

FACILITIES FOR 21ST CENTURY LEARNING

Characteristics of 21st Century Learning

From Distinct Schools to Global Classroom

Schools in the twenty-first century should be designed around **general learning settings** to form communities. These learning communities function at a variety of scales. There should be general learning settings that have 75 to 100 students and perhaps 4 to 6 staff members. These general learning settings include a variety of settings for different types of learning. This includes small group rooms, large group rooms, mini-labs, presentation spaces, research spaces, and cafeterias.

This community functions at the next scale which is beyond the general learning setting, in **common shared spaces** and **exploratory spaces**. The space between general learning settings is movement, information, welcoming, performing and visual arts, and wellness. The intent is to make every area an opportunity for learning, blurring the edges between instructional spaces. Some of these spaces may have walls and some may not, but all space should be useable for learning.

True 21st Century learning should move beyond the school and extend the learning space to the **global** DoDEA community using technology, virtual instruction, and real time projects—with students viewing their global counterparts as classmates.

Indeed, learning occurs **“any time, any place, any path”** in 21st Century schools.

