# Collaborative Classroom with Desks—High School

**The Need for Collaborative Classrooms**

The 21st century is seeing an increasing demand for people that work well in teams, and technology is making it easier for professionals to collaborate with others, whether they be down the hall or across the globe. New ideas come from our willingness to build on the different perspectives we gain from working with others. Schools recognize the need for their curriculum to include collaborative activities, through which students hone interpersonal skills and learn how to communicate more effectively. They practice the art of actively listening to others in their groups. They learn how to blend ideas into a compromise that incorporates the contributions of other team members. All the while, students are fully engaged in their learning, which means they will retain knowledge and apply it to new situations.

**Requirements for a Great Collaborative Classroom**

For **students**, the ideal collaborative classroom should give everyone an equal chance to participate, and the room must let students easily arrange themselves into groups of various sizes. When students can work comfortably, they can focus on creativity and teamwork. Workspaces need to allow all team members to see each other without straining. Students are encouraged to participate when they can be seen clearly by others. Students also need to communicate within their group and with people in other groups, so they will need access to whiteboards, monitors, or other media that will facilitate presentations.

For **teachers,** the collaborative classroom should maximize the ability to move among different teams for mentoring or idea exchange. They should be able to address the whole class as they communicate assignments or demonstrate concepts. They should also be able to easily reconfigure the room to create work areas that promote the best student collaborations. Easy access to whiteboards or other media allows teachers to post assignments or write ideas without interrupting students' teamwork.

For **administrators,** the best collaborative learning space will be arranged and furnished to achieve the vision for that space. They need to know that all products are available at the time they are needed and that their order will arrive correctly and on time. Installations must be quick and efficient.

**Collaborative Classroom Solutions from School Outfitters**

School Outfitters' research and development professionals have designed a collaborative classroom with furnishings that fit the collaborative learning pedagogy. Products have been grouped together in ways to spark teamwork and to keep interactions going. **Collaboration Stations**, **Storage Areas**, and **Media Stations** are designed to work together to let students easily engage in group work.

**Collaboration Stations** allow students to easily arrange themselves in ways that help them to interact with each other effectively. Furnishings in these stations include:

- Chair-height collaborative desks
- Flexible school chairs
- Counter-height collaborative tables
- Stool-height chairs
- Mobile teacher workstation
- Mobile teacher chair

**Chair-height collaborative desks** can be used individually for quiet study or individual work but can be easily arranged into groups for projects or discussions as needed. Desktops easily wipe clean so they're sure to look great for years.

**Flexible school chairs** are constructed from durable, reinforced plastic that supports students as they lean back. The smooth, anti-static seats don''t require a metal backrest, which means students won''t snag hair or clothing on exposed rivets. The lightweight design makes it easy for students to pick them up and move them around the room.

**Stool-height collaborative tables** give students another workspace option, so they can choose the posture that best fits their needs. Students can also engage in standing work at these tables to break the monotony that can come from sitting for extended durations.

**Stool-height chairs** are compatible with the stool-height collaborative tables, and offer a better vantage point to see around the room. Students can also extend their legs more fully while still maintaining an upright seating posture to increase blood flow and stretch the muscles.

The **mobile teacher workstation** gives educators their own personal work surface that they can roll to the group they want to mentor. They can use the storage pedestals to store materials they need for demonstrations.

**Mobile teacher chairs** let educators roll their chair to different group areas to facilitate their students' activities.

**Storage Stations** in a collaborative classroom allow students and teachers to roll supplies to collaboration areas, so students can keep discussions going. Furnishings in these stations include:

- Mobile bin storage carts
- Mobile storage carts with shelves
- Lockable storage cabinet

**Mobile bin storage carts** can be rolled directly to collaboration stations, making distribution and collection of supplies easy. Bins make it simple to locate materials, and they can be completely removed from the unit for use at workstations. Large and small bin sizes accommodate a variety of storage needs.

**Mobile storage carts with shelves** provide spacious areas that are perfect for storing in-progress projects or displaying completed projects. Rolling casters make it easy to move the units out of the way when necessary.

A **lockable storage cabinet** secures devices or other materials that may require teacher supervision. Locking items away also reduces distractions by keeping tools, supplies and projects out of view. Teachers may also opt to use this cabinet for securing personal belongings.

**Media Stations** were developed to facilitate communication and idea generation from multiple places in the classroom. Items in these stations include:

- Double-sided whiteboard easels
- Mobile magnetic markerboard
- High-capacity charging cart

**Double-sided whiteboard easels** can be easily rolled to workstations, so students can brainstorm and capture ideas on the fly. Two writing surfaces let students to brainstorm on one side and present finished ideas on the other side. Easels can also be used to section off workspaces if needed.

A **mobile magnetic markerboard** provides a large writing surface that's great for communicating assignments or presentations. The magnetic surface lets students and teachers display papers or storyboards as they share ideas. Rolling casters are easy to maneuver over floor surfaces to bring the markerboard wherever it's needed.

A **high-capacity charging cart** keeps classroom devices charged and ready for use. Locking doors keep devices secure overnight. Heavy-duty rolling casters easily maneuver over any flooring, and the top doubles as an additional surface for storage or presentation.

**Choosing your Collaborative Classroom Solution**

School Outfitters' makes it simple to outfit a classroom tailored specifically for collaborative classrooms. Choose the classroom that best fits your budget and needs and get an itemized quote with just one click. Our helpful representatives are happy to answer any questions about our stations and how you can put them to use in your collaborative learning classroom. Just give us a call 1-800-260-2776.