Designing Spaces for the Future - Accessibility and Inclusivity

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Are you looking to design a new space?

Updating an existing one?

Considerations?

Universal Design Approach

Flexible Learning Environments

Future Proofing Spaces

Here are key things to consider:

- **Assessment of Existing Conditions -** Structural integrity, mechanical systems, safety features.
- **Stakeholder Input -** Teachers, students, parents, administrators.
- **Budget and Funding -** Prioritize essential upgrades and allocate resources.
- **Regulatory Compliance -** Building codes, zoning regulations, ADA requirements.
- **Safety and Security -** Including fire safety measures, emergency exits, security cameras, access controls, and intrusion detection systems.
- **Community Engagement -** Keep stakeholders informed about project milestones, timelines, and potential impacts.
- **Accessibility and Inclusivity -** Design the classroom to be inclusive of students with diverse needs and abilities.
- **Technology Integration -** Sufficient power outlets, data ports, and connectivity options to support technology.
- **Energy Efficiency and Sustainability -** Building practices to reduce environmental impact, lower operating costs, and promote resource conservation.
- **Health and Wellness -** Natural daylighting, indoor air quality improvements, ergonomic furniture, and recreational areas.
- **Aesthetic Enhancements -** Modern finishes, landscaping, artwork, and wayfinding signage.
- **Construction Phasing and Logistics-** Minimize disruptions to school operations and ensure the safety.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

101

Classrooms:

Adjustable desks and tables

Accessible seating arrangements

Visual aids and materials

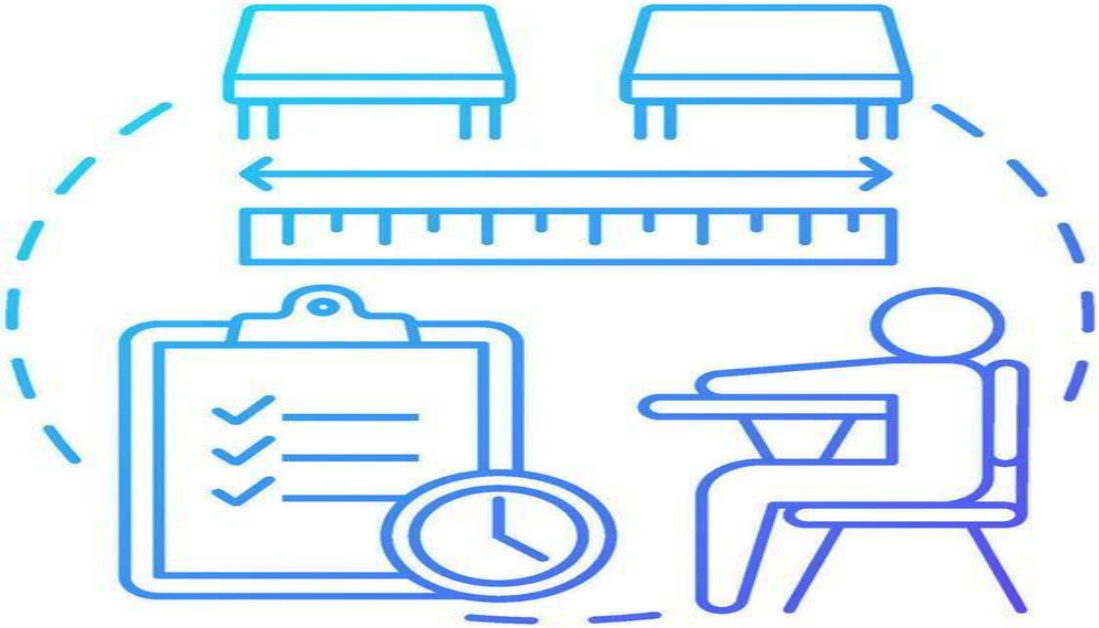
Hearing loop systems or assistive listening devices

Hallways and Corridors:

Wide and unobstructed pathways for easy navigation.

Tactile strips or floor markings for students with visual impairments.

Signage with both visual and tactile information.



FLEXIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Libraries:

Adjustable computer stations and furniture for personalized use

Quiet spaces or sensory-friendly areas for students who may need a break.

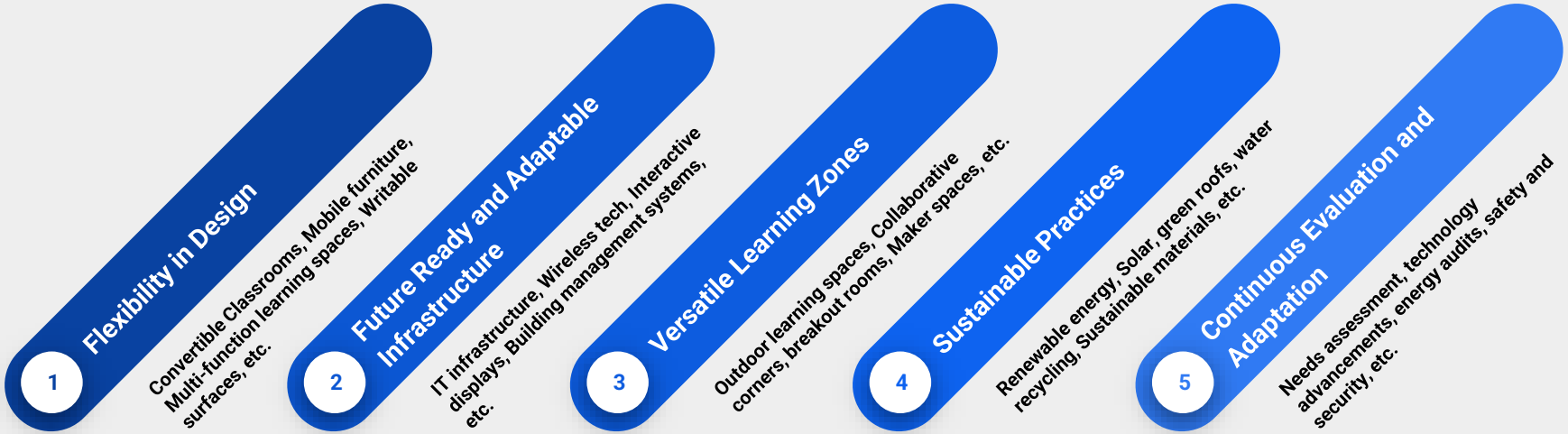
Technology Integration:

Accessible computer stations and software for students with different abilities.

Screen readers and voice recognition software.

Closed captioning for video content.

The Future
NEXT EXIT


1
Flexibility in Design
Convertible Classrooms, Mobile furniture, Multi-function learning spaces, Writable surfaces, etc.
2
Future Ready and Adaptable Infrastructure
IT infrastructure, Wireless tech, Interactive displays, Building management systems, etc.
3
Versatile Learning Zones
Outdoor learning spaces, Collaborative corners, breakout rooms, Maker spaces, etc.
4
Sustainable Practices
Renewable energy, Solar, green roofs, water recycling, Sustainable materials, etc.
5
Continuous Evaluation and Adaptation
Needs assessment, technology advancements, energy audits, safety and security, etc.

BENEFITS

1	Universal Access for all Students		• Ensures that all students, regardless of physical abilities, can navigate the school environment independently. • This inclusivity promotes equal opportunities for learning and socializing.
2	Enhanced Learning Environments		• Contribute to a positive learning atmosphere. • Students feel valued, accepted, and engaged when they can comfortably access classrooms, common areas, and educational resources.
3	Positive Impact on Mental Health		• Contribute to positive mental health by reducing feelings of isolation or exclusion. • Students with disabilities experience increased self-esteem and well-being when they can fully participate in school life.
4	Future-Proofing for Changing Needs		• Anticipates and accommodates future changes in student demographics, diverse learning styles, and evolving educational methodologies. • Ensures that the school environment remains relevant and adaptable.
5	Educational Equity		• Aligns with the principle of educational equity, ensuring that every student has access to the same educational opportunities and resources. • This supports a fair and just learning environment.

PRESILITE
ROBERTS

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