

General Marshall Middle School

AUSTIN, TEXAS



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

General Marshall Middle School is a new 130,000-square-foot campus on a 10-acre site located in Austin's Mueller Development, previously the site of Mueller Airport. The campus was developed with extensive input from a stakeholder committee who participated in visioning exercises, site visits, and campus tours, and several community engagement meetings. Stakeholders helped shape spaces for this new campus that balance academics, wellness, and neighborhood integration.

The campus fosters strong neighborhood connections, supporting student engagement and belonging. Flexible learning neighborhoods, maker spaces, and collaboration spaces that extend outdoors, promoting academic, social, and emotional growth. Sustainability and resiliency are central, with durable materials, solar-ready roofs, water recycling, and flexible planning for long-term use, earning an AEGB 4-star certification.

The campus architecture is organized into a three-story wing that rises over lower scale brick masses, relating to the neighborhood density across the street. The campus engages community use with public use spaces facing the street and welcomes in the community during open campus events through the central portal.



Photography by Carl Hyndman, Matthew Niemann, and Banner Mountain Media

SCOPE OF WORK

GENERAL MARSHALL MIDDLE SCHOOL

This 130,000 sf, three-story middle school sits in a New Urbanist neighborhood on a former airport site. The building is organized into two main components: the three-story academic wing, and a single-story south building housing large gathering and performing arts spaces, including the dining commons, gym, and arts facilities.

The design emphasizes equitable access and diverse learning spaces for this stage of student development. The 10-acre site includes the building, two tennis courts, and full-size sports field, reflecting New Urbanist principles of density, multimodal access, and community sharing. Aesthetically, the building draws on the site's aviation history, seen in swooping roof forms, a wing-shaped solar screen, hangar-inspired large gathering spaces, and façade patterns referencing the nearby original airport control tower.

District Name
Austin ISD

Occupancy Date
6/2023

Student capacity
800

Site size in acres
10

Building SF
130,000

Total Cost
\$49,304,165.00



SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

After the Mueller Airport relocated in 1999, 700 acres were master planned as a mixed-use, high-density new urbanist development. On the edge of this development, at the terminus of the Simond Promenade sits in an odd-shaped 10-acre lot. The building invites the community in with a gateway gesture.

The campus features several joint-use facilities shared with the neighborhood and is sited next to a neighborhood sports park. The Mueller development features pedestrian and cyclist friendly infrastructure, supporting student commutes to campus. The campus is designed to serve 800 students beyond the Mueller development, including a diverse cohort of >75% diverse student population.



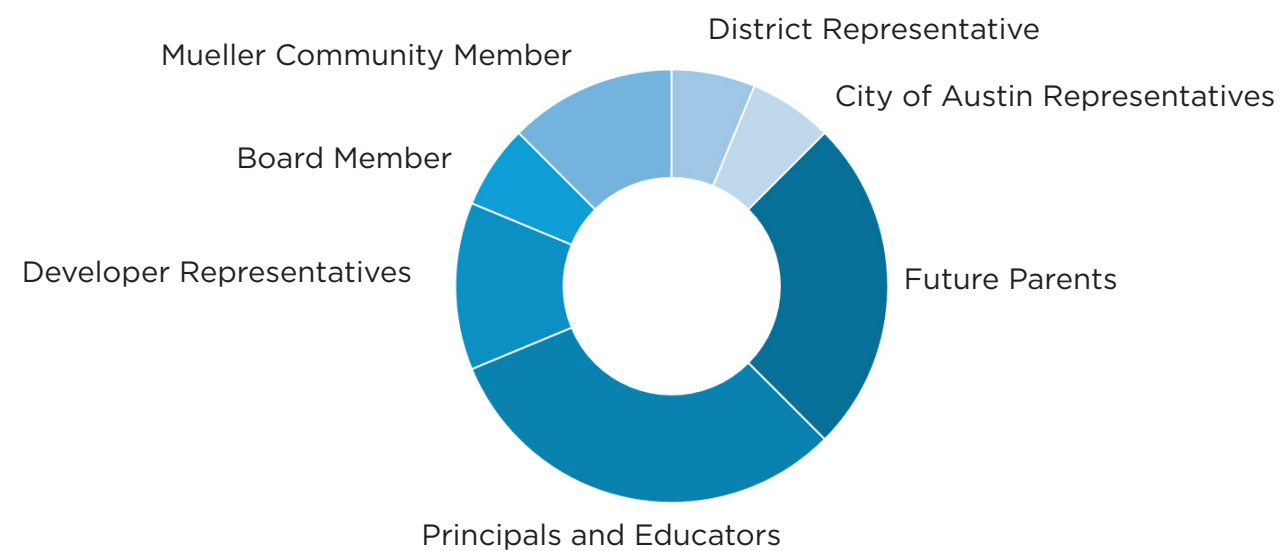
SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

This project was a new campus for the district in a new development; therefore it had no existing community of educators and parents. The district and design team assembled a Campus Advisory Team consisting of in-district principals, educators, parents of future students, district board members, neighbors and a unique developer representative. The school was to be a landmark facility representing the “new urbanist” principles. Large community meetings, also translated into Spanish, were provided at each phase. Stakeholder and community meetings were presented virtually after the pandemic struck mid-design process. Over the course of the project, over 30 stakeholder, community and department meetings shaped the design and culture of the campus to be.



Campus Architectural Team Makeup



AVAILABLE ASSETS

General Marshall Middle School is located in Austin's thoughtfully planned, sustainability-driven Mueller neighborhood. Within this walkable, connected urban framework, its prominent site next to a community park establishes a strong civic presence and reinforces the school's role as both an educational anchor and neighborhood gathering place.

Sustainability was a shared priority of the district and community from the outset, with a minimum LEED Silver certification established as a project goal. The campus utilizes the smart infrastructure of the development wide stormwater detention, and uses the reclaimed water system that runs throughout the neighborhood to offset 80% of indoor water use. Mechanical equipment condensate capture offsets 100% of irrigation demands, modeling responsible resource stewardship.

Community integration extends beyond environmental performance. The campus is designed for joint use, supporting both academic and community activities, and utilizing nearby campus PAC and neighborhood park. The positioning along a multimodal street network, the campus provides safe, equitable access and serves as a sustainable, socially connected centerpiece of the Mueller community.



LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

EDUCATIONAL VISION AND GOALS

FUTURE PROOFING

Long life, loose fit, low energy

The educational vision for the campus is grounded in future-proofing, guided by long life, loose fit, and low energy. Designed to endure, adapt, and perform efficiently, durable materials, flexible planning, and adaptable infrastructure allow spaces to evolve with curriculum and technology. High-performance systems and water conservation reinforce environmental stewardship and reduce long-term operational impact, ensuring the campus remains relevant, resilient, and sustainable for generations of learners.



COMMUNITY EDGES

Every wall is an opportunity

At the community scale, edges transform boundaries into opportunities to connect, inspire, and promote wellness. Transparency, daylight, and outdoor views strengthen ties to the neighborhood, while shared-use zones, park views, and welcoming entries reinforce the school's role as a civic anchor and support social and emotional wellbeing.



DYNAMIC LEARNING

Support the whole student

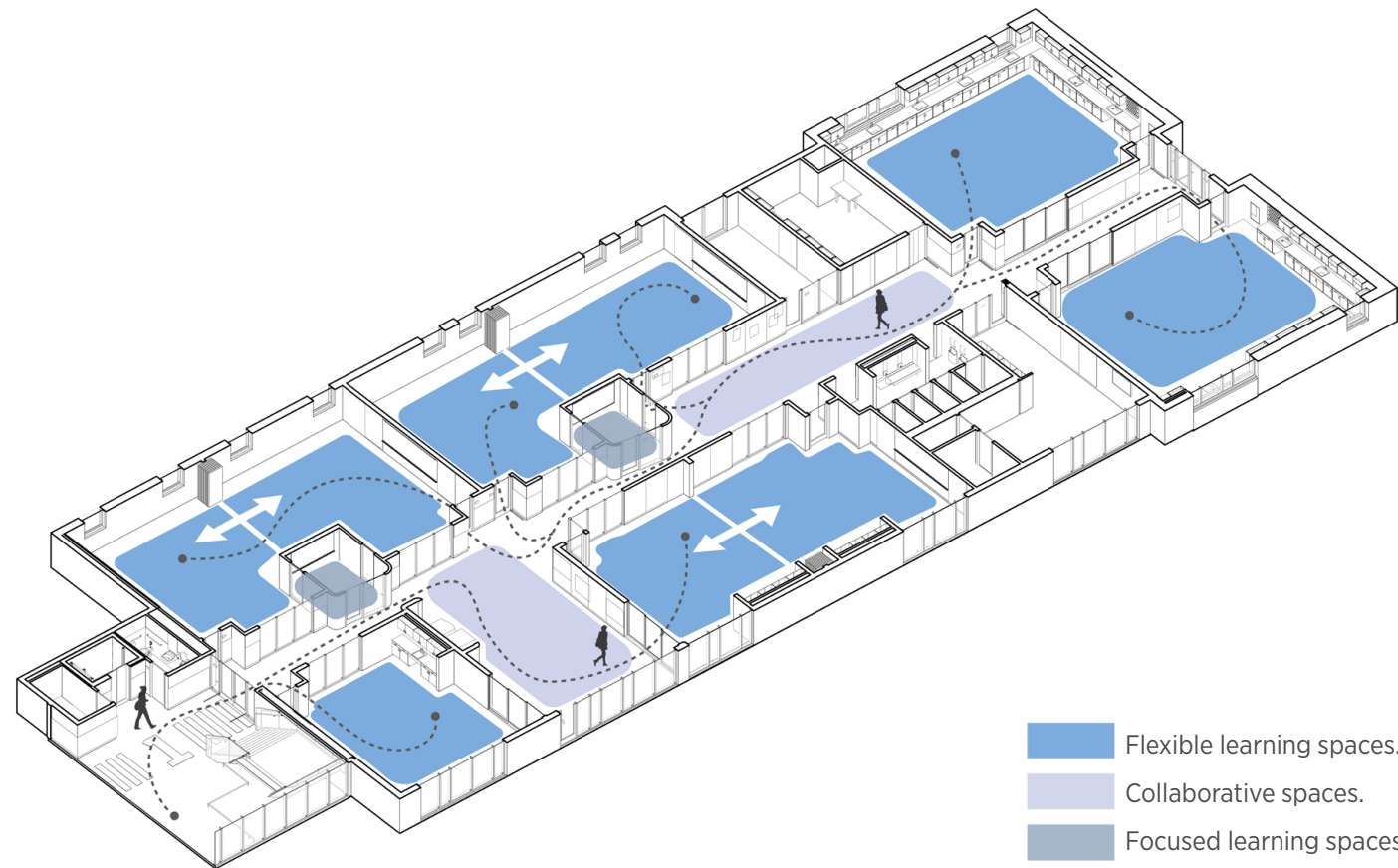
Classrooms and collaborative areas support the whole student with flexible, technology-rich spaces for focused study and hands-on exploration. Varied settings for individual reflection, small group collaboration, and large group instruction recognize learning as multi-dimensional. By centering experience, comfort, and choice, the design nurtures curiosity, creativity, and belonging, aligning the environment with the school's commitment to student growth and academic excellence.



LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL LEARNERS

The campus delivers on the district's education specs, with flexible, collaborative learning environments and a campus that addresses wellness, nutrition and access to the outdoors. The campus is all gender option, supporting all students. Believing that equity-minded and social emotional learning should be ongoing in all classrooms for all students. Learning neighborhoods provide flexible, inclusive spaces where all students, including neurodivergent learners, can thrive, with operable partitions, small group rooms, varied collaboration areas, and visual connections supporting this teaching and learning model.



FLOOR PLANS

The floor plan is organized for clarity and equity, with core academic classrooms for each grade stacked on three levels in the north wing to provide consistent daylight, views, and learning conditions for all students. Intuitive circulation supports supervision and reinforces academic identity on each floor. Where all learning spaces have access to natural daylighting.

The south wing houses shared-use spaces for collaboration, performance, dining, and community engagement, allowing public functions to operate independently. A connecting bridge links CTE, art studios, STEM labs, and makerspaces, creating a dynamic crossroads that encourages interdisciplinary, project-based learning.

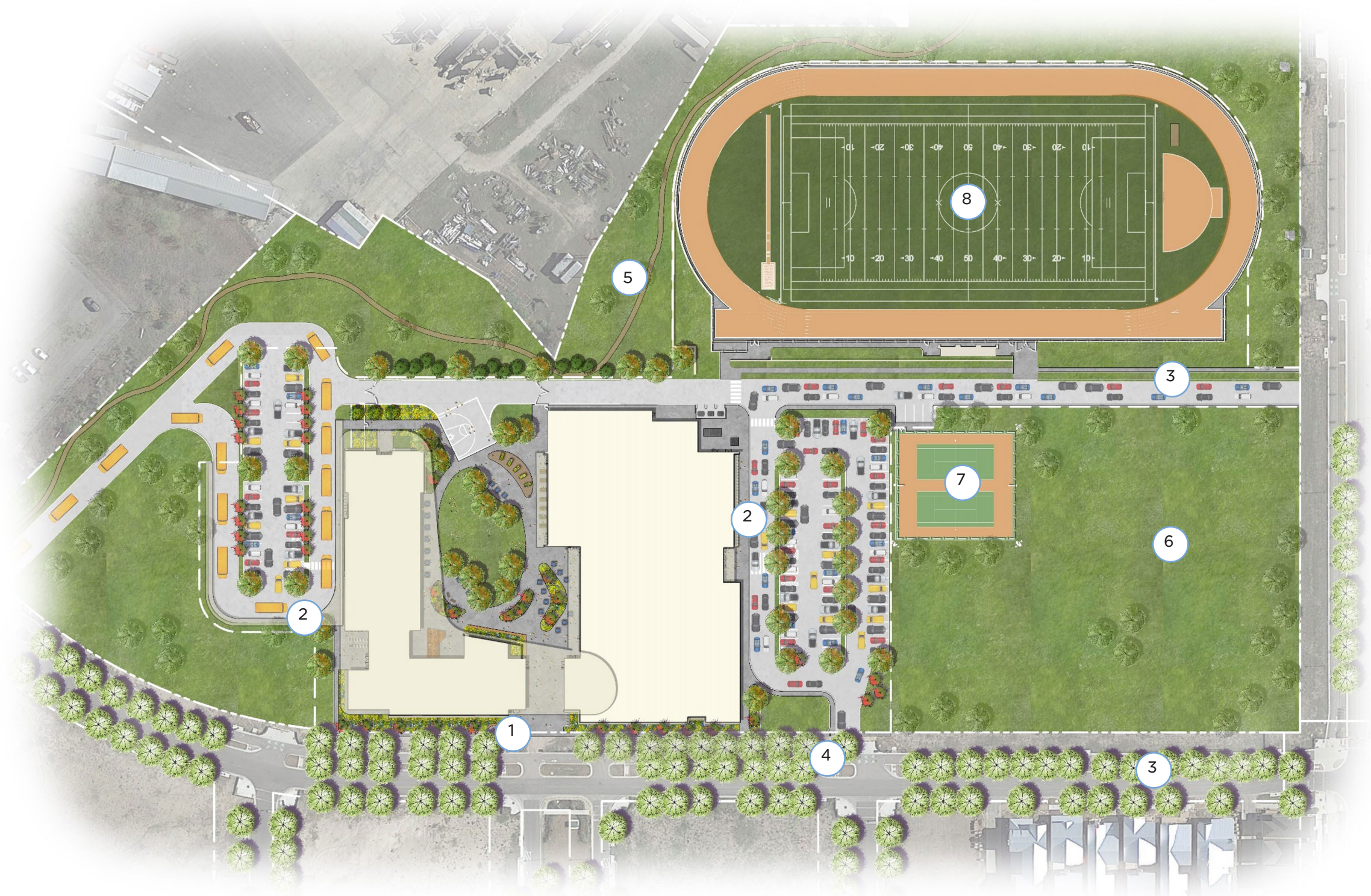


PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

SITE PLAN

General Marshall Middle School is sited at the edge of the Mueller development, seamlessly connecting the campus to the surrounding neighborhood. Outdoor spaces integrate with an adjacent city park, and portions of the building are designed for after-hours community use, reinforcing its role as a shared civic resource.

The campus prioritizes connectivity through multi-modal access, including streets, sidewalks, bike paths, and safe crossings that support walking, cycling, and transit. By balancing strong academic organization with welcoming outdoor and shared-use spaces, the school serves as a vibrant community hub where learning and neighborhood life intersect.



1. CAMPUS MAIN ENTRY
2. BIKE PARKING
3. EXTRA WIDE SIDEWALK (10FT)
4. PROTECTED BIKE LANE
5. RUNNING TRAIL
6. FUTURE USE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
7. COMMUNITY USE TENNIS
8. FULL-SIZE FIELD



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

DESIGNING FOR WELL-BEING

Research on learning spaces suggest that spaces with a view positively impact student outcomes. Increased attention span and enhanced cognitive functioning contribute to better performance across core disciplines and a more engaged classroom experience. To facilitate daylight and views for every space, the design team set and met specific window glazing percentages per orientation using a custom designed analysis tool to easily monitor daylighting and performance as the design evolved.

The site includes a long western exposure in response to the urban street frontage. Locating CTE and Art spaces along the western façade, allowed the learning studios to take advantage of north and south daylighting with deep overhangs. The learning spaces along the west face area veiled with a perforated metal screen mediating direct light without obscuring views. A rare single loaded daylit corridor was achieved along the courtyard providing views and access to the social space below.

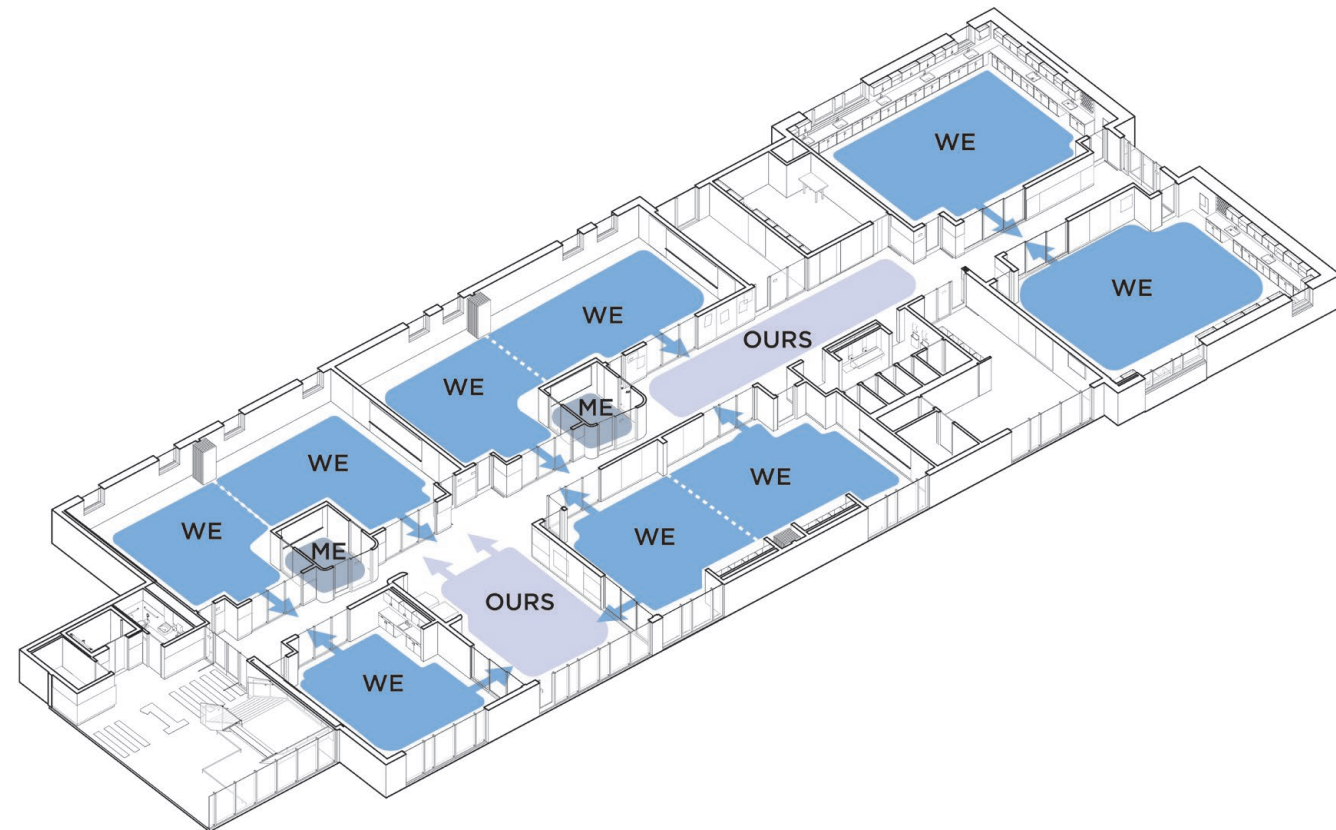


RESULTS

FOR THE WHOLE

The planning process produced a campus that advances educational goals by aligning space with pedagogy. Flexible classrooms, interdisciplinary labs, and collaborative commons support project-based learning and hands-on exploration, while the “me, we, ours” framework provides space for individual focus, team collaboration, and shared studio learning. Clear organization and equitable access to daylight ensure consistent, high-quality environments for every student.

The project fulfills district priorities for equity, sustainability, safety, and visibility. Strong visual connections enhance campus safety while maintaining openness. Views into collaboration spaces and group rooms from every learning studio, reinforce transparency and shared learning. Shared-use spaces and neighborhood connections position the school as a civic asset beyond the instructional day. Together, these outcomes demonstrate how a collaborative planning process translated district goals into a built environment that supports student success and community vitality.



RESULTS

DESIGNING FOR FUTURE

The planning process and project outcomes reflect a strong commitment to community and district goals, especially sustainability, durability, and long-term stewardship. Active and passive strategies reduced energy use by 60 percent, and even without dedicated funding, passive features like acoustics, humidity control, natural ventilation, native planting, and stack effect enhanced comfort while lowering energy demand. This shows that thoughtful design can achieve high environmental performance without added cost.

Durability and low maintenance were central to the project, especially for a district managing millions of square feet. The design adopted a “zero paint” approach, using regional brick, integral-color concrete panels, and prefinished metal, ensuring the exterior requires no repainting and reducing long-term maintenance. These strategies create a resilient, low-maintenance facility that meets sustainability goals and serves the district, community, and users for decades.



RESULTS

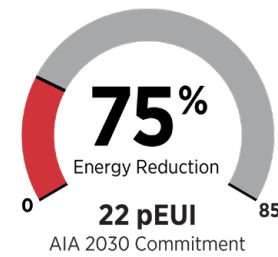
DOING MORE WITH LESS

Organizing academic spaces on the northern half and fine and performing arts on the southern half clarified circulation and optimized adjacencies, while the third-story STEM Bridge physically and symbolically connected the zones and encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration.

Efficient planning reduced net-to-gross by 7%, allowing higher-performance systems and sustainability measures within budget. The campus earned a 4-star Austin Energy Green Building rating and exceeded baseline LEED Silver goals, demonstrating that thoughtful design enhanced functionality, environmental performance, and long-term operational value.

7%
Net to Gross Reduction
from Program

\$379
per SF



AEGB
☆☆☆☆

