

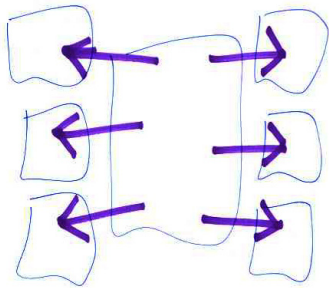
FACILITIES FOR 21ST CENTURY LEARNING

Implications for 21st Century Learning

Facilities

Current Thinking

Facility design for schools has evolved over time from the traditional classroom of the nineteenth century, with one teacher addressing a roomful of students sitting in individual desks all facing forward to the teacher's desk, to the open-plan schools of the 1970s, with various seating arrangements and sizes of classes, supplemented by temporary or modular classroom buildings used when student populations surge. Increasingly, schools originally built with an open-plan are being modified to enclose the open classrooms. Ironically, schools originally built with traditional, enclosed classrooms, often along a double-loaded narrow corridor, are frequently being modified to remove the walls making them more open to provide a variety of spaces and to increase available daylight to the interior.

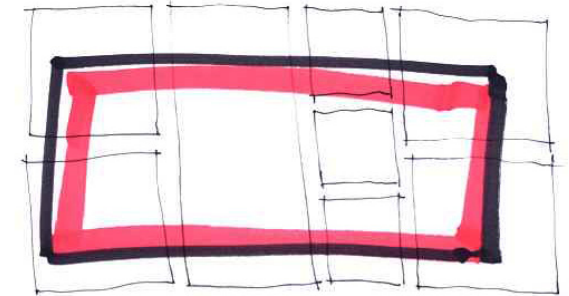


**BREAK OUT
AREAS TO
ALLOW FOR
FLEXIBLE
LEARNING**

DoDEA Direction

- Create adaptable and flexible spaces – agile buildings that can change over time:
 - Accommodate change within the structure of the schools.
 - Pursue higher utilization of large, single-use spaces (cafeteria, auditorium, gym).
 - Provide spaces that can be quickly and easily adapted by teachers and students.
- Provide a variety of spaces to accommodate all learning styles:
 - **Reassign existing facilities to provide for varying spaces.**
 - **Provide breakout areas for flexible learning spaces.**
- Incorporate formal and informal learning spaces.
- Use school building and the local community (including the military installation).
- Invite and provide for different community elements in the school (i.e., teen community, parent community, general public, etc.).
- Accommodate all users – students, faculty and parents.
- Embrace virtual education with supporting physical space.
- Use non-assigned circulation space for learning.
- Allow for protected exterior space as an extension of the learning space.
- Balance the need for a securable facility with desired characteristics of open, collaborative and aesthetically pleasing space.
- Consider distributing media areas (library, technology) throughout the school.

- Consider the Apple Computer retail store as a model for learning spaces that are open, inviting, and participatory with specialty areas for targeted support functions.
- Consider the openness and flexibility in the layout of a professional office as a model for learning centers.
- Building patterns to consider:
 - Visually supervised open space
 - Central greeting/gate keeper
 - Signature identity spaces, in part to aid transition of transferred students
- Distribute technology throughout the school.



THE "BONES" OF THE NEW SCHOOL MUST BE ABLE TO ADJUST TO CHANGE