

Cycle 6
Grant Proposal Guide

Active Learning Center



Advancing Active Learning

Steelcase has a passion for understanding how teaching and learning take place – and how smarter, more active environments can help. That’s the focus of our research and innovation in furniture and tools for learning spaces.

The Active Learning Center Grant is one way we invest in the future of teaching and learning. It furnishes a new classroom and provides support services to educational institutions interested in transformation.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Over the five years that Steelcase Education has been offering our Active Learning Center Grant, we have learned a great deal from the schools, colleges and universities who have received it. Guided by the experiences and feedback from these partners, we have made some important updates to this program. Here’s what’s new in Cycle 6:

A focus on transformation – eligible institutions demonstrate their intent and capacity to use lessons learned from the Active Learning Center Grant to transform additional spaces and experiences.

A well-supported journey – during the two-year grant period, recipient institutions will receive services that build knowledge and are important to achieving and sustaining the goals of active learning.

NUMBER OF GRANTS

up to 10

CLASSROOM VALUE

\$82,000

SERVICES VALUE

\$50,000

STUDENTS PER CLASSROOM

up to 30

ELIGIBLE CLASSROOMS

**grades 6–12,
colleges and
universities**

About Steelcase Education

We partner with schools, colleges and universities to create effective, inspiring learning environments to meet the evolving needs of students and educators. Learning happens everywhere, and so our solutions span classrooms, libraries, cafés and many spaces in between. We help create active learning ecosystems that recognize the interdependencies between pedagogy, technology and space – and support and strengthen all three as an integrated whole.

About the grant

The Active Learning Center Grant invests in educational institutions interested in transformation.

ELIGIBILITY

The Active Learning Center Grant is awarded to up to 10 schools, colleges and universities located in the United States, U.S. Territories, Puerto Rico, Canada or Mexico.

The classroom created will serve up to 30 students enrolled in grades 6–12 or postsecondary courses.

A NEW CLASSROOM VALUED AT \$82,000

Spaces designed for active learning include thoughtful features and proximities to enhance collaboration, encourage movement, empower choice and engage learners. The grant funds one active learning classroom, including furniture, design review and installation.

Grant recipients choose from a selection of three classroom layouts to meet their specific needs and objectives – and to demonstrate what’s possible for future space planning. Classroom options are presented in the final section of this guide.

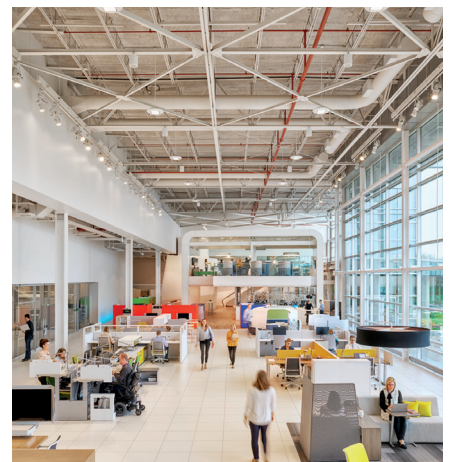
The grant-funded space includes signage designating it as a Steelcase Education Active Learning Center.

Grantees provide Steelcase Education and the dealership that installs the classroom with reasonable access to the Active Learning Center for the purposes of showing it as an example to other institutions in the area. We will request access to the space at least two weeks in advance of these visits when possible.

Active Learning Symposium

Active Learning Center Grant recipients are invited to a knowledge sharing and networking event that gathers people who are passionate about teaching and learning in more active environments.

Held at the Steelcase Learning + Innovation Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Active Learning Symposium creates opportunities to reflect on real-life experiences teaching in an active learning space, discuss the impact of space on student learning, and explore ways active learning strategies and spaces can prepare students for the future world of work.



About the grant (continued)

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING VALUED AT \$25,000

While research shows that the physical environment can enhance learning¹, educators remain the number one factor predicting student achievement.² For this reason, the grant funds professional learning opportunities designed to engage, empower and enable faculty in the practice of active learning so that they can achieve desired experiences and outcomes. Active Learning Center Grant recipients receive a powerful combination of learning opportunities from our available professional services.

As appropriate, professional learning experiences include:

- Live online sessions on key topics with experts and peers who are bringing learning to life through more active approaches
- In-person customized workshops (year 1 and year 2) held within your new space, aligned with your goals and informed by prior Steelcase Education real-world classroom observation, data collection and your reflective practices
- Instructional coaching enabled by a video-based learning platform that invites you to view model teaching strategies, record and refine your own practices, and share with a learning community



TRANSFORMATION SERVICES VALUED AT \$25,000

It's no small task to challenge existing models and transform teaching and learning. Transformation initiatives of any magnitude ultimately require shifts in individual mindsets and entire cultures. Experience shows the speed of adoption, quality of practice and sustainability of your efforts will improve if you prepare and involve people in change and manage it well. That's why, during the grant proposal process, you are asked to socialize interest in transformation supported by an Active Learning Center with other leaders at your institution and to assess levels of interest and commitment. If you receive the grant, our consultants facilitate a process that brings your stakeholders together, builds understanding and focuses people who have diverse points of view on a shared purpose. It's a high-impact experience from our comprehensive suite of transformation strategy services.

As appropriate, transformation strategy activities include:

- Visioning workshop with stakeholders – to include administrators, instructional design leaders, and others who guide and take part in teaching – to define and align around your institutional mission, pedagogical goals, map viable paths forward and establish measures of success
- Gap Analysis to identify differences between current reality and your goals and suggestions for managing the transformation journey
- Bi-monthly follow-up conversations to gauge progress and identify opportunities to improve results

¹ D. Christopher Brooks, *British Journal of Education Technology*, 2010.

² John A.C. Hattie, *Visible Learning: A Synthesis of Over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement*, 2008.

About the grant (continued)

RESEARCH + KNOWLEDGE SHARING

A well planned and executed research process can inform your active learning journey and also provide the evidence you need to support further growth and innovation.

Central question and topics. To be considered for the award, grant applicants must propose a plan of research that seeks to answer the question: *What impact does the new Active Learning Center have on supporting your desired pedagogy, teaching, learning and student success? Why?*

The specific topic of your research should be chosen from one of the four themes in the list provided below.

Learning Environment Evaluation tool. In addition to the qualitative and/or quantitative research methods you propose, your research must involve the Learning Environment Evaluation measurement tool provided by Steelcase

Education. This is an online survey resource developed by Steelcase Education to evaluate the effectiveness of teaching and learning in new active learning classrooms. Two versions of the tool are available: one evaluating the learning experience of students and one measuring the teaching experience of instructors. Both versions assess collaborative, communicative, critical thinking and creative behaviors and practices in the classroom. The tool also gathers feedback on relationships, expectations, engagement and movement within the classroom. The surveys take five to seven minutes to complete.

We recommend administering the tool prior to any environmental change in the classroom and also shortly before the end of the first semester. Steelcase Education will work with you to determine the best timing and will provide a report with results. Information identifying survey respondents will not be collected as a part of this evaluation.

Potential Research Themes

Engaged Learning Experiences

Example topics include:

- Student-driven learning
- Problem-based learning
- Project-based learning

Instructor Experiences

Example topics include:

- Instructor mindset change
- Training and professional learning

Non-Cognitive Factors

Example topics include:

- Student mindset
- Social-emotional skills and wellbeing

Emerging Technology Integration

Example topics include:

- Personalized learning
- Blended learning

About the grant (continued)



Three-Party Agreement

The official representative of each Active Learning Center Grant recipient institution signs a three-party **ALC Grant Agreement** with Steelcase Education and the Steelcase dealer that installs the classroom. The agreement affirms that all parties will uphold the conditions of the grant as described in this guide. You can find the agreement in the resources section at steelcase.com/activelearningcenter (visit the page and scroll down to find resources).

Annual report. Using a template provided by Steelcase Education, grantees complete an annual report at the end of each of the two years of the grant period that incorporates all of the specific results of your research and dissemination efforts. Within this report, you should also include a list of organizations that have visited your Active Learning Center.

Dissemination. Active Learning Center grantees share their findings and insights from the grant-funded experience with internal and external audiences using a variety of communication vehicles, which may include: annual reports, case studies, white papers, presentations, videos and images.

Recipients may elect to disseminate results separately or jointly with Steelcase Education. Steelcase makes professional public relations and communications support available for joint dissemination activities.

Grantees give Steelcase Education permission to use the name of their institutions and other agreed-upon content in Steelcase Education communications. All communications by either party about the Active Learning Center during or with regard to the grant period must make reference to Steelcase Education and the grant recipient institution.

Strong proposals



Steelcase aims to spark transformative change toward more active teaching and learning experiences.

Through our grantmaking, we support innovative thinkers, educators and educational institutions working to catalyze change with Active Learning Centers. Because our mission is deep and our resources are limited, we carefully target our support where we believe it can be most effective and create the greatest impact.

In Cycle 6, we will evaluate and select proposals from academic institutions that best demonstrate:

- A designated classroom focused on student learning
- Educational strategies of the institution that align with active learning philosophies
- Robust plans for completion of research as described in this guide, including clear identification of the

anticipated impact an active learning space will have on the learning experience and ultimately student success

- Thoughtful and comprehensive plans to disseminate lessons learned over the two-year grant cycle
- Interest in and capacity for future active learning and active learning spaces based on the grant-funded experience
- Overall proposal quality

Proposals are reviewed and grant recipients are selected by the Steelcase Education leadership team. Due to the high volume of grant proposals we receive, it is not possible for us to respond to requests for feedback from individual applicants.

Learn more in our webinar. To sharpen your proposal, plan to join our webinar, "Smart Strategies for an Active Learning Center Grant," held on December 9, 2019.

WHAT WE DO NOT FUND

Steelcase Education makes grants that align with our mission and focus. We do not fund:

- Student projects
- Projects solely intended for the purposes of advocacy
- Classrooms designed for the provision of healthcare, sports or recreation, or early childhood education

Tracking progress

Steelcase Education welcomes questions and updates throughout the two-year grant period; we keep in touch and track progress in two primary ways:

Site visits. Steelcase Education representatives will visit the installed Active Learning Center at least twice during the two-year term of the grant.

Reporting. At the end of each year of the grant period, recipients are required to submit annual reports that capture research findings and dissemination activities. Steelcase Education reviews these for compliance with the grant terms.

Two-year grant award cycle

December 2, 2019	Opening date for submitting grant proposals
December 9, 2019	"Smart Strategies for an Active Learning Center Grant" webinar
February 3, 2020	Closing date for submitting grant proposals
March 20, 2020	Grant recipients notified
April 24, 2020	Signed agreements received from all grant recipients
May 29, 2020	Classroom design and specifications complete
June 5, 2020	List of all instructors who will teach in room identified
June 15, 2020	Classroom orders placed
July – August 2020	Installation of Active Learning Centers
July – September 2020	Training for grant recipients
September 2020 – August 2022	Two-year cycle of communication with grant recipients, grant applicants, interested audiences
June 25, 2021	First annual report submitted
June 24, 2022	Second annual report submitted

Applying for a grant



Prior to applying for a grant, we recommend reviewing the following resources to gain familiarity with Steelcase Education and our approach to active learning:

[Insights + Applications Guide](#)

[A Revised Lesson Plan for Student Success](#)

[Personalized Learning – A Guide to Student Engagement](#)

[ALC Grant Research Summaries](#)

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions related to our grant guidelines or submitting a grant proposal, please email us at steelcase@activelearningcentergrant.com.

We will respond to all inquiries within two business days. In addition, answers to frequently asked questions are posted weekly in the resources section of Steelcase.com/activelearningcenter.

The Steelcase Education Active Learning Center is not related to grants issued by the Steelcase Foundation or to the work of Steelcase Corporate Relations.

Steelcase Education supports equal opportunity in its grant making and internal policies.



**Active
Learning
Center**

Grant Award Classroom Options

Learning Studio

Meaningful movement

From lecture and discussions to test taking and back again, this classroom supports the dynamic rhythm of active learning. Flexible tables and chairs allow quick reconfiguration, so students and instructors can easily engage in different learning modes.

Benefits

- Node mobile seating in two heights provides clear sightlines and supports student engagement and team collaboration.
- Verb personal whiteboards encourage creativity and sharing, and they provide privacy during assessment; larger shared whiteboard supports co-creation and collaboration.
- Chevron table shape brings students to their content and to classmates for group work.
- Thread brings power off the floor with a clean, accessible user interface.
- Sturdy, lightweight storage keeps resources within reach.
- Small lounge area creates an informal place to study and reflect.



(Computers and monitors not included)

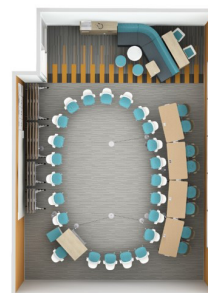
Classroom features included

- Scoop Stools
- Node Stools
- Node Chairs
- Verb Rectangle Flip-Top Tables
- Verb Chevron Flip-Top Tables
- Verb Rectangle Tables
- Thread
- Flow – a3 CeramicSteel
- Buoy
- Bivi Depot Storage
- Mobile Pedestal
- Verb Personal Whiteboards
- Verb Walltrack
- Campfire Big Lounge
- Campfire Half Lounge
- Campfire Paper Table
- Campfire Slim Table
- Campfire Skate Table
- Airtouch Rectangle Table

Note: Furniture substitutions are not permitted for the purposes of this grant. Thread power distribution is optional but must be placed under carpet provided by the grantee educational institution. The grantee is responsible for hiring an electrician.

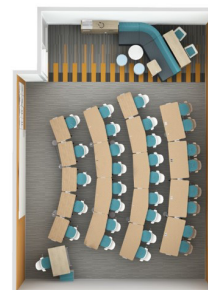
Metrics

Students supported	30
Square feet per person	32



Socratic Seminar Mode

Tables flip and nest to free up floor space, bringing students face to face for meaningful dialogue and debate.



Presentation Mode

Tiered, stadium-style seating and tables ensure everyone has a clear view.



Group Mode

Small clusters create territory for teams as they engage in group projects.

Student Centric Studio

Learning gets personal

It's about comfort, collaboration and control. This classroom is designed to tailor learning to students' diverse needs and preferences. A variety of settings and tools can help students craft their aspirations into individualized experiences with instructor guidance.

Benefits

- A mix of portable and personal whiteboards encourage the free-flow of ideas, while a mobile cart and wall mounts support display and discussion.
- Blended seating and table solutions let students choose the best place to engage in learning.
- Lounge area creates a comfortable enclave for collaboration, focus or mentoring.
- Standing-height table encourages healthy posture change; on casters, it moves with ease.
- Thread brings power off the floor with a clean, accessible user interface.



(Computers and monitors not included)

Classroom features included

- Scoop Stools
- Node Chairs
- Verb Chevron Flip-Top Tables
- Verb Active Media Table
- Thread
- Flow – a3 CeramicSteel
- Flex Work Table
- Flex Wall Rail
- Flex Stand
- Flex Freestanding Screen
- Flex Power Hanger
- Flex Markerboard
- Flex Cup
- Flex Team Carts
- Flex Basket
- Bouy
- Mobile Pedestal
- Verb Personal Whiteboards
- Campfire Big Lounge
- Campfire Half Lounge Seating
- Campfire Paper Table
- Campfire Skate Table
- Airtouch Rectangle Table

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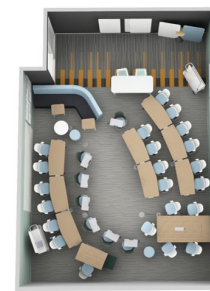
Group Mode

Seating and tables cluster to support focus for collaborative groups of various sizes.



Presentation Mode

Swivel seating ensures clear sightlines for sharing while the mobile whiteboard cart creates a focal point.



Discussion Mode

Flexible furniture moves to encourage face-to-face connection and mutual sharing.

Flex Flip Studio

Creative problem solving

Inspired by design thinking practices, this setting is made to help students engage in creative problem solving. Tools and furnishings provide responsive support as students challenge assumptions and imagine alternatives together.

Benefits

- Blended solutions let students choose the best support for their learning needs – including a lounge for mentoring, focus or collaboration.
- Ergonomic seating in a range of heights let students huddle quickly, swivel easily, refer to content in any direction and stay comfortably focused and engaged.
- Verb personal whiteboards encourage creativity and sharing, and they provide privacy during assessment.
- Portable whiteboards support brainstorming, co-creation and collaboration, while a mobile cart and wall mounts support display and discussion.
- Thread brings power off the floor with a clean, accessible user interface.



(Computers and monitors not included)

Classroom features included

- Node Stools
- Node Chairs
- Verb Rectangle Flip-Top Tables
- Thread
- Flow – a3 CeramicSteel
- Flex Work Table
- Flex Wall Rail
- Flex Stand
- Flex Freestanding Screen
- Flex Power Hanger
- Flex Markerboard
- Flex Height Adjustable Desk
- Flex Cup
- Flex Team Cart
- Flex Basket
- Buoy
- Mobile Pedestal
- Verb Personal Whiteboards
- Verb Walltrack
- Campfire Big Lounge
- Campfire Half Lounge
- Campfire Paper Table
- Campfire Skate Table

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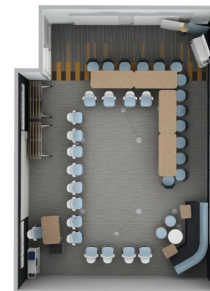
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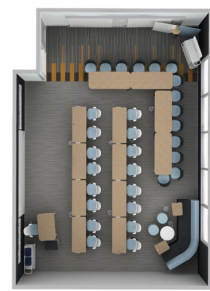
Group Mode

A mix of settings at various heights invite students to get comfortable and creative.



Discussion Mode

Tables flip and stow, creating plenty of room for students to circle up for group discussions.



Presentation Mode

Flexible seating and tiered tables improve sightlines so students can easily connect with content and each other.



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