

Version 1

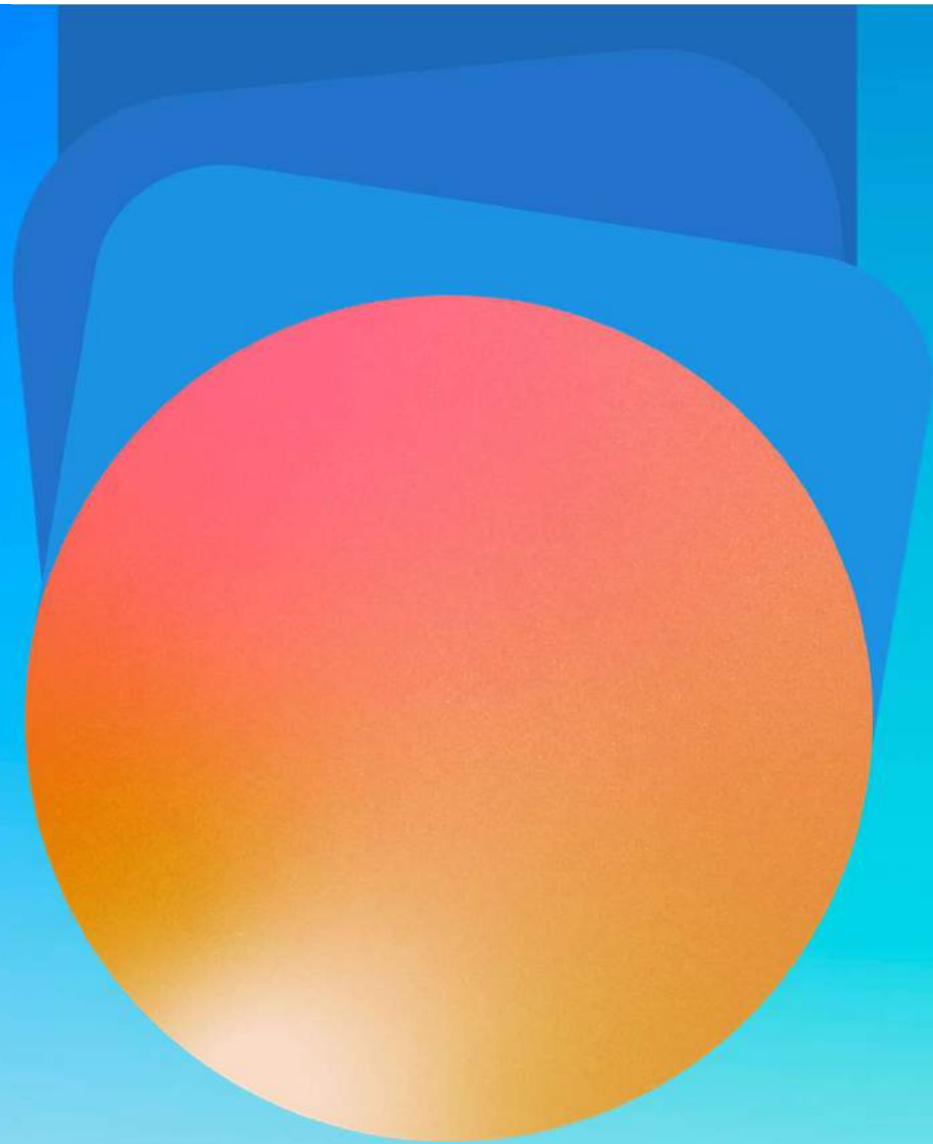
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June, 2020

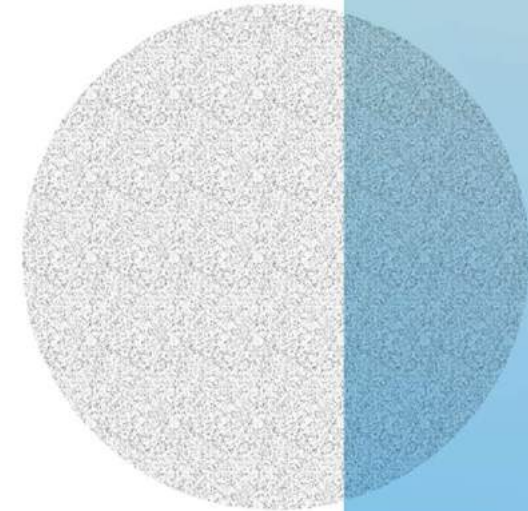
# Navigating What's Next

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Post-COVID Learning Spaces



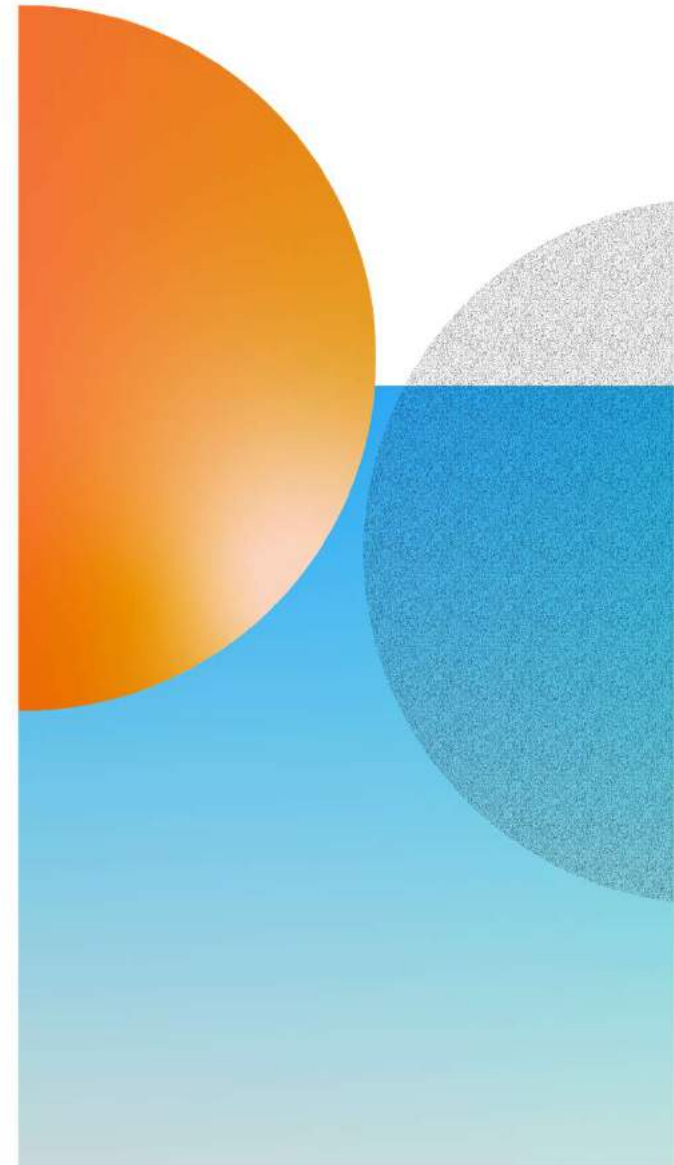
What is your biggest concern as students, educators and staff return to school or campus?



What expectations do you think students, educators and staff will have when they return to school or campus?



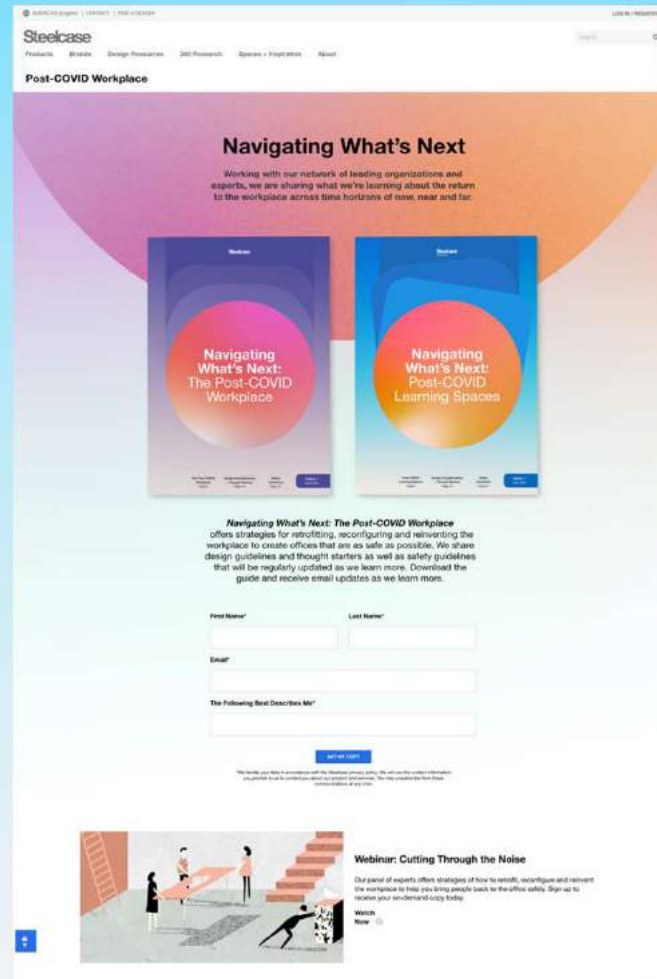
What changes or protocols do you see happening immediately?



# Getting People Back to Schools and Campuses Safely



## Post-COVID Learning Spaces



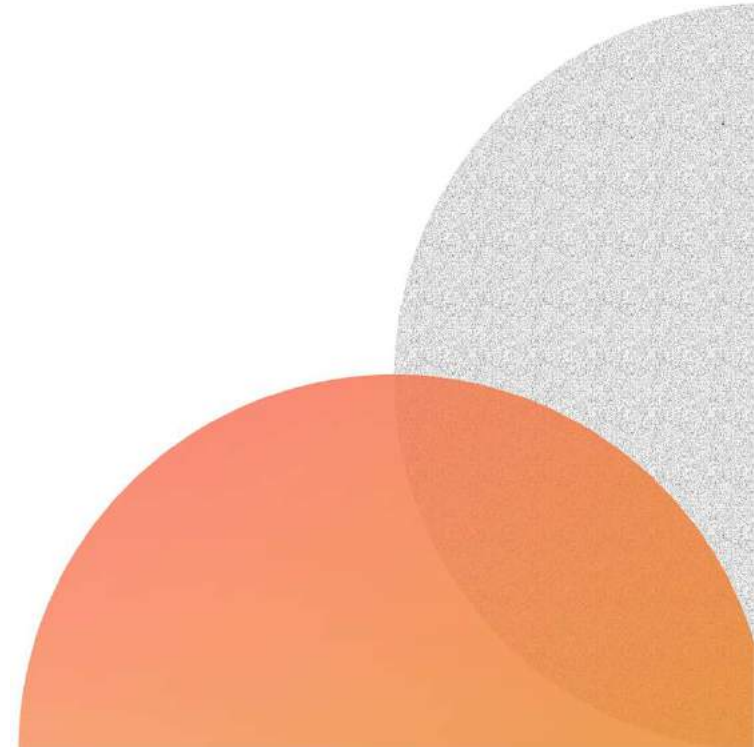
SteelcaseEducation.com

There is deep uncertainty around what the landscape of education will look like in a post-COVID world.

COVID-19 has highlighted the need for new approaches, models and solutions.

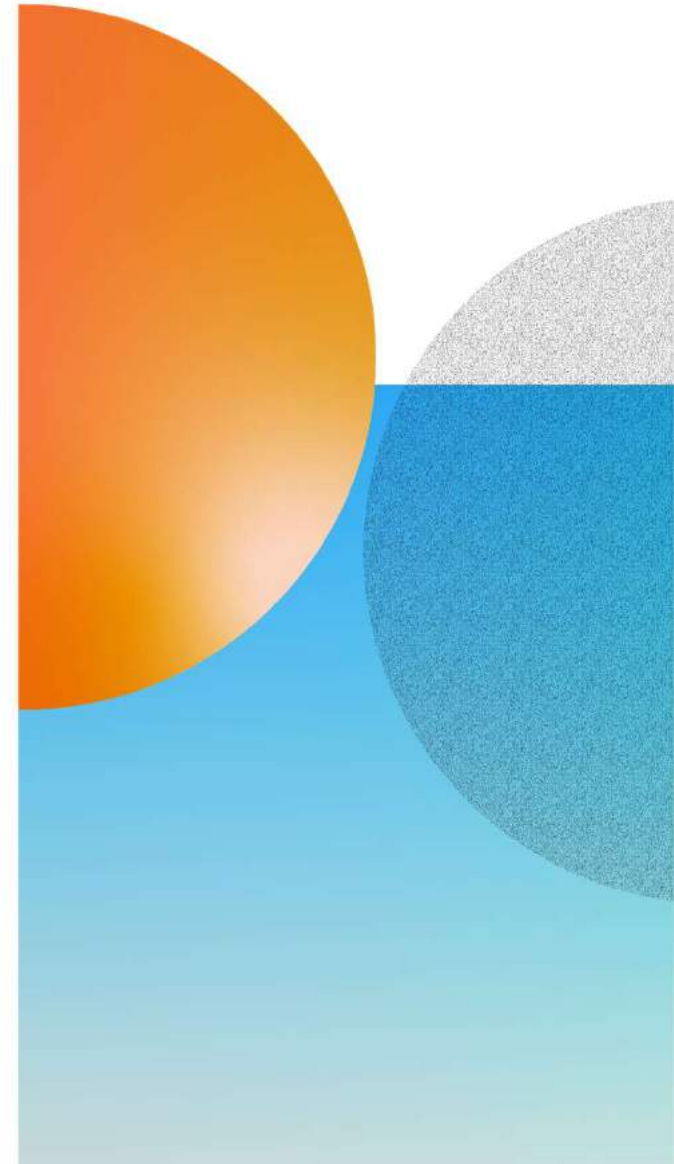


Every institution will have to rethink their capabilities to provide blended in-person and remote learning experiences.





The safety and wellbeing of students, educators and administrators must be paramount — people need to be safe and feel safe.



## Physical

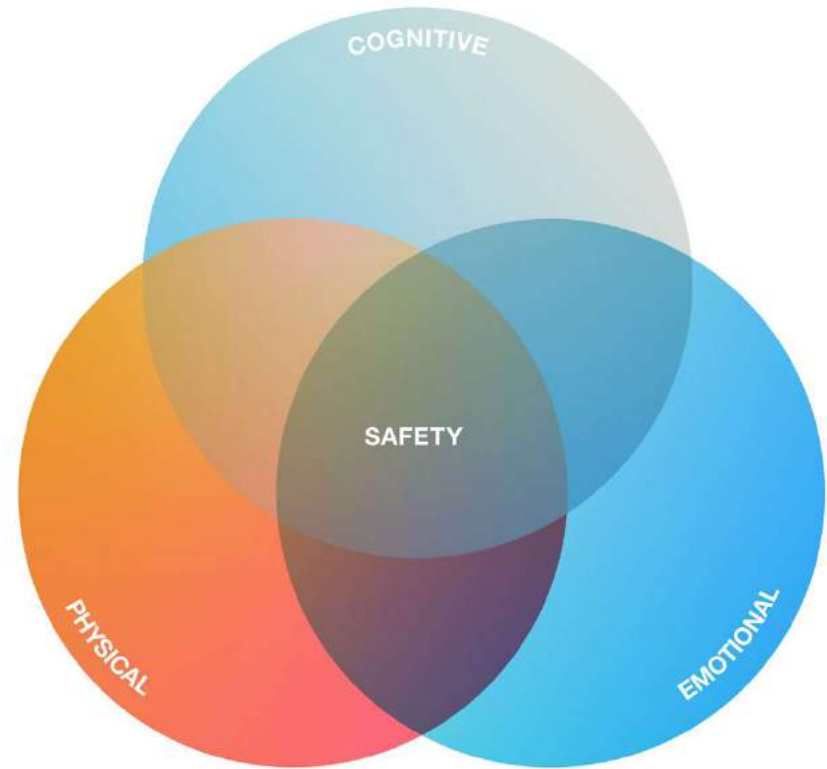
Students and educators can work and learn in places where they are able to stay active, healthy and safe, minimizing exposure to pathogens that cause illness.

## Cognitive

People can focus on teaching and learning and not be distracted by fear for their personal safety.

## Emotional

People feel safe, supported and a sense of belonging so learning can thrive



# Today's Learning Spaces: Design Challenges

- Reconfigurability
- Common spaces
- High density
- High mobility
- Focus on wellbeing

**Pre-COVID learning environments were designed to support active, engaged modes of learning. Many of these attributes can now pose challenges as educational institutions strive to limit physical interactions.**



## 1<sup>st</sup> Poll Question

Does your country have different scenarios for post-covid classes?



# Preparing for the Now, Near and Far



Now

What we  
know now

Retrofit

Near

Science-based  
and data-driven

Reconfigure

Far

Science and  
Technology

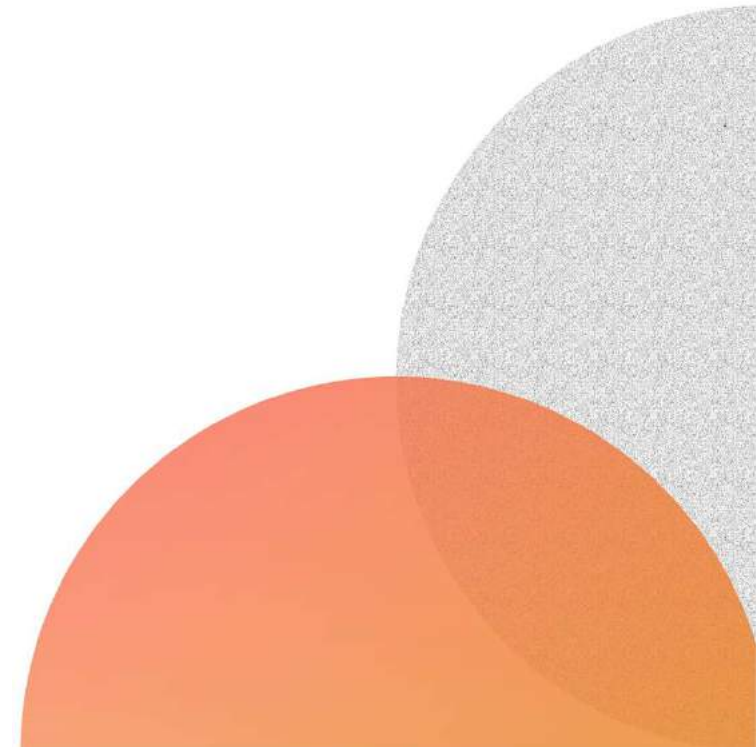
Reinvent

## Now

Rolling return: some classes and activities will be held on campus, in person

Remote learning will continue for many students

Common sense approach to prevent the spread of disease that adheres to government and global health guidelines (physical distancing, barriers, cleaning and safety measures)



# Now

## **Smaller Classes + Meetings**

- Establish protocols for the number of people that can occupy a small space

## **Reduce Density**

- Remove chairs and desks or spread them at least 2m apart
- Use checkerboard patterns in classrooms
- Set up classrooms in large unused spaces such as gymnasiums, libraries or art rooms

## **Change Geometry**

- Reconfigure freestanding desks and workstations to reduce sitting face-to-face without a barrier
- Rotate desks 90-degrees to face in different directions



# Now

## Assigned Seating

- Assign students to the same individual chair or desk to use throughout the academic period
- Consider having students remain in one location while educators move from space to space
- Encourage cleaning throughout the day

## Add Division

- Add screens in front, beside and behind people — the higher, wider and more easily cleaned, the better
- Provide user-configurable screens in self-directed spaces to ensure autonomy and protection

## Common Spaces

- Furniture such as sofas should be marked for single usage unless they can allow physical distancing
- Lounge seating should be removed or placed at least 2m apart
- Tables and lighting will need to be cleaned before and after each use by faculty and students, not just cleaning staff

# Now

## Blended Learning

- A blended learning approach means some students and educators will learn or teach from home longer than expected
- Both students and educators will require ergonomic furniture, lighting and other tools

## Provide Visual Cues

- Use tape or other visual cues to identify and suggest appropriate distance between people
- Arrows on the floor can be used to direct one-way traffic flow in narrow hallways and corridors

## Clean Frequently + Visibly

- Make cleaning highly visible
- Make cleaning wipes and sanitizer accessible to everyone, everywhere
- Include hand-washing stations and promote personal hygiene

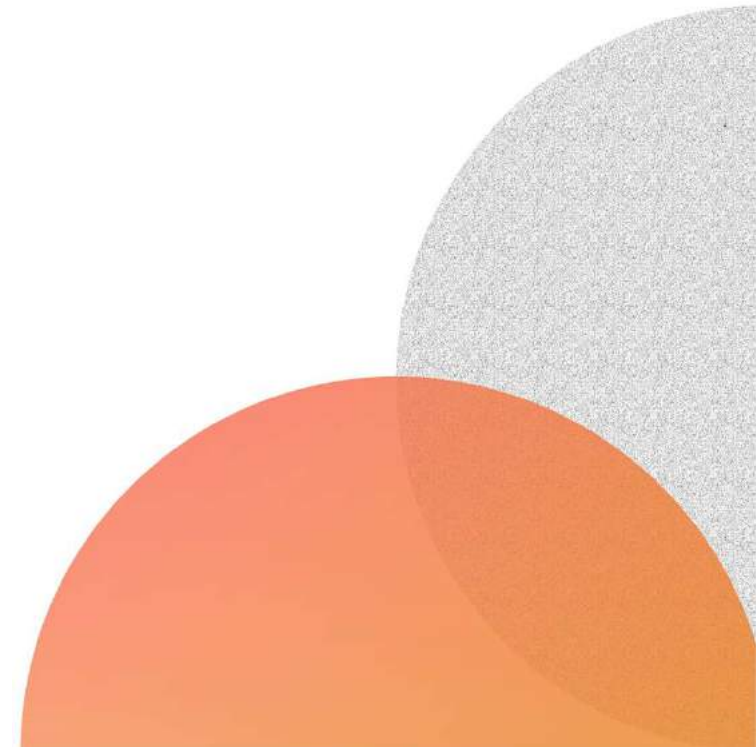
## Make Masks the Norm

- Consider making it a new norm to wear masks at school and on campus
- Provide masks for people and guidance on how to use them

## Near

Educational institutions may be ready to bring back most or all in-person classes and activities

We will have to reconfigure learning and common spaces using science-based and data-driven knowledge



## Near

### Design For Disinfecting

- Select smooth surfaces and fabrics that are easy to clean
- Consider materials that don't degrade with continuous cleaning
- Utilize sensor systems to provide information about which rooms have the greatest occupancy and require more frequent cleaning

### Deflect the Virus

- Introduce hard or fabric barriers that are scientifically proven to stop or deflect the virus

### Flexible Furniture + Power

- Add furniture that can be easily moved and reconfigured
- Mobile power lets student learn in areas where power is not readily available, giving them control over physical distancing

# Near

## Large-Scale Collaboration Devices

- Add large-scale digital tools aid blended learning

## Introduce Standing Meetings

- Open areas can become impactful learning environments by moving the Microsoft Surface Hub 2S on a Steelcase Roam Mobile Stand and using Steelcase Flex screens with stools to create a space where people can naturally distance themselves and meet without being stuck in an enclosed space

## Contact Tracing

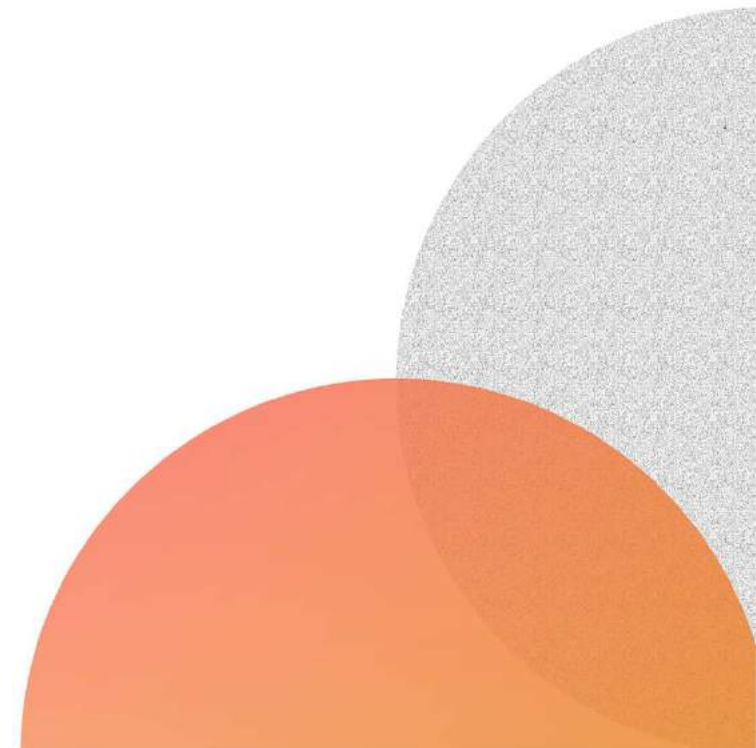
- Should you become ill, emerging smart phone technology can anonymously communicate this to anyone who's been near you

## Far

Planning paradigms of the past, driven  
by costs and efficient knowledge transfer, need to shift

Schools will need to be more flexible and able to adapt quickly  
to possible economic, climate and health disruptions

Reinvented learning spaces must be designed with an even  
deeper commitment to wellbeing



# Far

## Design For Adaptability

- Space should no longer be designed for permanence, but to change easily, expand and contract

## Hands Free

- More solutions will be available for gesture or voice-activated commands (i.e. raise desk-top, open door, save whiteboard note)

## New Materials

- Pure or engineered materials that allow for cleaning and disinfection without degrading over time will become the new standard

## Sensors

- Sensors will measure different aspects of wellbeing, possibly including behavior or actions that indicate illness

# Far

## Inclusive Design

- Learning spaces need to ensure that everyone has equal levels of safe participation regardless of age, abilities or health issues

## Living on Video

- Educational institutions will need to integrate enhanced virtual experiences so students and educators can connect across distances

## Remote Learning Norms

- Blended learning practices will likely become more mainstream
- Employees will need support for home offices that provide physical comfort and allow them to participate in work seamlessly

## Create Community

- Nurture a sense of belonging and shared experiences that schools provide
- Use virtual gatherings to help people maintain that connection to others



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Poll Question

Which options would you consider more important to prepare us for the next phase?



Post-COVID Learning Spaces

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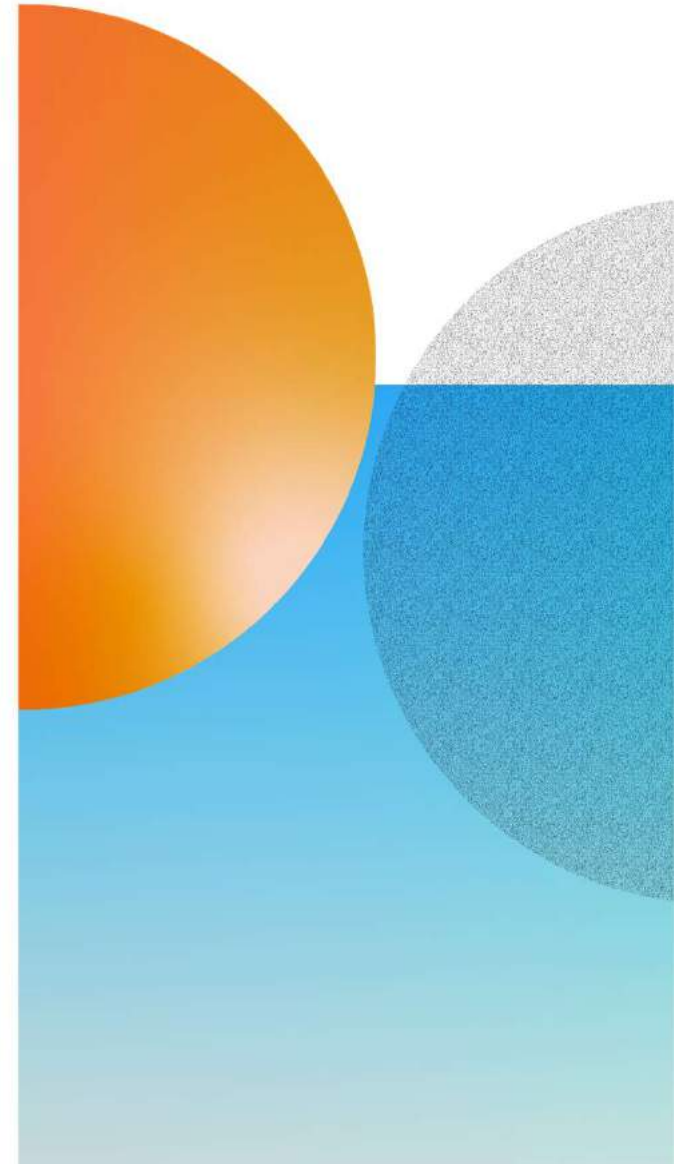
# Design Considerations

## Three Key Considerations

**Density:** the number of people per square meters

**Geometry:** how the furniture is arranged

**Division:** adding screens, panels or barriers



# Density



## Minimum Distance

Create minimum 2m distancing between people in learning and social spaces

Reduce occupancy by removing or alternating desks, tables and seating



## Meet in the Open

Use open spaces for larger group meetings, leveraging flexible furniture with movable whiteboards and screens to create boundaries



## More Owned Spaces

Reduce/eliminate shared desking and shift to more assigned spaces

# Geometry



## **Re-orient Furniture**

Reconfigure desking to reduce face-to-face orientation



## **Separate Desks**

Pull student desks apart to increase distancing

# Division



## Add Space Division

Increase barriers for existing learning spaces by adding screening, storage elements, plants or partitions



## Moveable Screens

In learning spaces, consider increased user-movable screening and privacy devices to reduce exposure

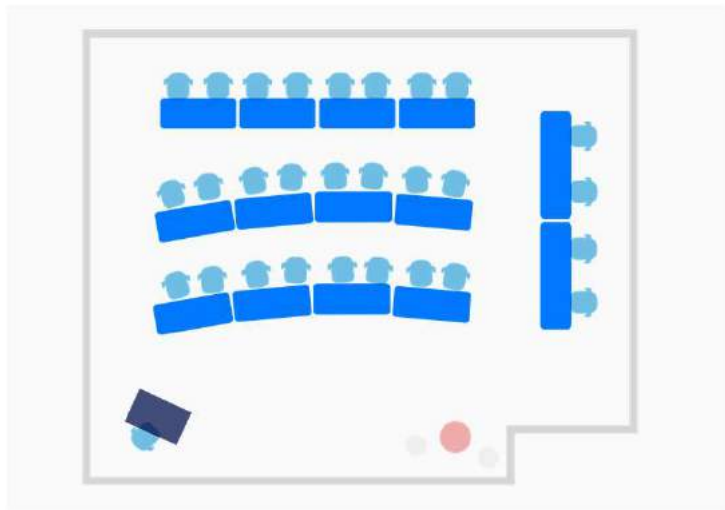


## Height Helps

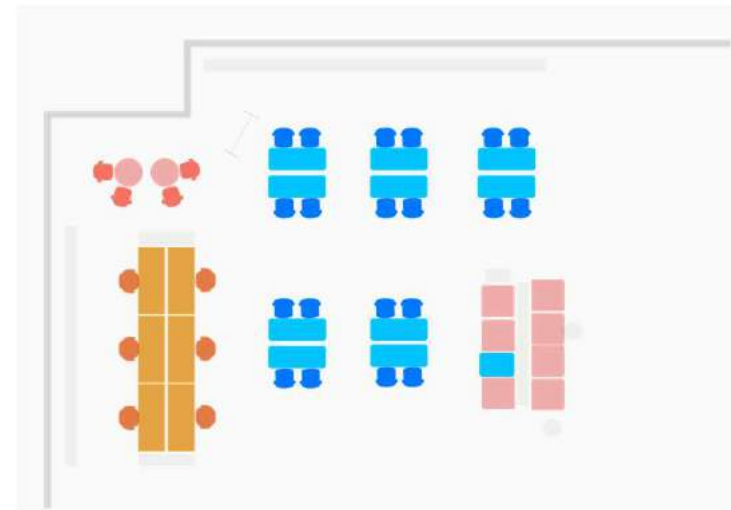
Implement the highest boundary possible above desks when a minimum 2m distance cannot be achieved

# The Design Challenge

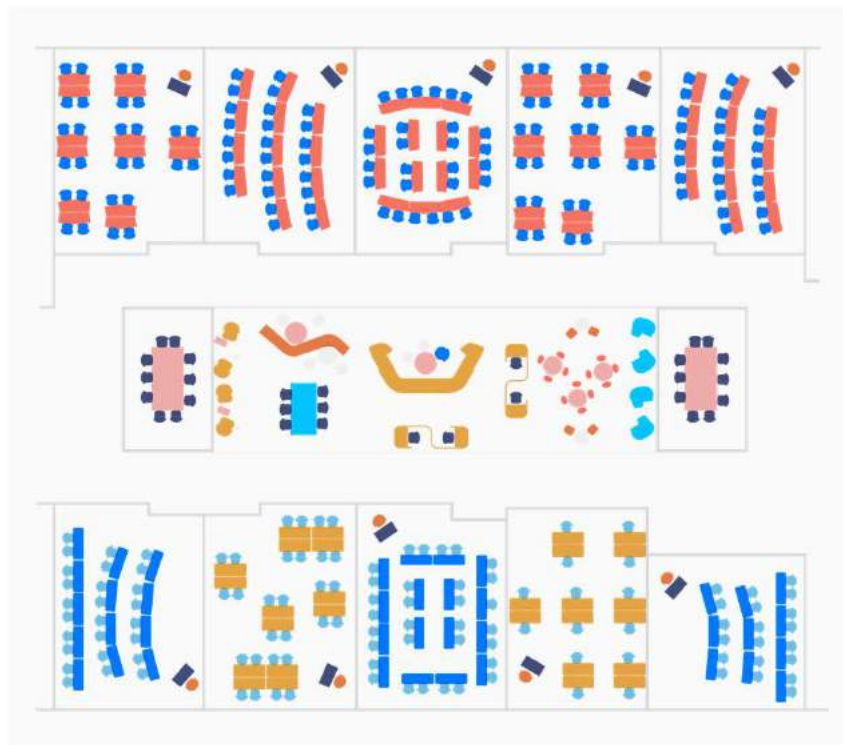
## Classrooms



## Common Spaces



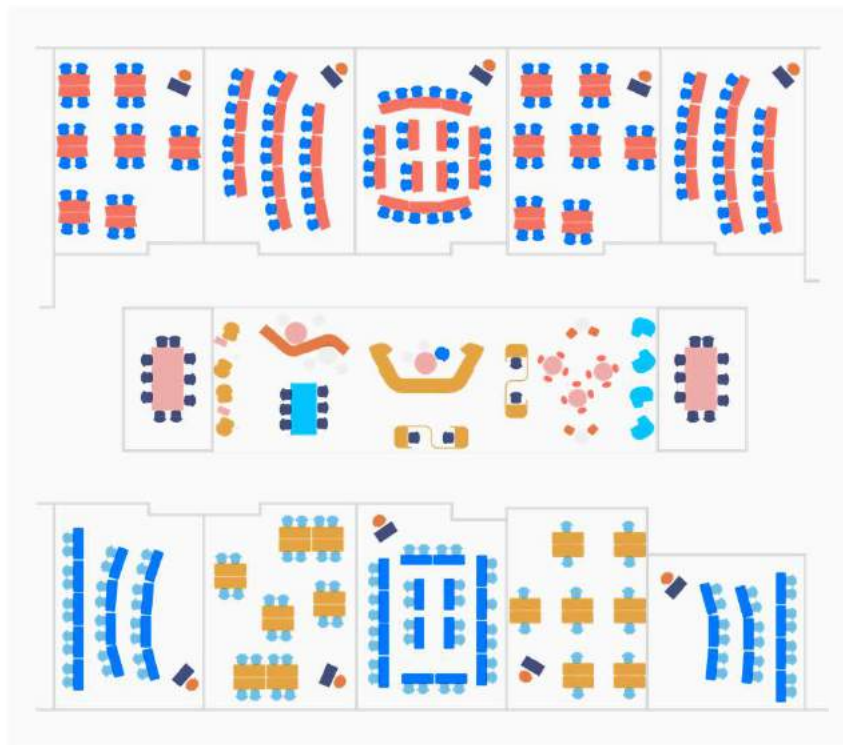
# Floorplan Considerations



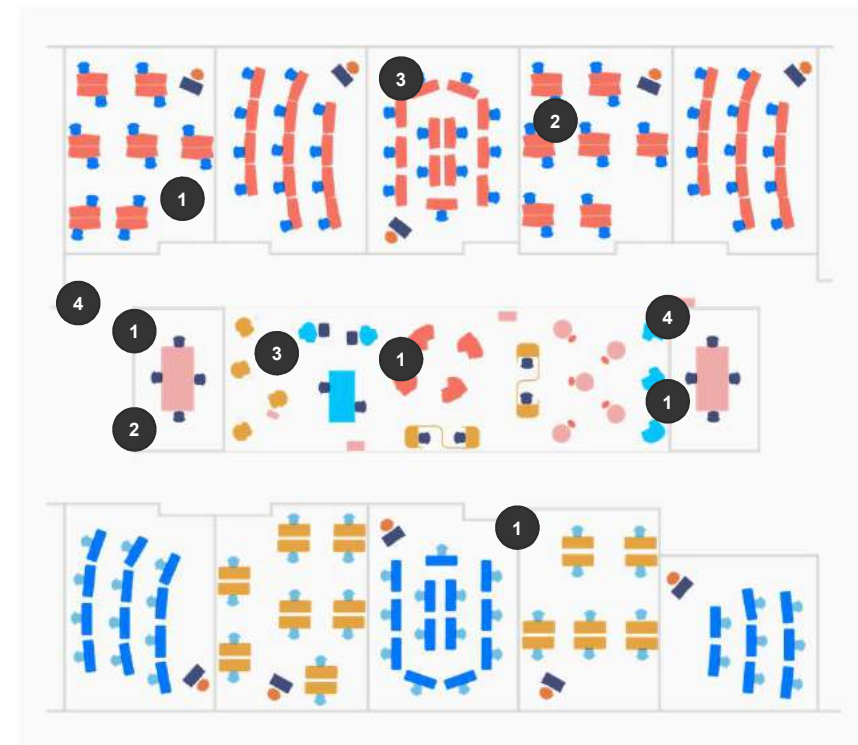
BEFORE



# Floorplan Considerations

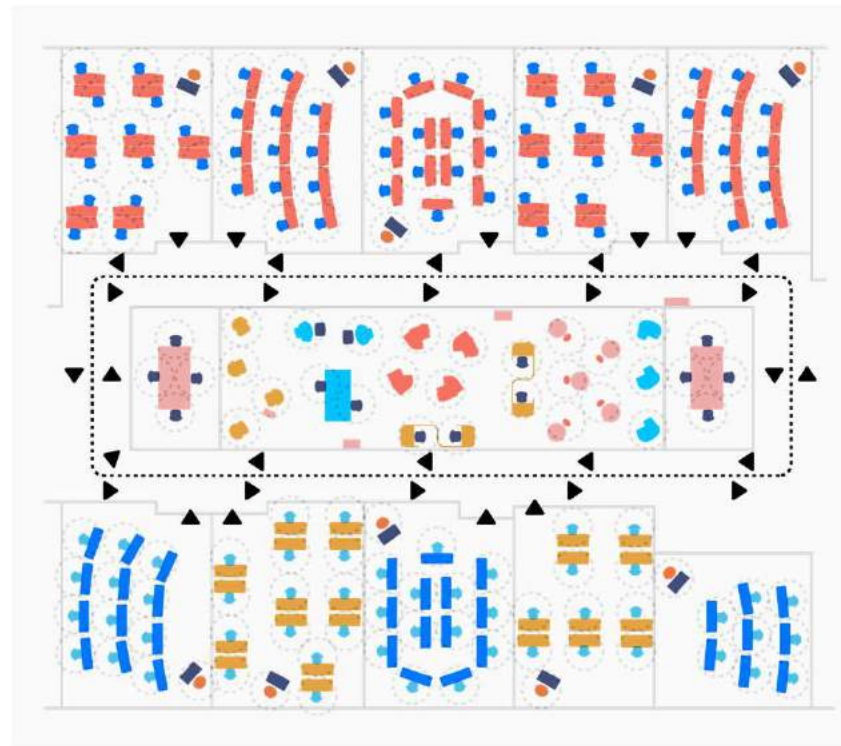


BEFORE



AFTER

# Traffic Flow



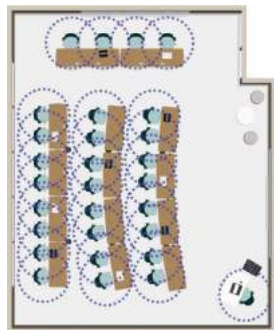
Design Considerations

# Teaching, Learning + Administrative Settings

The following thought starters demonstrate how to adapt existing settings for post-COVID teaching, learning and administrative spaces.

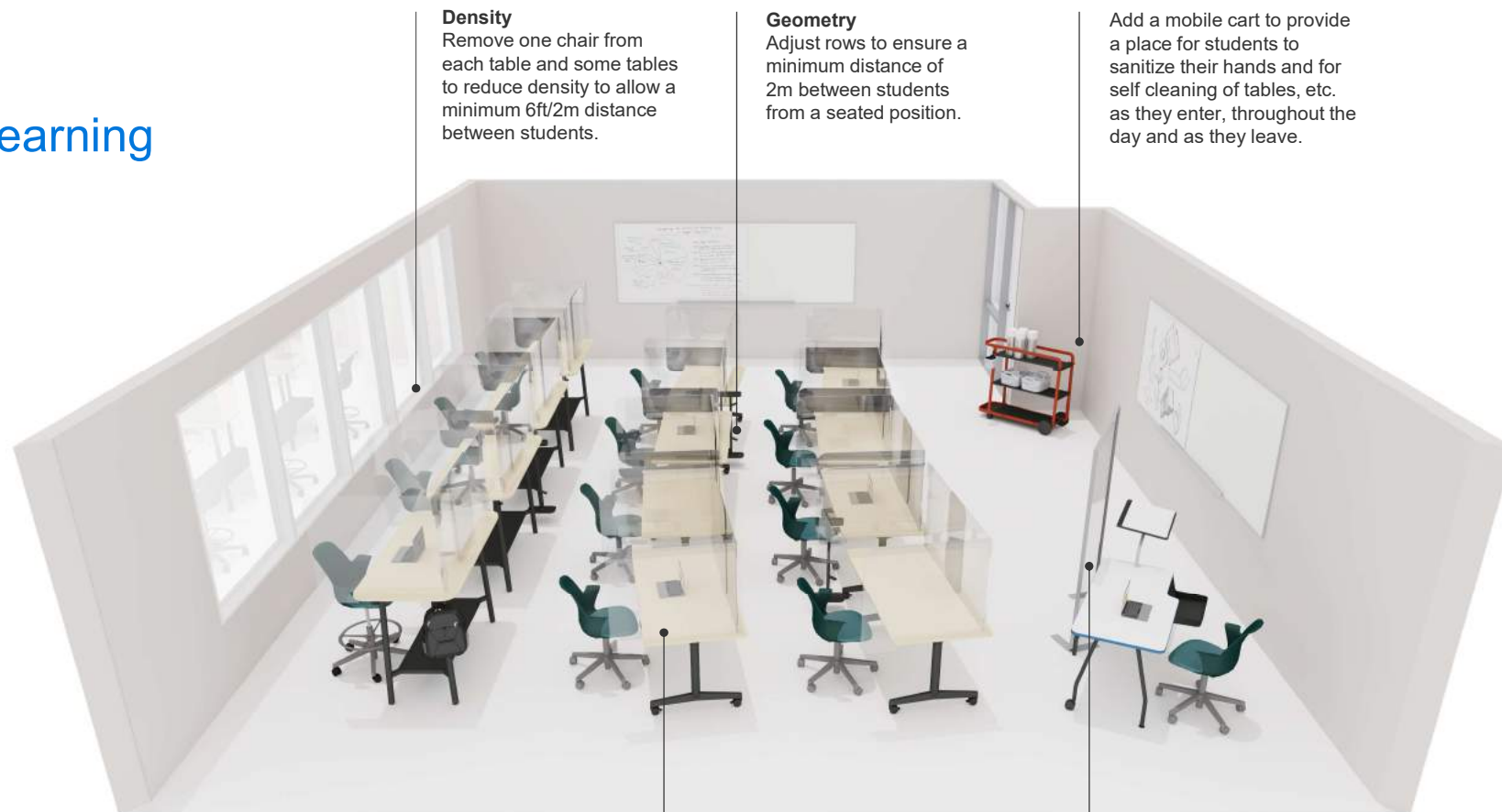
## Classroom: Active Learning

BEFORE



## Classroom: Active Learning Lecture Mode 1

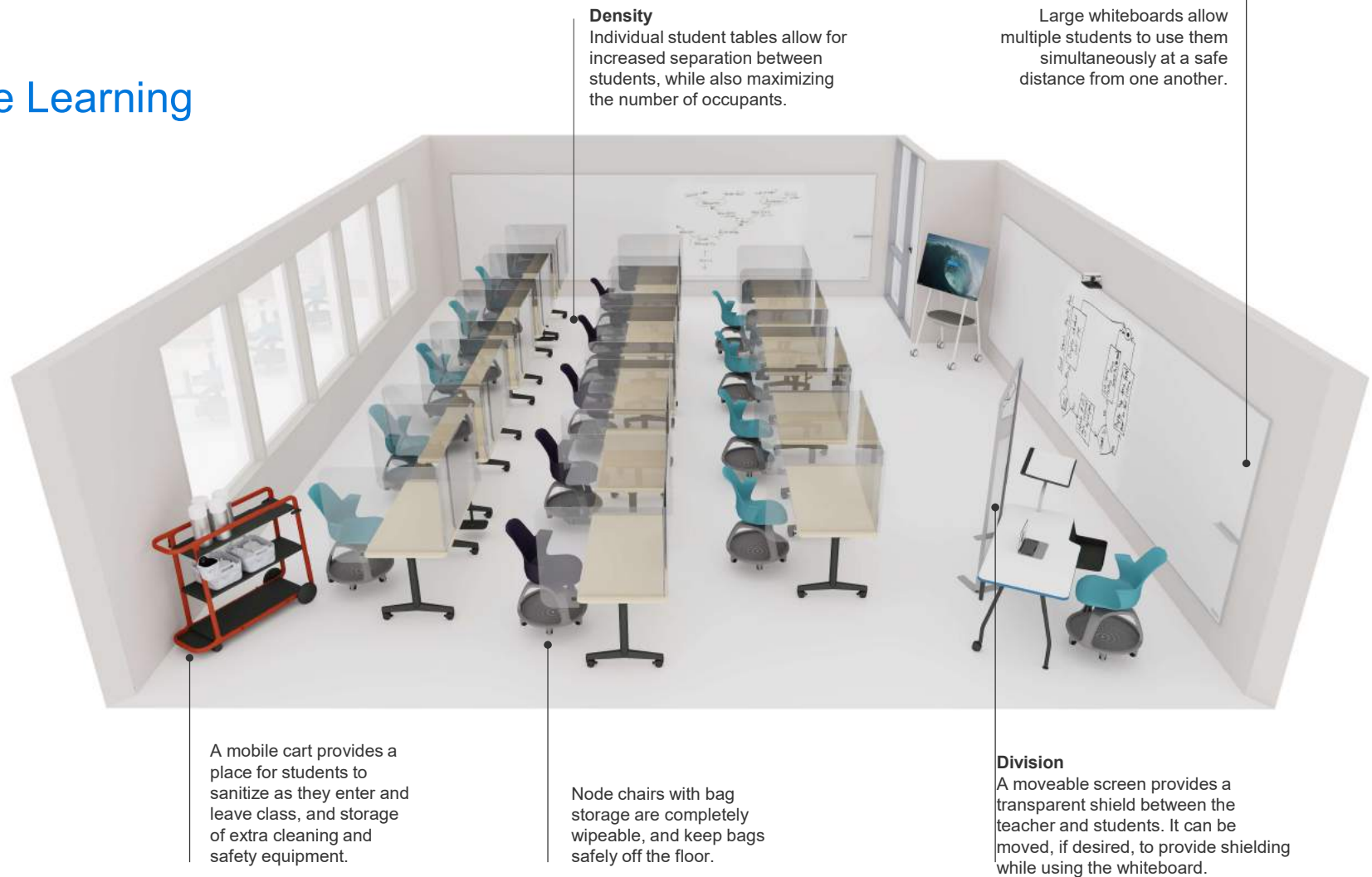
AFTER



AFTER

## Classroom: Active Learning Lecture Mode 2

AFTER



AFTER

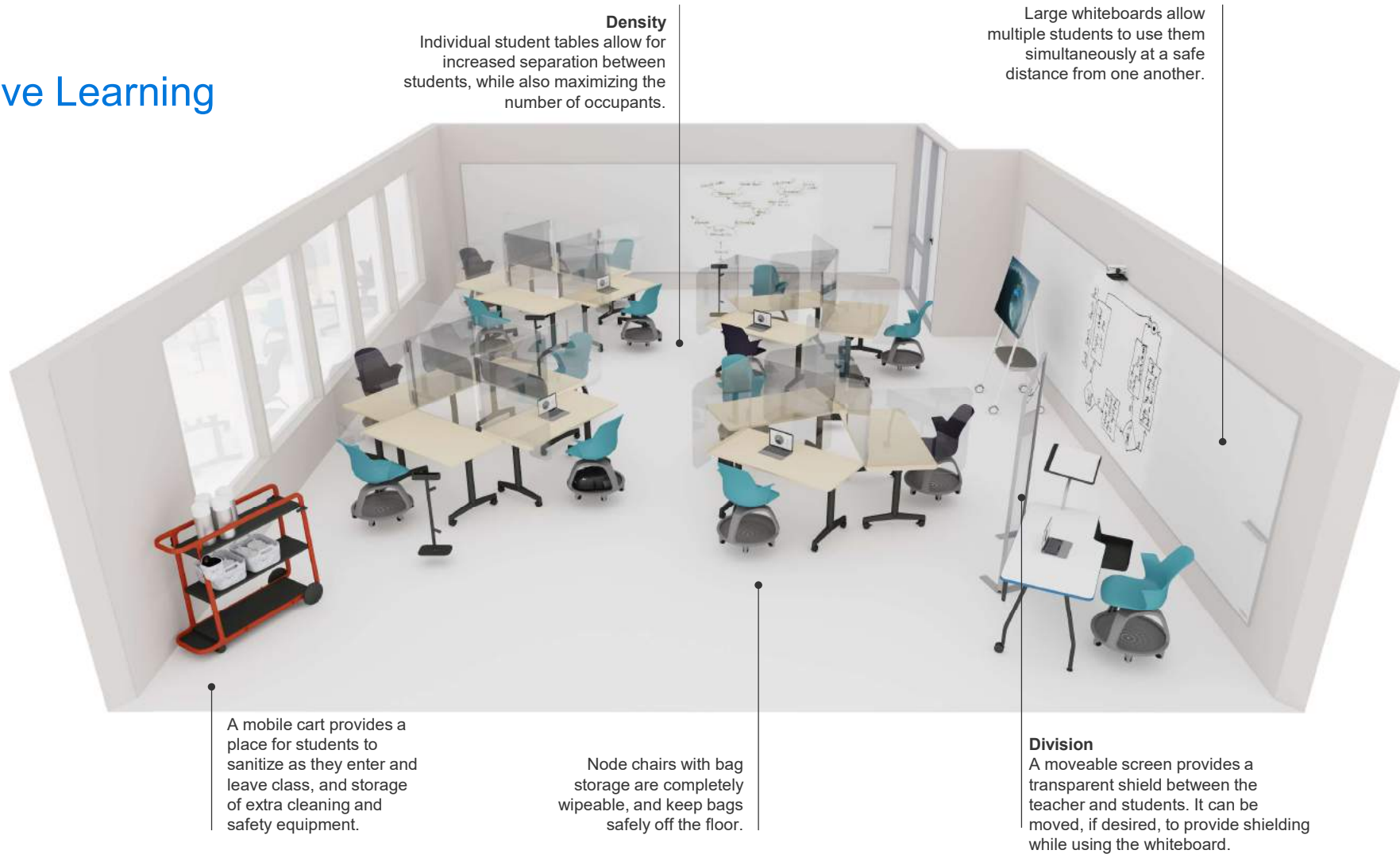


## Classroom: Active Learning Group Mode

AFTER



AFTER



## Common Spaces: Library/Learning Commons

BEFORE



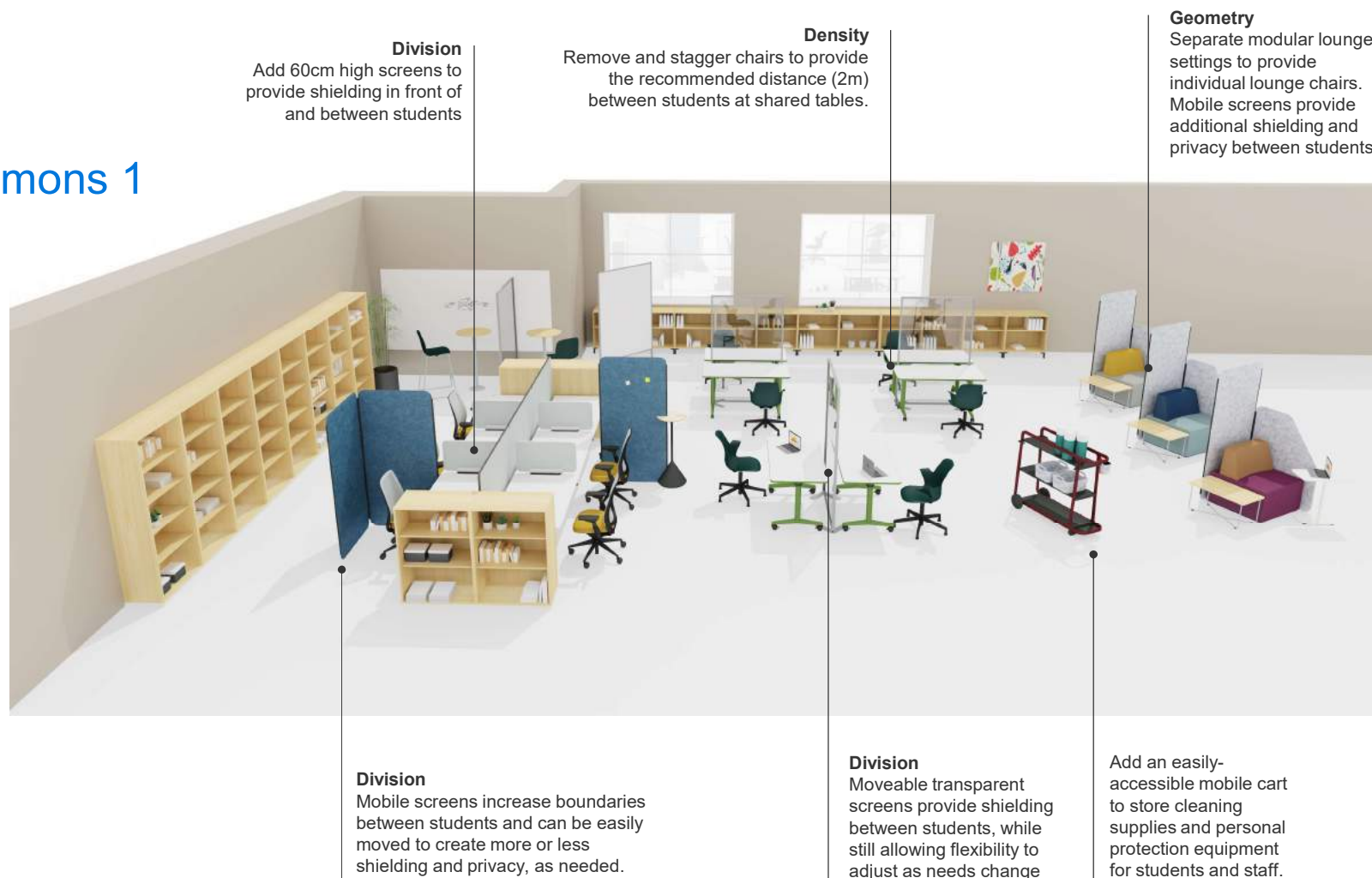


## Common Spaces: Library/Learning Commons 1

AFTER



AFTER



## Common Spaces: Library/Learning Commons 2

AFTER



AFTER



### Geometry

Rearrange individual desks to avoid face-to-face orientation. Add mobile screens to allow for added shielding and maximum flexibility. Desks can be grouped together to create a collaborative setting once physical distancing restrictions are loosened.

### Division

Private pods provide acoustical buffering where students or educators can engage in remote learning or focus without interruption.

Hand washing stations for students and instructors to wash hands when they enter and leave the classroom and throughout the day.

### Division

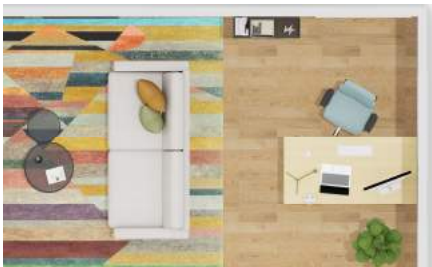
Highly mobile furniture create a highly adaptive space that can be easily changed to support new behaviors as safety restrictions are eased.

### Division

Lounge seating with integrated screens provide a comfortable and shielded place to focus.

## At Home Teaching at Home

The educator's home office can be small but efficient, tucked into the corner of a room with features and options that bring comfort, support and the tools needed to enable them to manage teaching from home.



Bookcase provides a place for reference materials and personal artifacts to create a more human and approachable impression for students on video.

The use of a laptop and monitor provides screen space for content on one device and the ability to see students joining remotely on the other.



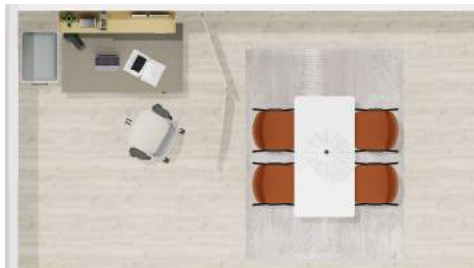
Ergonomic task chair and height-adjustable desk create a comfortable work environment.

Height-adjustable desk allows the instructor to sit and work, or stand at the whiteboard and still be visible on camera for video instruction.

## Education Settings

# At Home Learning from Home

Create a dedicated learning space in a spare room or the corner of a living space that supports family members of all ages.



Height-adjustable desk can be raised or lowered to accommodate a variety of students and age ranges.



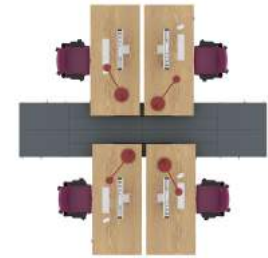
Mobile storage stores supplies to keep everything needed to learn within reach.

Ergonomic task chair and height-adjustable desk encourage movement and wellbeing.

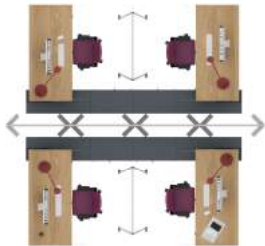
A folding screen controls visibility and distractions from other activities and can be moved to shield the view during video calls.



## Administrative Space



BEFORE



AFTER

### Division

At workstations, user moveable screening and privacy devices help to protect personal space and reduce exposure. Add panels with translucent part to allow full visibility and white plexiglass for privacy. Size W1200 x H 1887.



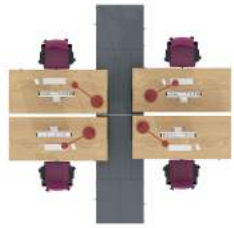
### Density

Increase square footage per person by changing desk orientation.

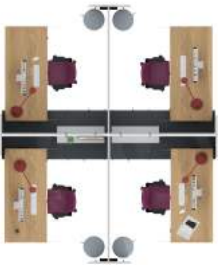
### Geometry

Rotate desks 90 degrees to eliminate face-to-face orientation.

## Administrative Space



BEFORE



AFTER

**Division**  
Add polycarbonate desk shields, H807mm.

**Division**  
Add Partito Standard Walls with fabric infill..



**Density**  
Increase square meters per person by changing desk orientation.

**Geometry**  
Rotate desks to eliminate face-to-face orientation.

### 3<sup>th</sup> Poll Question

Post-Covid classroom which design  
you would prefer?



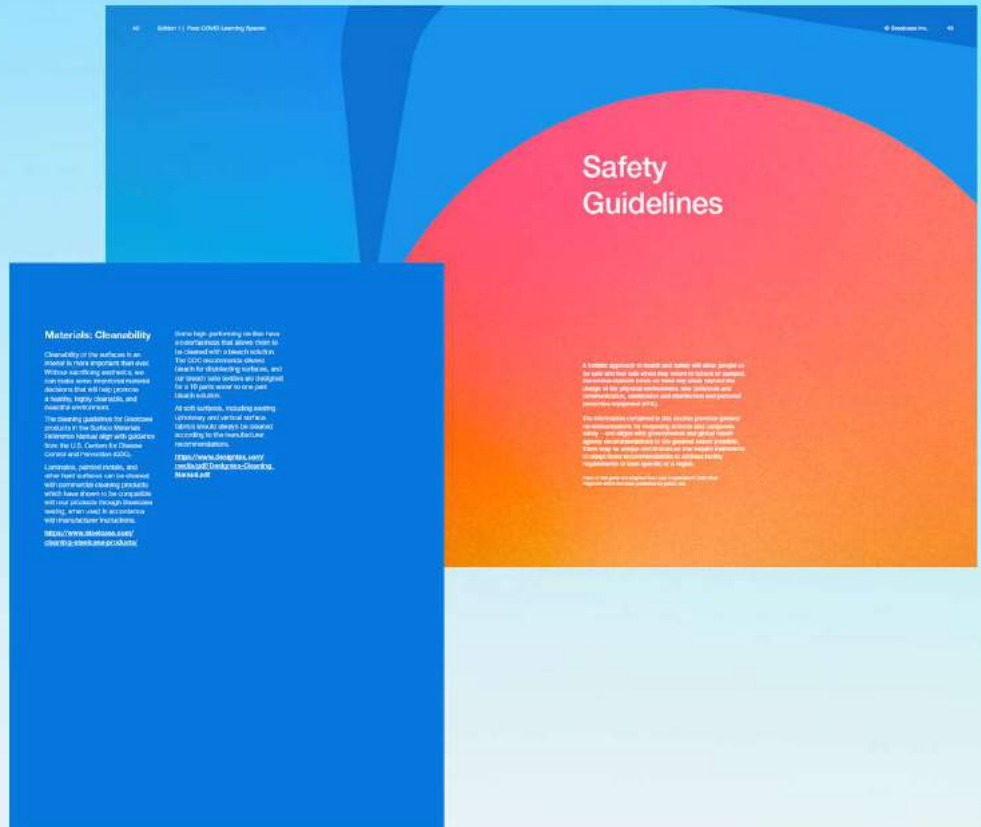
# Additional Information

## Material Cleaning Guides

Steelcase Surface Materials

<https://www.steelcase.com/eu-en/cleaning-steelcase-products/>

## Safety Guidelines





#### Our Commitment

We know that educator, student, staff and organizational needs are going to evolve as people return to schools and campuses. We will continue to work closely with our global network of leading organizations and experts and share our observations and insights with all of you.

Our commitment to you is to share as quickly as we learn: [SteelcaseEducation.com](https://www.steelcaseeducation.com)



**Teresa Vendeirinho | Innovative Spaces for Education**  
teresa.vendeirinho@steelcase.com