Navigating What’s Next

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
Navigating What's Next: 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\textsuperscript{st} Poll Question

Does your country have different scenarios for post-covid classes?
Preparing for the Now, Near and Far
Preparing for the Now, Near and Far

Now

What we know now

Near

Science-based and data-driven

Reconfigure

Far

Science and Technology

Retrofit

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Smaller Classes + Meetings</th>
<th>Reduce Density</th>
<th>Change Geometry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Establish protocols for the number of people that can occupy a small space</td>
<td>- Remove chairs and desks or spread them at least 2m apart</td>
<td>- Reconfigure freestanding desks and workstations to reduce sitting face-to-face without a barrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Use checkerboard patterns in classrooms</td>
<td>- Rotate desks 90-degrees to face in different directions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Set up classrooms in large unused spaces such as gymnasiums, libraries or art rooms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preparing for the Now, Near and Far

**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
Preparation for the Now, Near and Far

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Large-Scale Collaboration Devices</th>
<th>Introduce Standing Meetings</th>
<th>Contact Tracing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Add large-scale digital tools aid blended learning</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Should you become ill, emerging smart phone technology can anonymously communicate this to anyone who’s been near you</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preparing for the Now, Near and Far

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design For Adaptability</th>
<th>Hands Free</th>
<th>New Materials</th>
<th>Sensors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Space should no longer be designed for permanence, but to change easily, expand and contract</td>
<td>- More solutions will be available for gesture or voice-activated commands (i.e. raise desk-top, open door, save whiteboard note)</td>
<td>- Pure or engineered materials that allow for cleaning and disinfection without degrading over time will become the new standard</td>
<td>- Sensors will measure different aspects of wellbeing, possibly including behavior or actions that indicate illness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Preparing for the Now, Near and Far**

**Far**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inclusive Design</th>
<th>Living on Video</th>
<th>Remote Learning Norms</th>
<th>Create Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning spaces need to ensure that everyone has equal levels of safe participation regardless of age, abilities or health issues.</td>
<td>Educational institutions will need to integrate enhanced virtual experiences so students and educators can connect across distances.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Nurture a sense of belonging and shared experiences that schools provide. Use virtual gatherings to help people maintain that connection to others.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2nd Poll Question

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

Geometry

Re-orient Furniture
Reconfigure desking to reduce face-to-face orientation

Separate Desks
Pull student desks apart to increase distancing
Design Considerations

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
Floorplan Considerations

BEFORE
Floorplan Considerations

BEFORE

AFTER
Design Considerations

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.
Teaching and Learning Settings

Classroom: Active Learning

BEFORE
Teaching and Learning Settings

Classroom: Active Learning
Lecture Mode 1

Density
Remove one chair from each table and some tables to reduce density to allow a minimum 6ft/2m distance between students.

Geometry
Adjust rows to ensure a minimum distance of 2m between students from a seated position.

Division
Add 60cm high, transparent table top-mounted screens on three sides of each table to provide shielding, while maintaining sitelines to classmates, educator and content.

Division
A moveable screen provides a transparent shield between the teacher and students. It can be moved, if desired, to provide shielding while using the whiteboard.

Division
Add a mobile cart to provide a place for students to sanitize their hands and for self cleaning of tables, etc. as they enter, throughout the day and as they leave.
Teaching and Learning Settings

Classroom: Active Learning
Lecture Mode 2

AFTER

Density
Individual student tables allow for increased separation between students, while also maximizing the number of occupants.

Large whiteboards allow multiple students to use them simultaneously at a safe distance from one another.

Node chairs with bag storage are completely wipeable, and keep bags safely off the floor.

Division
A moveable screen provides a transparent shield between the teacher and students. It can be moved, if desired, to provide shielding while using the whiteboard.

A mobile cart provides a place for students to sanitize as they enter and leave class, and storage of extra cleaning and safety equipment.
Teaching and Learning Settings

**Classroom: Active Learning**

**Group Mode**

**Density**
Individual student tables allow for increased separation between students, while also maximizing the number of occupants.

**AFTER**

- A mobile cart provides a place for students to sanitize as they enter and leave class, and storage of extra cleaning and safety equipment.

- Node chairs with bag storage are completely wipeable, and keep bags safely off the floor.

- Large whiteboards allow multiple students to use them simultaneously at a safe distance from one another.

- Division
A moveable screen provides a transparent shield between the teacher and students. It can be moved, if desired, to provide shielding while using the whiteboard.
Common Spaces: Library/Learning Commons

BEFORE
Common Spaces:
Library/Learning Commons 1

Teaching and Learning Settings

**Division**
Add 60cm high screens to provide shielding in front of and between students.

**Density**
Remove and stagger chairs to provide the recommended distance (2m) between students at shared tables.

**Geometry**
Separate modular lounge settings to provide individual lounge chairs. Mobile screens provide additional shielding and privacy between students.

**Division**
Mobile screens increase boundaries between students and can be easily moved to create more or less shielding and privacy, as needed.

**Division**
Moveable transparent screens provide shielding between students, while still allowing flexibility to adjust as needs change.

Add an easily-accessible mobile cart to store cleaning supplies and personal protection equipment for students and staff.
Common Spaces: Library/Learning Commons 2

Teaching and Learning Settings

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.

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

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

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

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

**Education Settings**

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

**Folding screen**
- Controls visibility and distractions from other activities and can be moved to shield the view during video calls.

**Ergonomic task chair and height-adjustable desk**
- Encourage movement and wellbeing.

**Mobile storage**
- Stores supplies to keep everything needed to learn within reach.

**At Home**

**Learning from Home**
Education Settings

Administrative Space

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.
Education Settings

Administrative Space

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.

BEFORE

AFTER
3rd Poll Question

Post-Covid classroom which design you would prefer?
Additional Information

Material Cleaning Guides

Steelcase Surface Materials

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