

Learner-centered Classrooms



Driving Engagement through Learner-centered Classrooms

Today's learners expect classrooms that empower connectedness and support the development of future-ready skills.



About Our Research

Steelcase Learning partners with a wide range of primary and secondary educational institutions to understand how teaching and learning are evolving — and how smarter, more active environments can help.

When thinking about spaces for an evolving learning environment, Steelcase Learning team wondered: How might we design better classrooms with the elements that help both learners and educators be engaged and empowered?

Through our research, Steelcase found that learner-centered classroom spaces are directly connected to improved outcomes and better student and educator engagement. The classroom environment needs to meet the demands of higher cognitive learning experiences now and in the future.

To date, we've measured outcomes from:

112

Educational institutions, including 78 K-12 schools and 34 colleges/universities

16,594

Students surveyed and observed by their instructors

664

Instructors surveyed

Designing Learner-centered Classrooms

Our research revealed four key insights that positively impact the design of learner-centric classrooms.

Insight 1: Flexible classrooms enhance learning experiences.

Movement is key to creating learner-centered spaces. Modular, multi-modal furniture and flexible surfaces can improve people's ability to move around, collaborate and work in groups. Flexibility should be balanced with developmentally appropriate and intellectually stimulating settings and activities.

Insight 2: The built environment can foster physical and psychological wellbeing and inclusion.

Steelcase research suggests that wellbeing is a complex mix of physical, cognitive and emotional factors, each important and interdependent. When learners can collaborate, they're more likely to get involved and feel more invested in their work. Furniture provides physical and psychological comfort, but safety and security are also considerations.

Insight 3: Digital tools amplify teaching and learning but can also be a barrier.

Advances in technology continue to impact the learning environment. Students need access to power and storage areas for cords, backpacks and other personal items. Proper training and instruction are also important to ensure technology is being used to its fullest potential. Schools need to consider shared and individual tech and clear sightlines for in-person and remote participation.



Insight 4: The transition to learner-centered classrooms requires intentional design.

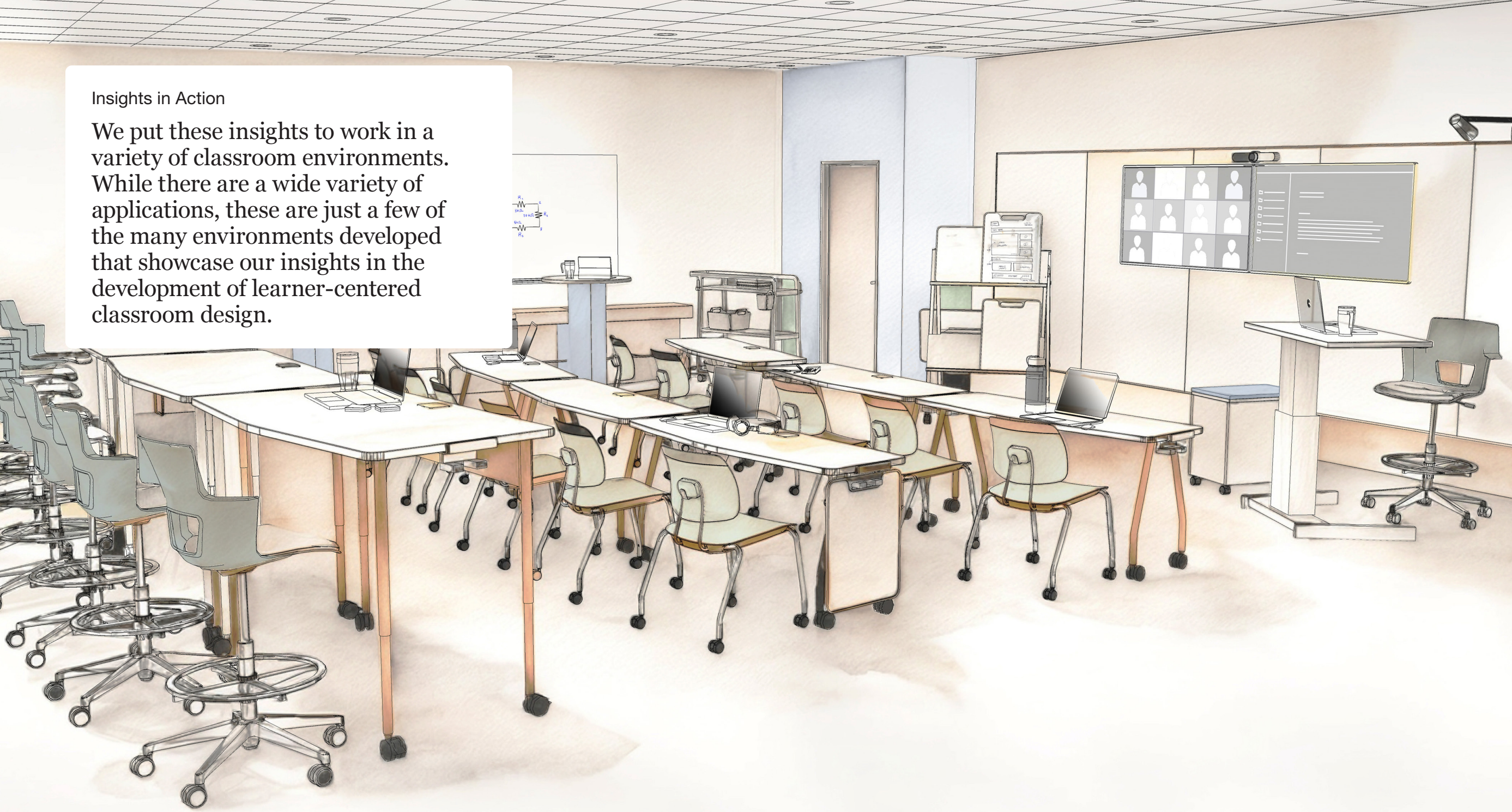
While today's students demand more from their learning environments, research shows that classrooms must still be designed with intention to maintain their purpose over time. Learner-centered classrooms need to work for various users and consider the whole learning experience.

80.4%

Research showed that 80.4% of students believed a learner-centered classroom helps them collaborate with classmates, compared to 59.8% in a traditional classroom.

Insights in Action

We put these insights to work in a variety of classroom environments. While there are a wide variety of applications, these are just a few of the many environments developed that showcase our insights in the development of learner-centered classroom design.



Products That Make it Work

Steelcase Shortcut Stool
Steelcase Tenor Chair
Steelcase Verb Table
Orangebox Border
Steelcase Verb Whiteboard + Easel
Steelcase Thread Power

Multi-purpose classrooms are versatile and flexible, accommodating diverse teaching and learning approaches. They promote an interactive and dynamic learning experience for students, improving their retention, engagement and participation, and allow people with different abilities to learn in an inclusive and welcoming environment.

Flexibility
Furniture is multi-purpose and adaptable to different activities. Mobile tables can flip/nest, and chairs can swivel to adjust for different users. Space is optimized, allowing students to use various postures and settings.

Technology
A combination of intuitive digital and physical tools, such as whiteboards and digital displays, supports the development of a diverse range of skills.



Products That Make it Work

Steelcase Shortcut Chair
 Steelcase Verb FlipTop Table
 Steelcase Flex Media Cart
 Steelcase Campfire Lounge
 Smith System Flow Rocker
 Steelcase Flex Whiteboard + Stand
 Steelcase Flex Media Cart
 Steelcase Thread Power

Large active breakout classrooms are ideal for implementing learner-centered strategies that involve student participation, interaction and engagement. They are optimized when students break into small groups within the larger classroom to work together on projects and assignments.

Flexibility

The room is surrounded by writable and tackable surfaces on the walls which can be used to generate, capture and share ideas.

Technology

Technology tools such as interactive whiteboards, projectors, document cameras and audio-visual systems are readily available to facilitate project delivery and communication.

Wellbeing

With multiple, flexible zones including living room areas, tall perimeter tables and group tables in between, students are empowered to choose and create settings that best meet their needs.

Let's Get in Touch

To find out more about our settings, solutions and capabilities, visit steelcase.com/asia-en/brands/steelcase-learning

Next Steps

Engage with an expert for our full research summary and countless design thought starters.

Experience our curated spaces and solutions for education and work through an in-person or virtual tour of our showrooms.

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