



To: Dr. Riggle

From: Dr. Rosanne Williamson
Mr. Ryan Bretag

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RE: Learning Spaces Update

Learning Spaces Research Team and Cohort Model

Background

During the 2015-2016 academic year, the district began a learning space pilot. This pilot was intended to determine qualities of a learning space most conducive to the desired learning experiences. The results of this initial pilot yielded general guidelines for spaces; however, it clearly identified a need to do a more in depth study focused on professional development, research informed design traits, and shifts in classroom practices.

In-Depth Research Study

A research team of teachers and administrators will study learning spaces and develop design traits for District 225's physical spaces inclusive of audio-visual. This group will serve as the framework for a learning space cohort model where teams of teachers can apply to move forward with a room redesign.

Process

The following process will guide the research team:

1. Learn about current practices and research in learning spaces holistically
2. Develop design traits from research
3. Implement design traits in the development of showcase rooms | evaluate and adjust
4. Learning Space Application developed and shared. Emphasis on Areas of Focus
5. Cohort developed and provided professional development mirroring research team's experience

Areas of Focus

We will explore the current practices and research on learning spaces from a neuroscience lens such as movement, distraction, flow, and much more. This lens will be tied to our areas of focus as a district:

- Engagement
- 4Cs with emphasis on collaboration and creativity
- School and District Focus: Identity, Mindsets, Meaningful Learning and Wellness
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Focus and Mindfulness
- Design Thinking

Tentative Timeline

Time	Description	Results
Fall 2016	2 Day Steelcase learning experience: APs of Curriculum, IS (invited by APs), AS of Ed Services, Director of PR, and Director of Instructional Innovation	Decision to progress with research team & further work w/ Steelcase
Oct/Nov 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- SteelCase Visit Debrief Steelcase attendees- Meeting to determine research team parameters. Principals and Steelcase visit team, and Steelcase	The above approach determined
Nov/Dec 2016	Develop potential research partnership, PD plan, and cost structures	Completed Successfully
Mar-June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop Design Traits: 1-2 day onsite workshop 2 day visit to Steelcase and ongoing work- Design Model Classroom and Ongoing PD	
2017-18	Design Traits Evaluated and Learning Space Application Developed	
May 2018	Learning Space Application released and cohort number one developed	