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# Project-Based Learning Classroom—Middle & High School

## The Need for Project-Based Learning

Project-based learning allows students to gather knowledge and demonstrate what they know. Not only does it encourage active participation, research shows that it leads to better knowledge retention and higher scores on standardized tests. Project-based learning also encourages design-thinking, a skill that students will need for future challenges. Effective design thinking requires students be creative as they imagine solutions and use critical thinking to refine ideas. This process helps students understand what it takes to turn knowledge into know-how. The 21st century has seen more demand for innovative problem solvers and people who can create new opportunities. Project-based learning prepares students for the future since it provides an avenue in which they can develop these skills early.

## Requirements for a Great Project-Based Learning Classroom

For **students**, the ideal project-based learning space should spark ideas and creativity. They should be able to move around the room freely and have easy access to supplies. Workstations should be mobile, giving students the ability to arrange themselves in large or small collaborative groups that accommodate projects, and spacious enough for spreading out supplies and materials. Lightweight or mobile seating should be used so students can easily arrange their seating to work with a configurable space. Large writing surfaces such as mobile boards or whiteboard tabletops allow students to capture their ideas in a format that's easily shared with their group.

For **teachers**, a project-based learning classroom should maximize the ability to demonstrate ideas to the whole class, while still allowing the freedom to move between student workstations for mentoring. Flexible, configurable furniture assists teachers in arranging the space to best accommodate their students' work and an easy-to-use organizational system keeps set ups and clean ups quick and simple. Locking cabinets or carts keep devices and advanced supplies secure.

For **administrators**, the best project-learning space should be equipped with products that have been intelligently selected to fit the needs of their facility. 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.

## Project-Based Learning Space Solutions from School Outfitters

Research and development professionals at School Outfitters designed a learning space with every detail tailored to the activities involved in the project-based learning pedagogy. Through our expertise, we've selected furnishings that facilitate efficient and effective project sessions. **Team Workstations**, **Digital Workstations**, and **Project Storage Areas** make it simple to create an effective project-based learning classroom.

The **Team Workstations** were created with collaboration in mind, and include the following items:

- Activity tables
- Stools
- Double-sided whiteboard easels

**Spacious activity tables** let students spread out materials, so everyone can easily participate. Thick tabletops withstand heavy use, and laminate surfaces clean easily. Rolling casters make it simple to move these tables into groups for larger projects or collaborative discussion.

**Stools** give students freedom of movement as they focus on their activities, and the backless seats promote good posture and strengthen core muscles. Students can easily store these compact units underneath tables during standing work.

**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 write down ideas or progressively disclose information when they want to present it. Easels can also be used to section off workspaces if needed.

**Digital Workstations** are great for any project-based learning classroom that frequently works on devices. These workstations include:

- Mobile computer tables
- Flexible school chairs
- High-capacity charging cart

**Mobile computer tables** keep devices powered while providing wire management options to keep cables out of the way. Rolling casters make it easy for students to arrange the tables into groups.

**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.

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

**Project Storage Areas** were designed to provide the storage space you need to house tools, materials, in-progress projects, and more. These areas include:

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

**Mobile bin storage carts** can be rolled directly to student workstations, making distributing and collecting supplies easy. Clear bins make it simple to locate needed 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 **locking storage cabinet** secures devices or other materials that may require teacher supervision. Locking these items away reduces distractions by keeping tools, supplies and projects out of view. Teachers may also opt to use this cabinet for securing personal belongings.

### **Choosing your Project-Based Classroom Solutions**

School Outfitters makes it simple to outfit a classroom tailored specifically to the needs of project-based learning. Choose the option that best fits your budget and needs, and with just one click, you get an itemized quote for this classroom, including all three of our specially-designed solutions. Our helpful sales representatives are happy to answer any questions about our solutions and how you can put them to use in your project-based learning classroom. Just give us a call 1-800-260-2776.