

A classroom is a learning environment that is flexible, collaborative, active and personalized.

Our goal is to create environments that allow students to feel connected to the content, teacher and peers. Learning environments should have key elements that are more personalized and active learning, with access to real-world and hands-on learning or 'making' experiences.

As you plan your learning environments think about what you are trying to accomplish, how it will be used, where it will be located and how it will integrate with the grade level or learning community. Here are some questions to help guide your discussions and ultimately, the best ways to set up your environments.

What is the focus of the instructional model?

- Collaborative learning with a variety of student groupings?
- Blended learning using technology to supplement the curriculum?
- Project based learning flexible space for students design small- and large-scale projects?
- Technology interactive classroom use of one-to-one devices and interactive whiteboards?
- Center based instruction with space for learning centers throughout the room?

How will the space be used?

- Flexible spaces for students in seating and worksurfaces?
- Individual worksurfaces with storage boxes?
- Student presentation in small and/or large groups?
- Open space for discussions, debate, i.e. "fish bowl" Socratic seminar activities?

Do you have storage requirements for supplies, books, technology, other?

- Do they need to be locked?
- Do they need storage cubbies or shelves?
- Do they need open fronts or doors?

What constraints do you have in the room? Consider:

- Electrical
- Water fountain / Sinks / Bathrooms
- Built in cabinets and storage
- Stationary technology (Desk top computing systems, interactive whiteboard)
- Doors/Windows