

Social Distancing in Education

April 17, 2020

Steelcase
EDUCATION

Social Distancing Design Considerations

Spatial Considerations

Social distancing, or physical distancing, is a set of non-pharmaceutical interventions or measures taken to prevent the spread of a contagious disease by maintaining a physical distance between people and reducing the number of times people come into close contact with each other. [Wikipedia](#)

Spatial Considerations

Consider recommended mandates when designing classrooms which vary by state, city, region, and district and may change daily so solutions should be flexible and agile to morph as current guidelines are updated.

Consider the impact of social distancing to manage infectious diseases in the classroom and the reality that class sizes will likely be reduced in the near term.

Consider 6' spacing between students initially to comply with CDC recommendations which may be reduced as the threat relaxes.

Consider fewer transitions into different learning modes to minimize active interactions during this time of heightened sensitivity.

Consider ways to enable visual connections between learners, instructor and content to enhance student engagement.

Consider removing the instructor desk/podium or turn it away from students to reduce the threat of transmissions.

Consider wider pathways and unidirectional flow in and out of the building, classroom, corridors, breakout in-between spaces to give more distance between students as they travel through the school.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom A | Before & During Social Distancing

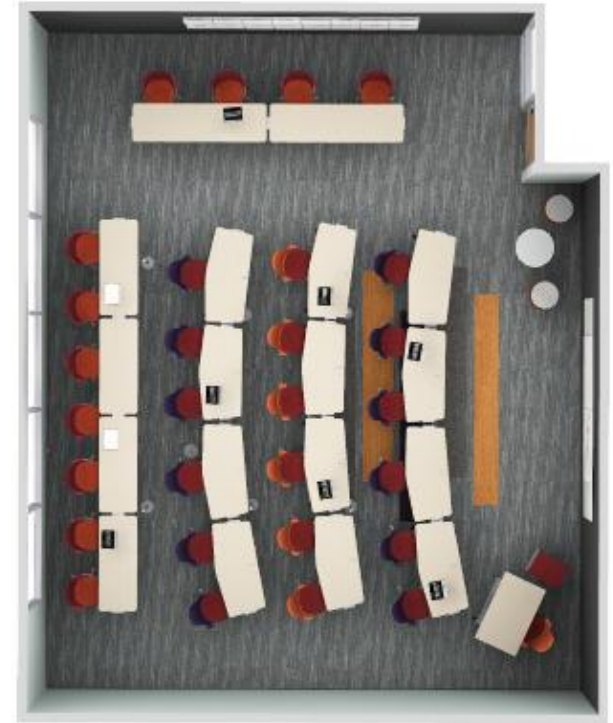
Plan Views



**TYPICAL CLASSROOM
BEFORE SOCIAL
DISTANCING**
36 students



**SAME CLASSROOM WITH 6'
SOCIAL DISTANCING**
19 students



**SAME CLASSROOM WITH 3'
SOCIAL DISTANCING**
29 students

28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF

Remove chairs at existing classroom tables to allow for social distancing of 6' between students. Add chairs as restrictions relax to achieve a more relaxed spacing of 3' between people (as shown on right), then bring all 36 chairs back when conditions fully recover.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom A | Before Social Distancing

Plan Views



PRESENTATION MODE



GROUP BREAKOUT MODE

28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
36 students = 27 SF per student

Typical active learning classroom layout.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom A | Before Social Distancing

Presentation Mode



28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
36 students = 27 SF per student

Typical active learning classroom layout.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom A | Option A with Social Distancing

Presentation Mode



28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
36 students = 27 SF per student

Typical active learning classroom layout using Verb Personal Whiteboards as a quick social distancing measure.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom A | Option B | 6' Social Distancing

Presentation Mode



28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
19 students = 51 SF per student

Remove chairs at existing tables to allow for 6' social distancing.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom A | Option C | 3' Social Distancing

Presentation Mode



28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
29 students = 34 SF per student

Add chairs as restrictions relax to achieve a more relaxed spacing of 3' between people, then bring all 36 chairs back when conditions fully recover.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom A | Before Social Distancing

Group Breakout Mode



28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
36 students = 27 SF per student

Typical active learning classroom layout.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom A | Option B | 6' Social Distancing

Group Breakout Mode



28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
19 students = 51 SF per student

Remove chairs at existing tables to allow for 6' social distancing.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom B | Varying Levels of Social Distancing

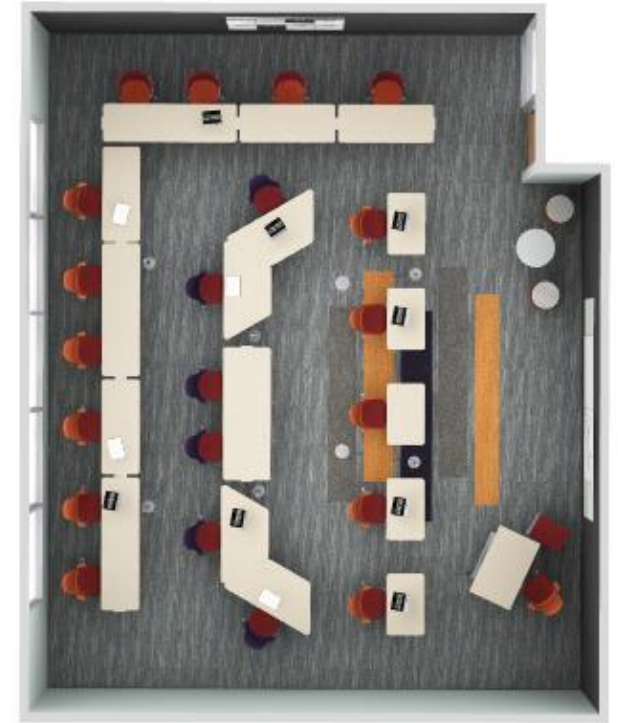
Plan Views



**TYPICAL CLASSROOM
NO SOCIAL DISTANCING
33 students**



**SAME CLASSROOM
WITH 6' SOCIAL DISTANCING
16 students**



**SAME CLASSROOM
WITH 3' SOCIAL DISTANCING
21 students**

28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
21 students = 46 SF per student

Remove chairs at existing tables to allow for social distancing. Add chairs as restrictions relax to achieve a more relaxed spacing of 3' between people (as shown), then bring all 33 chairs back when fully recovered.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom B | 6' Social Distancing

Presentation Mode



28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
16 students = 61 SF per student

Remove chairs at existing tables to allow for social distancing. Add chairs as restrictions relax to achieve a more relaxed spacing of 3' between people (as shown), then bring all 30 chairs back when fully recovered.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom B | 3' Social Distancing

Presentation Mode



28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
21 students = 46 SF per student

Remove chairs at existing tables to allow for social distancing. Add chairs as restrictions relax to achieve a more relaxed spacing of 3' between people (as shown), then bring all 30 chairs back when fully recovered.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom B | 6' Social Distancing

Group Breakout Mode



28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
16 students = 61 SF per student

Remove chairs at existing tables to allow for social distancing. Add chairs as restrictions relax to achieve a more relaxed spacing of 3' between people (as shown), then bring all 30 chairs back when fully recovered. .

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom B | 3' Social Distancing

Group Breakout Mode



28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
21 students = 46 SF per student

Remove chairs at existing tables to allow for social distancing. Add chairs as restrictions relax to achieve a more relaxed spacing of 3' between people (as shown), then bring all 30 chairs back when fully recovered. .

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom C | Individual Tables w/ Freestanding Separation Screens

Plan Views



PRESENTATION MODE



GROUP BREAKOUT MODE

28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
18 students = 54 SF per student

This scenario provides additional protection between students with plexiglass Freestanding Separation Screens. As a result, student count is reduced from 30 to 18 students.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom C | Individual Tables w/ Freestanding Separation Screens

Presentation Mode



28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
18 students = 54 SF per student

This scenario provides additional protection between students with plexiglass Freestanding Separation Screens. As a result, student count is reduced from 30 to 18 students.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Classroom C | Individual Tables w/ Freestanding Separation Screens

Group Breakout Mode



28'6" x 34'11" = 976 SF
18 students = 54 SF per student

This scenario provides additional protection between students with plexiglass Freestanding Separation Screens. As a result, student count is reduced from 30 to 18 students.

In-Between Focus Spaces

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

In-Between Spaces | Brody Desk & Lounge

Individual Micro-Environment



Without Social Distancing.



With Social Distancing.

Separate Brody in a student commons setting, then replace them adjacent when social distancing restrictions relax.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

In-Between Spaces | Brody Desk & Lounge

Individual Settings



Provide a variety of individual settings where students can study, focus and rejuvenate alone at a safe distance from others.

Love How You Learn

Appendix

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION
Classroom D | Large Lecture Hall

Presentation Mode



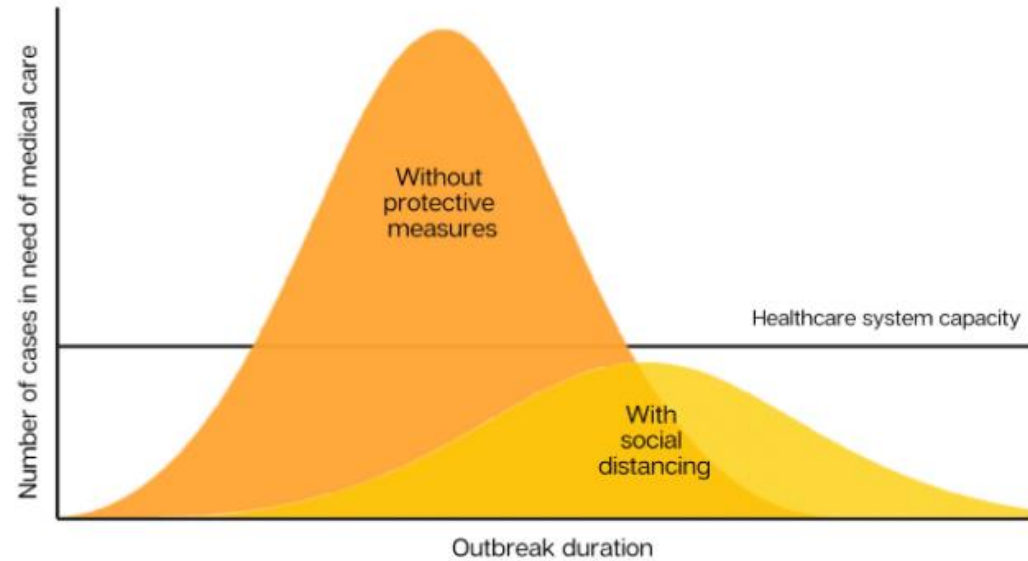
64'8" x 62'6" = 976 SF
64 students = 63 SF per student

Density in a lecture hall is significantly reduced, but will allow for chairs to be added as the threat lessens.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Social Distancing Design Considerations

Guideline Examples



SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES AT WORK

-  **1** Avoid in-person meetings. Use online conferencing, email or the phone when possible, even when people are in the same building.
-  **2** Unavoidable in-person meetings should be short, in a large meeting room where people can sit at least three feet from each other; avoid shaking hands.
-  **3** Eliminate unnecessary travel and cancel or postpone nonessential meetings, gatherings, workshops and training sessions.
-  **4** Do not congregate in work rooms, pantries, copier rooms or other areas where people socialize. Keep six feet apart when possible.
-  **5** Bring lunch and eat at your desk or away from others (avoid lunchrooms and crowded restaurants).
-  **6** Avoid public transportation (walk, cycle, drive a car) or go early or late to avoid rush-hour crowding on public transportation.
-  **7** Limit recreational or other leisure classes, meetings, activities, etc., where close contact with others is likely.



SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EDUCATION

Social Distancing Guidelines

Poster Examples

Social Distancing:



What does it mean?

It means stay away from places where people gather, avoid mass gatherings, and whenever not possible, maintains a distance of at least one metre from each other.¹ Together we can help to slow the infection from spreading away.

Red Light – Avoid / Don't Do

- All gatherings of religious, commercial, official or personal nature (e.g. market/mall, cinema, meeting/conference, wedding, party/picnic, tuition, gym/yoga, dancing etc.) involving a sizeable and flowing crowd
- Social visitors or non-essential workers in your house
- Non-essential visitors in the workplace
- Non-essential travel in public transportation

Yellow Light – Do with Caution

- Attend private gatherings limited to a few family members or known friends
- Travelling in a private transport (public transport only if it is a NECESSITY)
- Visit a local restaurant BUT choose the open-air type, sitting with at least one metre apart whenever possible (takeaway food is a better choice)
- Buying in a grocery store or supermarkets without a crowd
- Pick up medicines from the pharmacy without a crowd
- Play sports in the open air with family or a few known friends

Green Light – Safe to Do

- Take a walk or jog in open park or stadium
- Cycling
- Play in the home garden, or go for a fun drive with family
- Read a book or listen to music in private
- Play games or watch TV/movie at home
- Home cooking and meals at home

➡ Wash your hands frequently with soaps and water, or alcohol-based hand rub.

➡ Best to do thing online whenever possible (e.g. Video chat, e-payment, internet games, or chat over a phone).



¹. "World Health Organisation, March 2020."

