroom lecture areas and projection systems. This greatly increases the collaborative nature of the space and lays the groundwork for problem- or project-based learning.

5. Understand the meaning of space vocabulary.

- Flexible: The space can be reshaped.
- Agile: The space can be reshaped quickly.
- Intentional: The space is designed to support the student learning experience.
- Adaptive: The space adapts to changes in the expectations of the student learning experience.
- Technological: The space supports a variety of technologies.
- Interconnected: The physical and digital spaces for learning are connected.

6. Declutter and use color.

- Reclaim your walls as learning surfaces. Too much stuff on the walls can lead to cognitive overload and be distracting for students.

7. Ditch traditional “teacher” spaces.

- The average teacher space can take up a whopping 25% of the classroom. Redesigning the classroom also requires changes in instructional practice.²

¹<https://www.viewsonic.com/library/education/classroom-design-trends-layout>

²<https://edtechmagazine.com/k12/article/2017/11/7-tips-redesigning-your-learning-space>

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