



The Three P's...

People, Pinterest, and Programming:

Planning a School for Homeless Children in Oklahoma City

ABOUT the presenters



Gary Armbruster, AIA, ALEP

Principal Architect, Partner
MA+ Architecture



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Director of Education
Positive Tomorrows



SESSION information

Length:

60 Minutes

Description:

How do you have public involvement for a school where the children are homeless and in many cases their parents aren't very involved? Find out how we had to step out of our normal programming and planning comfort zone to design a facility that the children, the faculty and the community could be proud of. In this program we will explore how we met with the students, faculty and staff to get their ideas for the new school and our use of Pinterest as a programming tool.

LEARNING objectives

- Investigate the program possibilities regarding schools for homeless children and see how to apply that knowledge to any education project.
- Consider an approach that allows you to glean design ideas from your real constituents on such projects: pre-Kindergarten through fifth-grade students.
- Build the skills that will help you communicate with school community members experiencing homelessness so you can incorporate their ideas.
- Realize how to use Pinterest as a valuable programming tool.

AGENDA

- What is Positive Tomorrows?
- Review issues in the planning process.
- Who did we meet with?
- How did we conduct our information gathering?
- How to use Pinterest as a planning tool.
- Discuss and review the design outcomes.



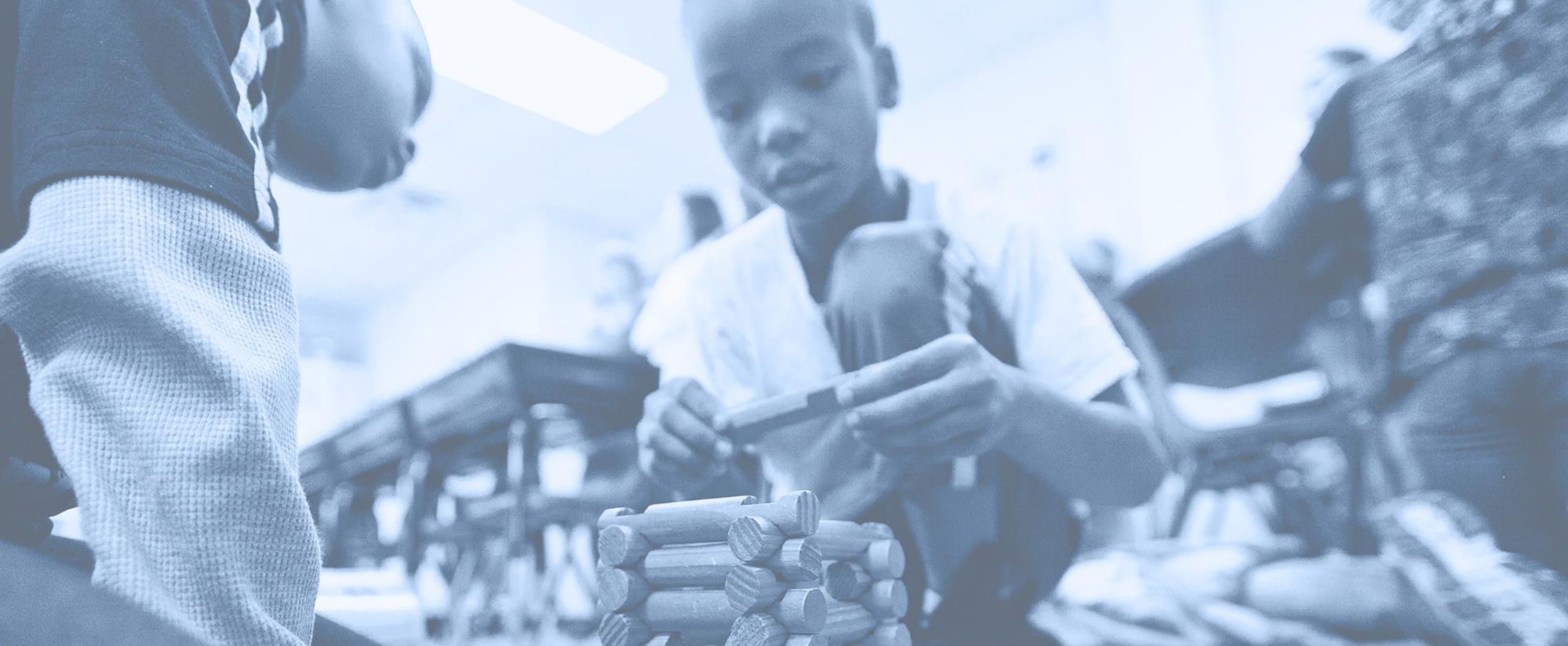
Positive Tomorrows' Mission:

Educating homeless children and their families to break the cycle of poverty.





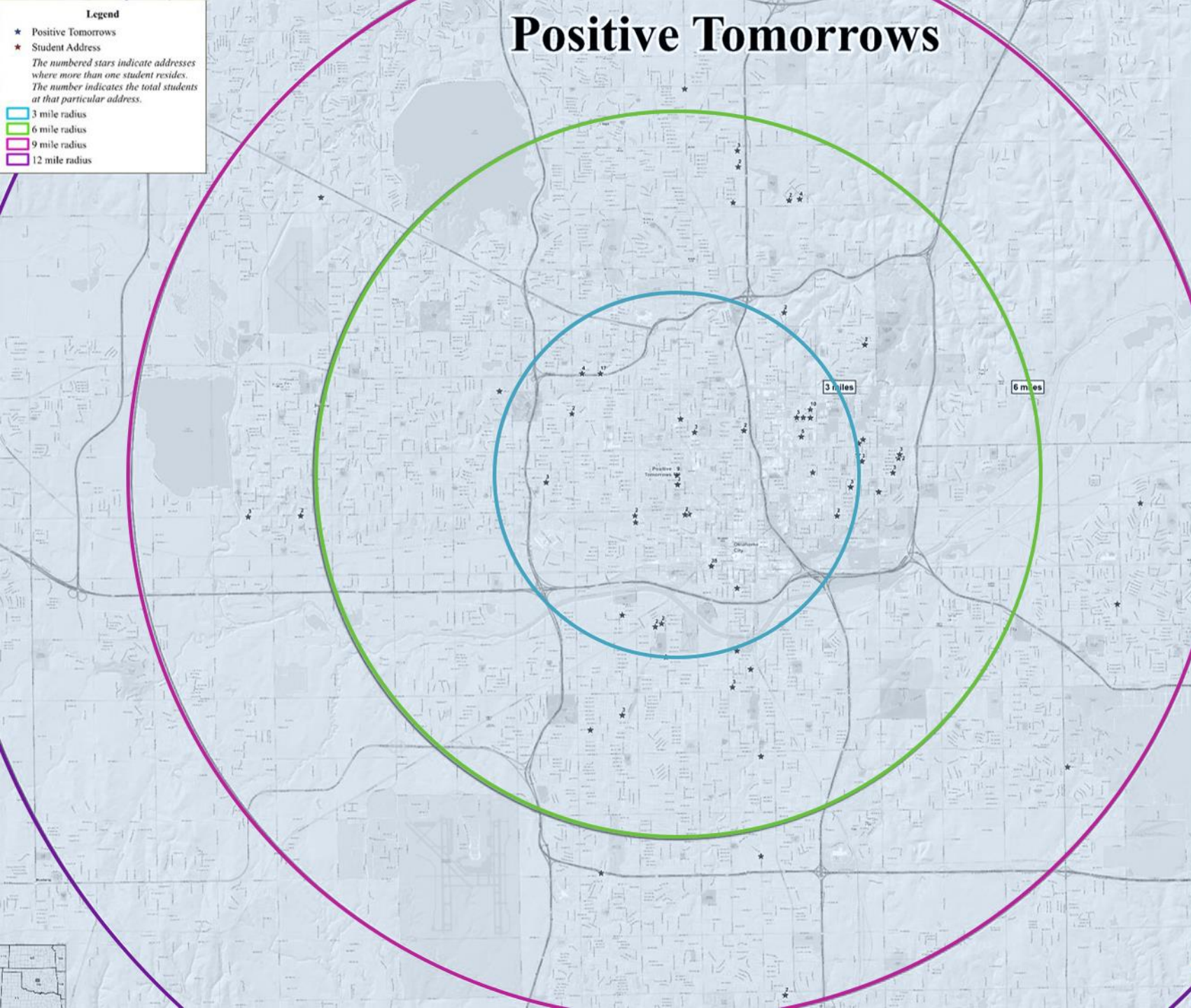




Counting Homeless Families

HUD's definition of homelessness excludes more than 80% of homeless children.

Positive Tomorrows



More than 8,500 homeless children in Oklahoma City

1 in 21 children is homeless in Oklahoma

1 in 10 students is homeless in the Oklahoma City Public School District



by the numbers

2.5 million
homeless kids
in the US

OK ranks as the
7th
worst state for
homeless children

7,500+ homeless children in
central Oklahoma alone

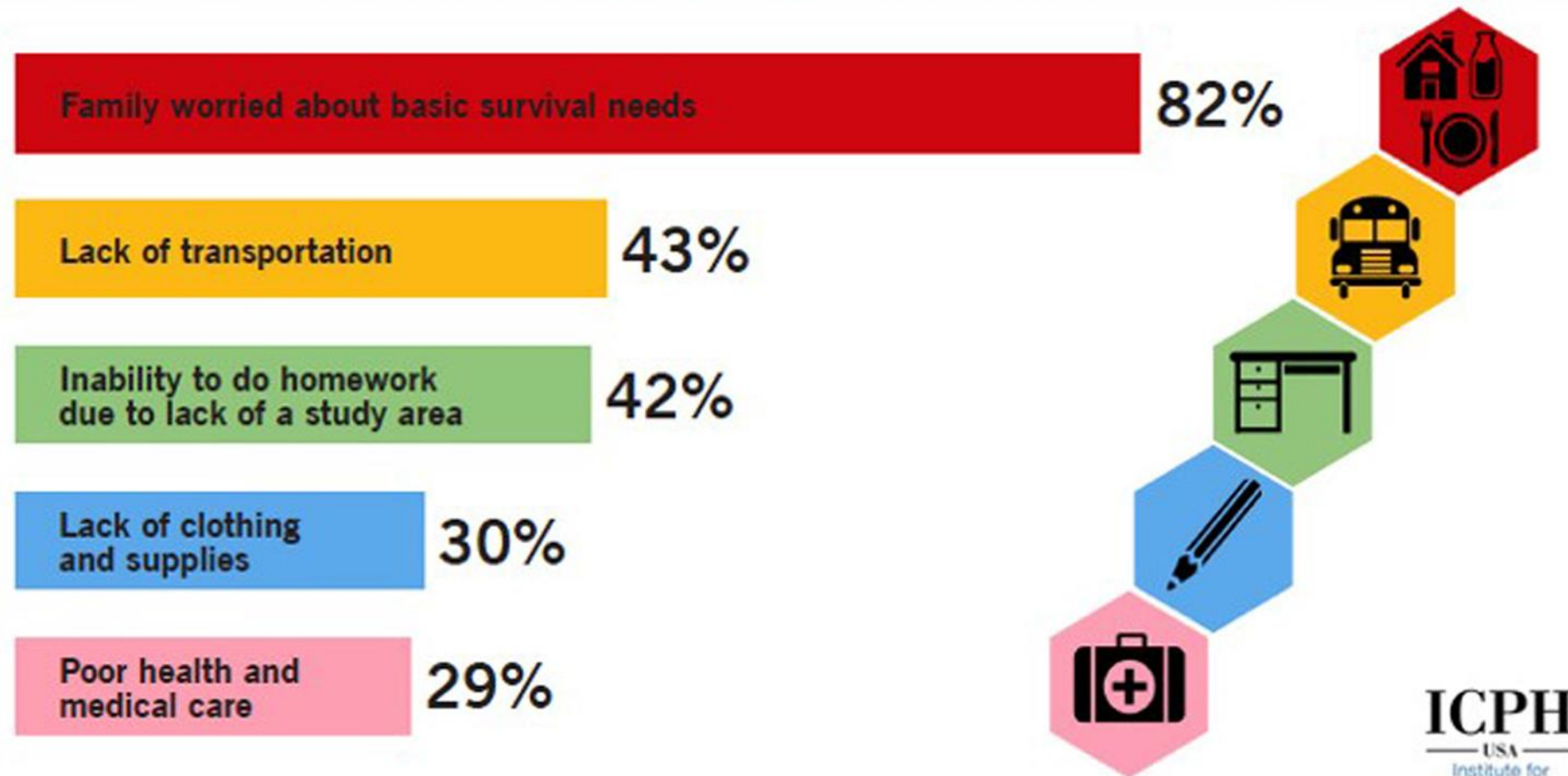




1 in 14 children under the age of 6 is homeless.

What keeps homeless kids out of class?

The top challenges homeless children faced in attending school were:



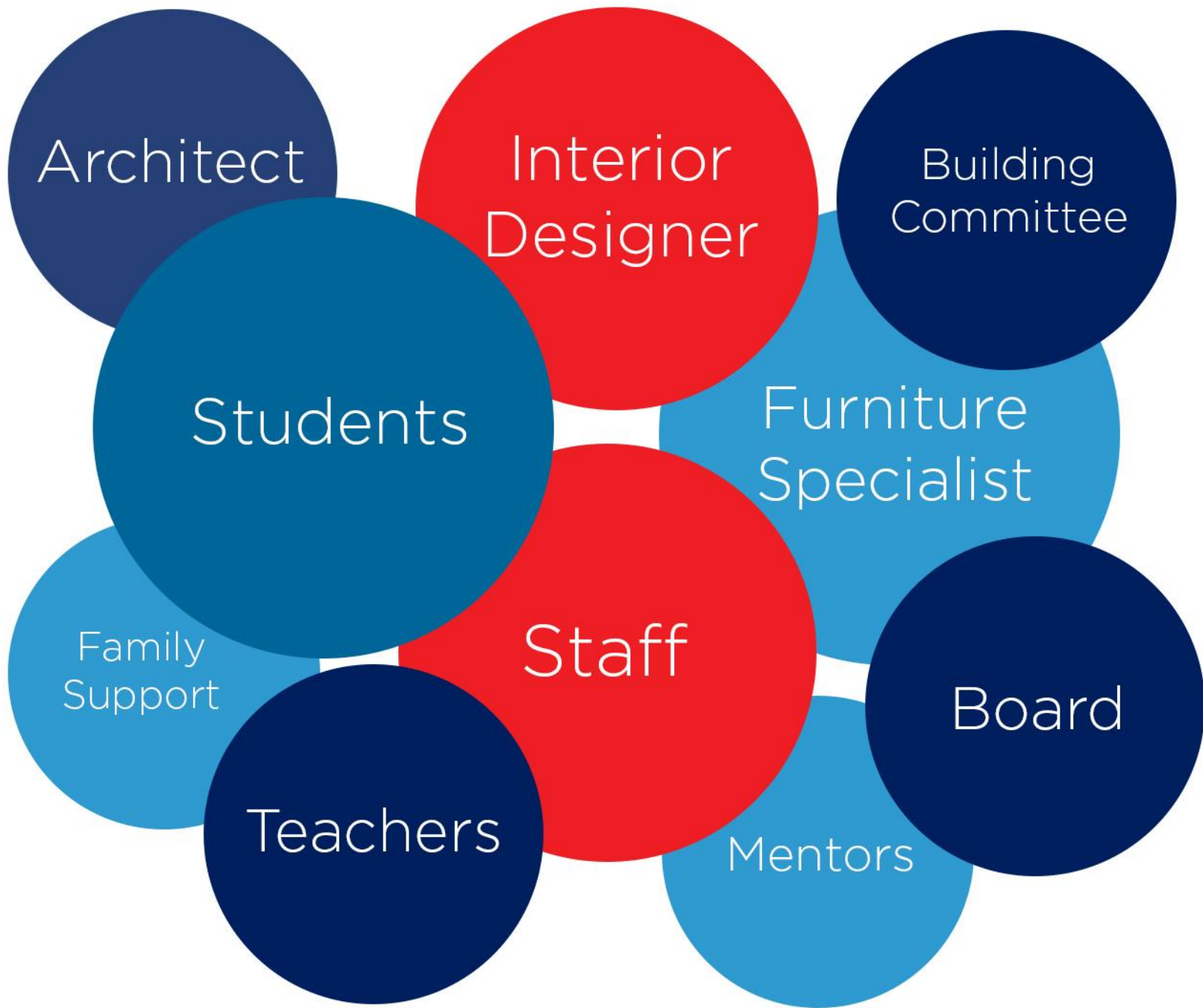
Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Policy and Program Studies Service, State and District Implementation of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, Washington, DC, 2015. Data reflects the 2010–11 school year.

ICPH
— USA —
Institute for
Children, Poverty
& Homelessness
www.ICPHusa.org



PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING ISSUES

- Lack of parental involvement
- High student turnover
- No public funding, fully donation based
- Realistic safety threats
- Staff and building committee (volunteer) turnover
- No national model for this type of school



WHO?

Met with the students first

Involved anyone who would use the spaces daily

Involve those who can accurately represent their department

Involve the whole design team from the very beginning:
architect, interior designer, furniture specialist, construction, landscape, IT, MEP, etc.



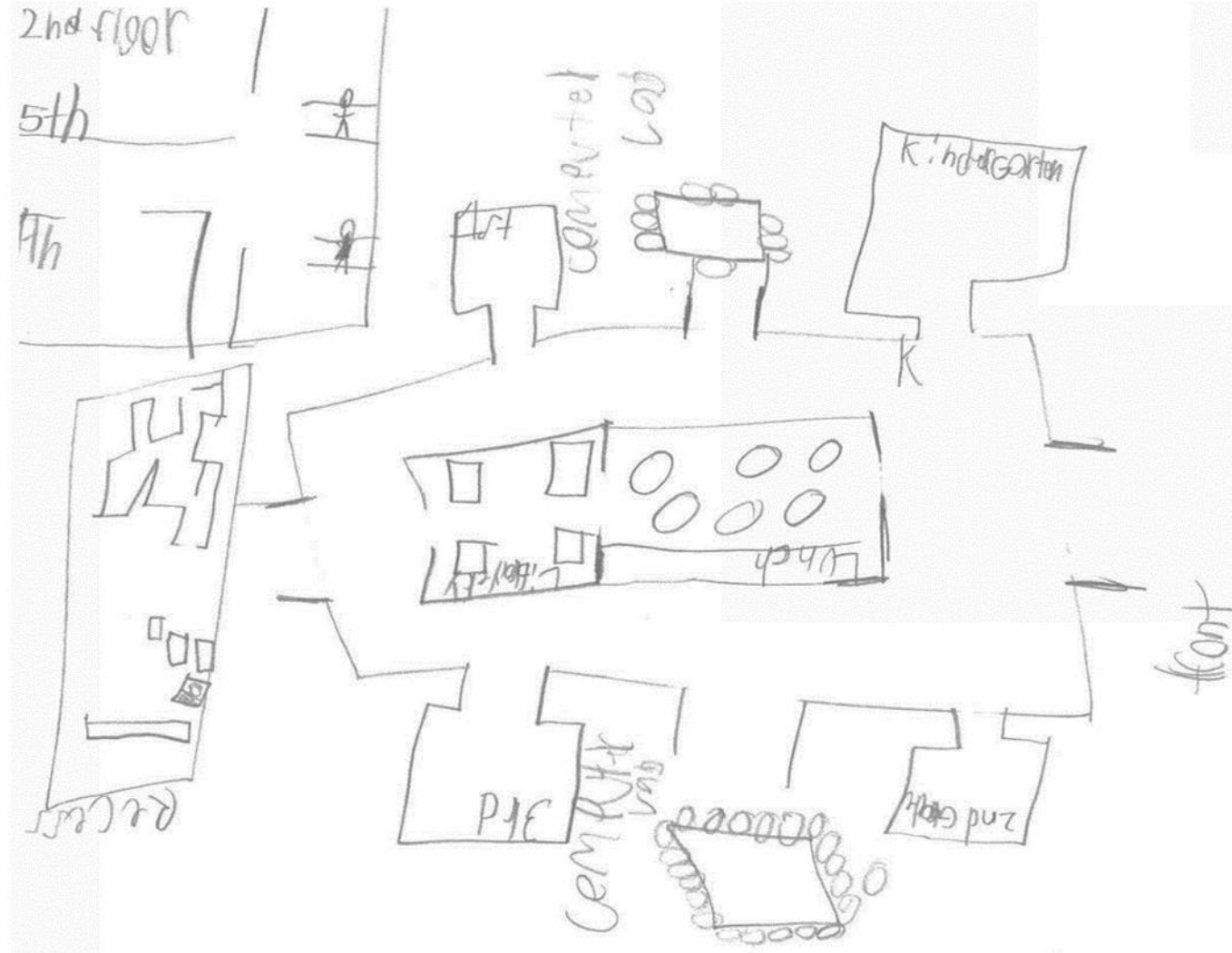
Students

Dream Big Exercise



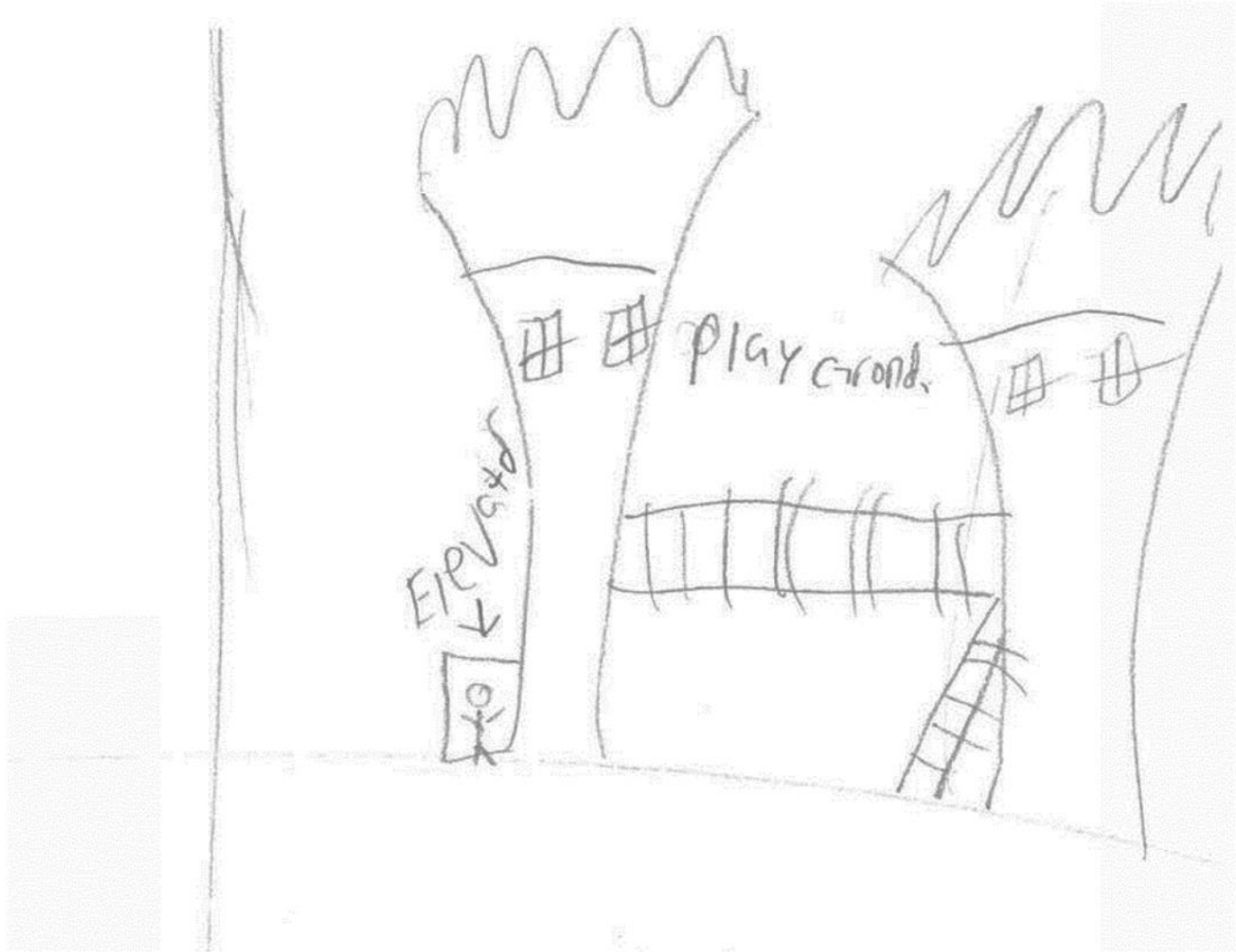
Students

Sketching Exercise



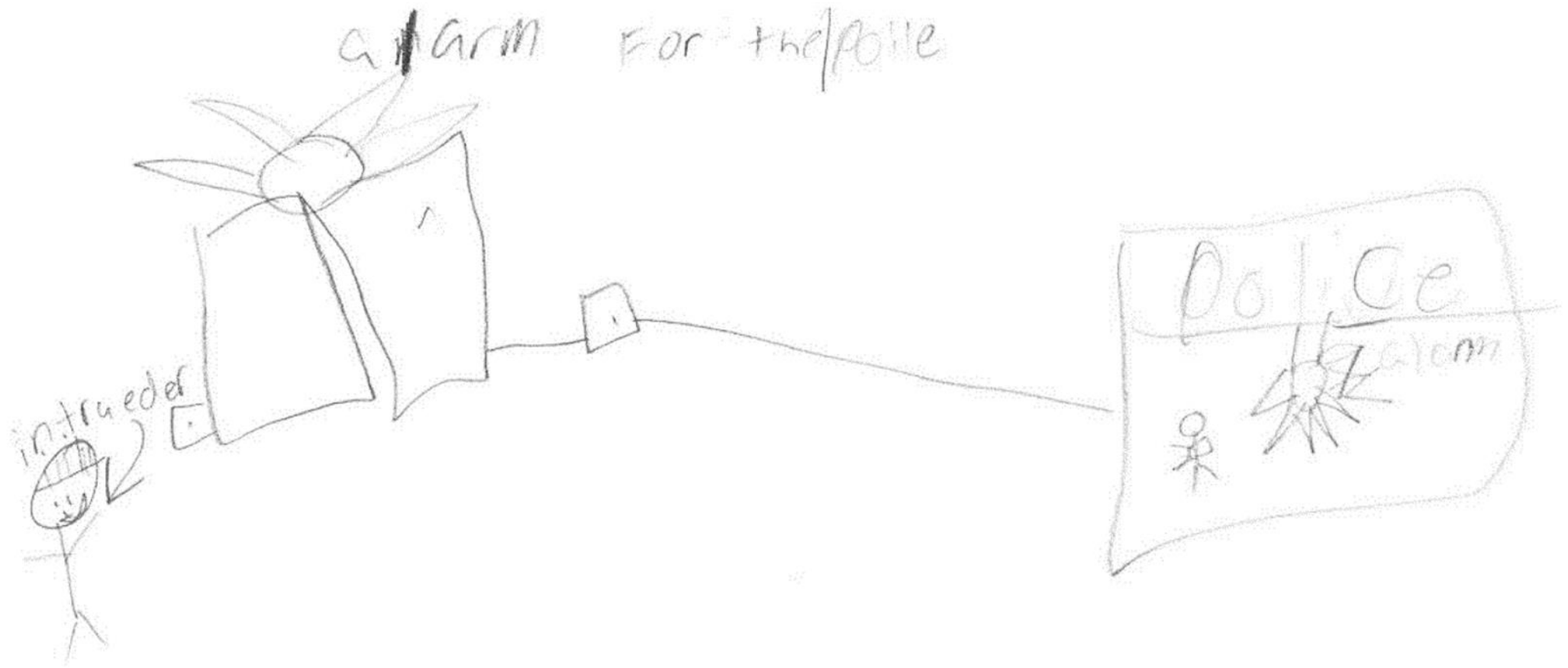
Students

Sketching Exercise



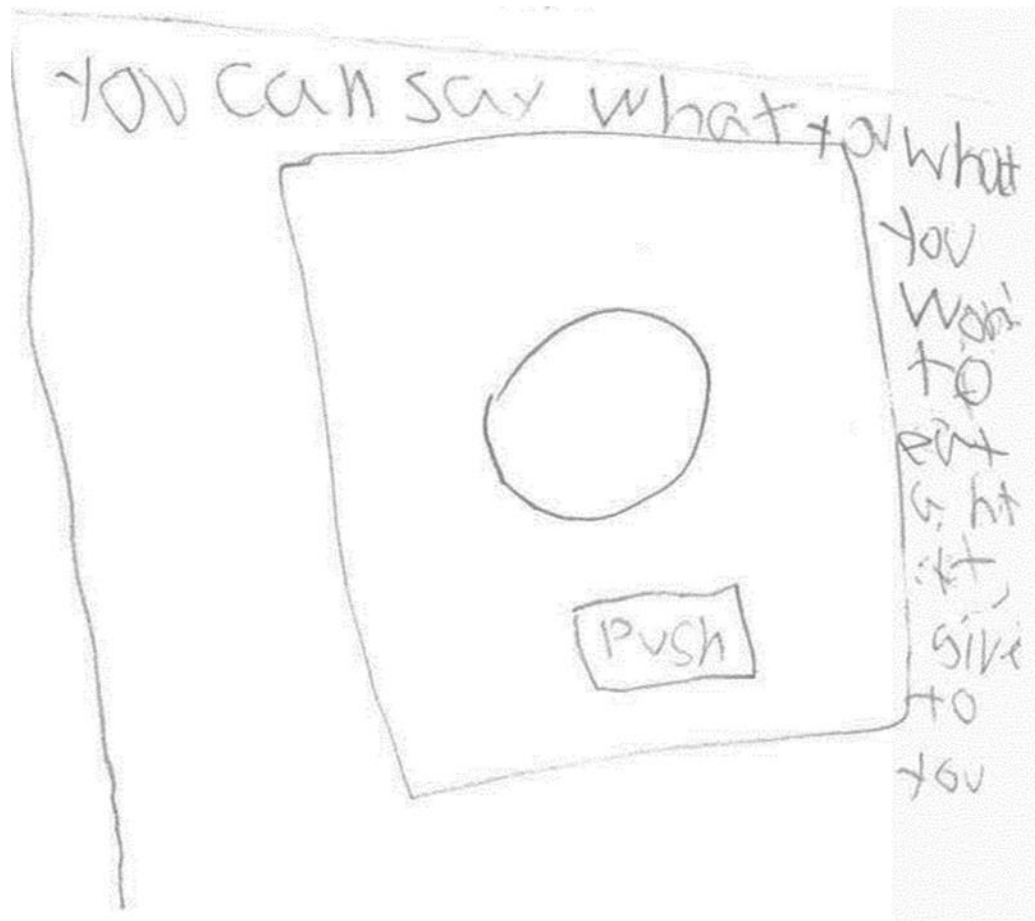
Students

Sketching Exercise



Students

Sketching Exercise

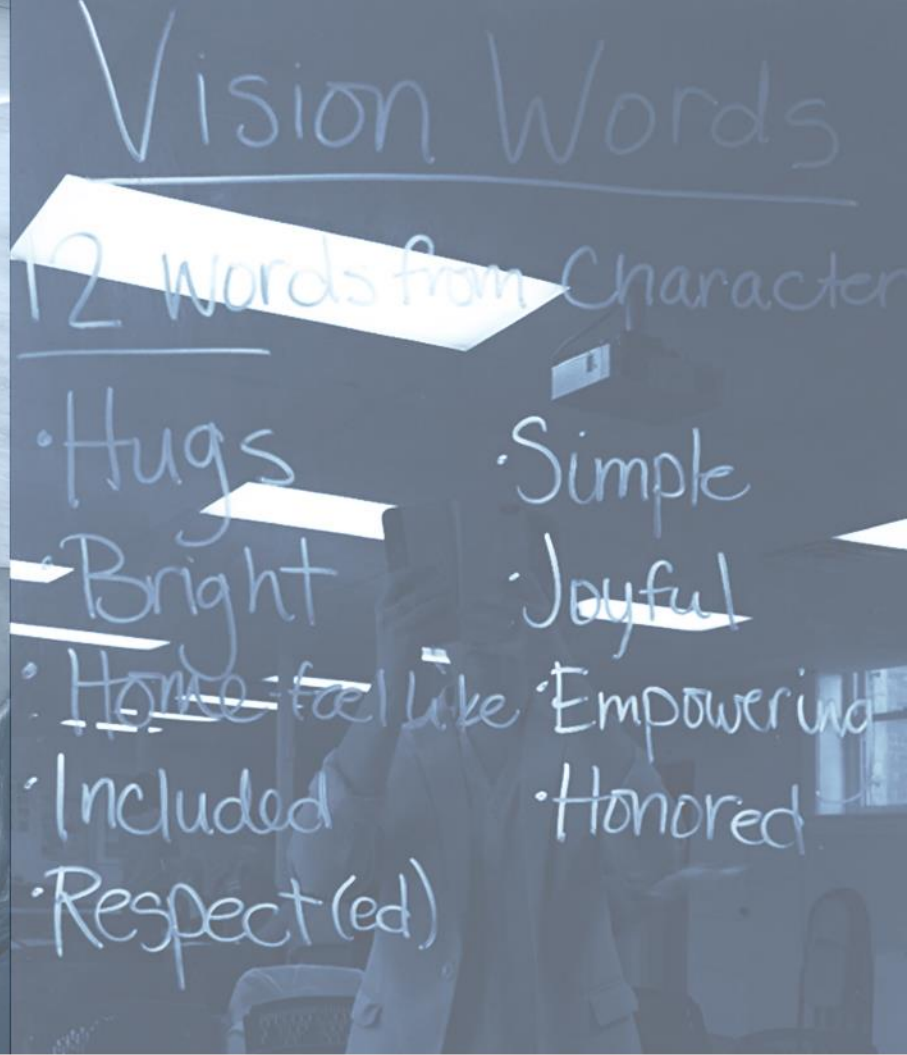


Students

Sketching Exercise

OUTCOMES FROM OUR MEETINGS students

- Safety & Security
- Modern & flexible furniture, “floating chairs”
- Makerspace, “where we can build R2-D2 & BB8”
- Commons Area, “place to sit with friends”
- Have a space of their own, “no one gets left out”
- Treehouses & new computers
- Water fountains & free food were mentioned for every room



Faculty

Dream Big Exercise

OUTCOMES FROM OUR MEETINGS faculty

- “Home”
- Safety & Security
- Seven Core Principles & Inspirational Words
- Flexible & movable furniture
- Durable & easy to clean
- Open line of sight & natural lighting
- Engaging & interactive without being a sensory overload

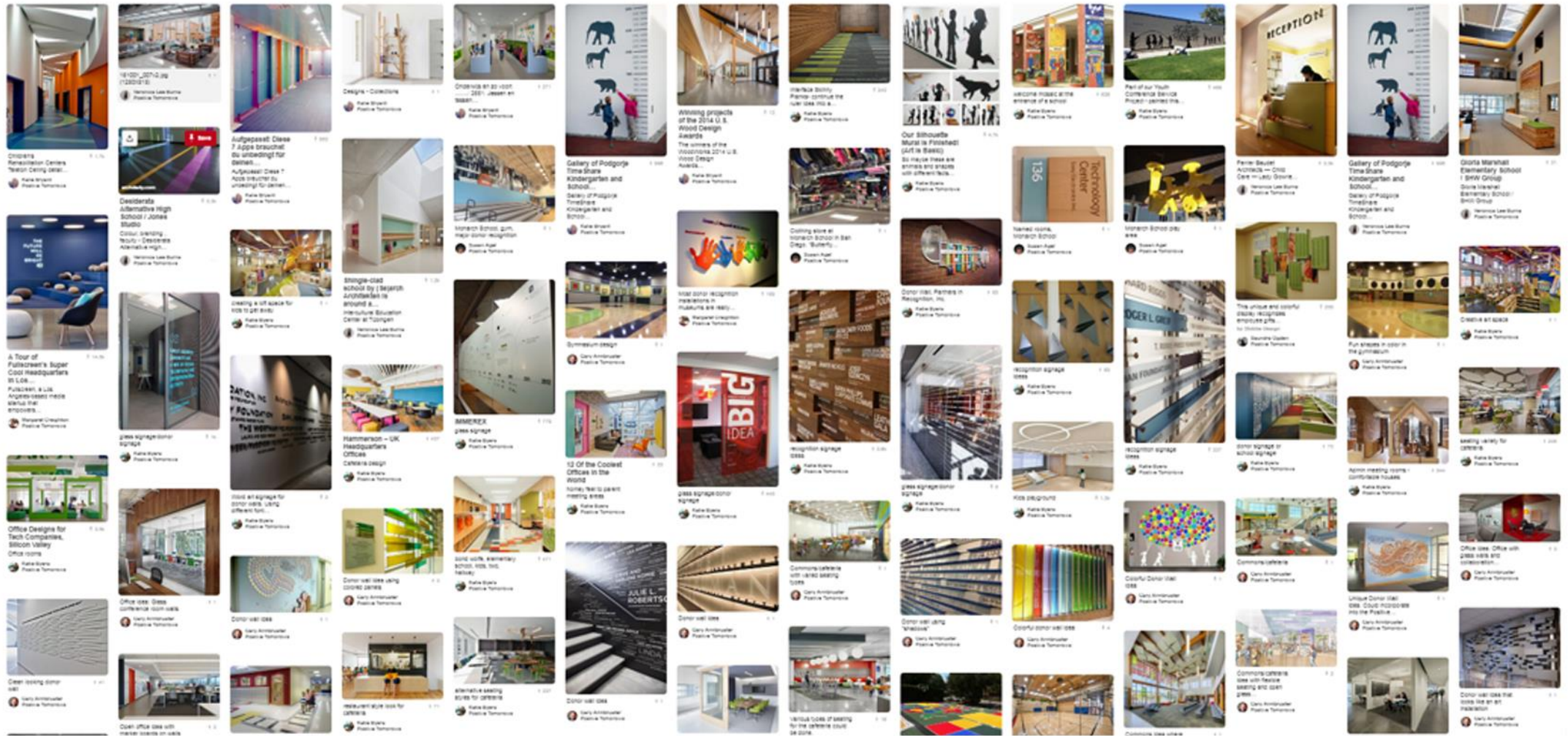
OUTCOMES FROM OUR MEETINGS staff & board

- Safety & Security
- Private meeting spaces
- Easy to clean & low cost to maintain
- Teach students & families to be self-sufficient
- Clothing & donation closets, laundry room, showers, & kitchen
- Donor recognition

Challenges

- Large amounts of information were coming in daily... all from different sources.
- Better organization methods were needed.
- MA+ Interior Designers recommended Pinterest, which they used for personal content at the time.





Pinterest

Pinterest allowed multiple users to share hundreds of images in various categories.



Gallery of Podgorje TimeShare Kindergarten and School...

Veronica Lee Burns
Positive Tomorrows



Shingle-clad school by (Se)arch Architekten is around a...

Veronica Lee Burns
Positive Tomorrows

Gloria Marshall Elementary School / SHW Group

Veronica Lee Burns
Positive Tomorrows



Named rooms, Monarch School

Susan Agel
Positive Tomorrows



Monarch School play area

Susan Agel
Positive Tomorrows



Most donor recognition installations in museums are really...

Margaret Creighton
Positive Tomorrows



Donor Wall, Partners In Recognition, Inc.

Katie Byers
Positive Tomorrows



A Tour of Fullscreen's Super Cool Headquarters in Los...

Margaret Creighton
Positive Tomorrows



creating a loft space for kids to get away

Katie Byers
Positive Tomorrows



This unique and colorful display recognizes employee gifts...

by Stobbe Design

Saundra Ogden
Positive Tomorrows

Pinterest

Private boards are also available to use where an invite can be extended to select participants.





Pinterest

Images were then printed, cut out, and organized into appropriate categories.



CATEGORIES

■ Outdoor Spaces

■ Administration

■ Family Support

■ Classrooms

■ Gymnasium

■ Cafeteria / Commons

■ Makerspace

■ Donor Recognition

■ Circulation

■ Library

■ Collaboration Spaces

■ Furnishings





Pinterest

Each category had its own page, which was hung on the wall for viewing.





Pinterest

- A Discovery Session was held with faculty and staff to review the boards and get feedback.
- Every group had 5 minutes to review each category and leave positive and negative comments.

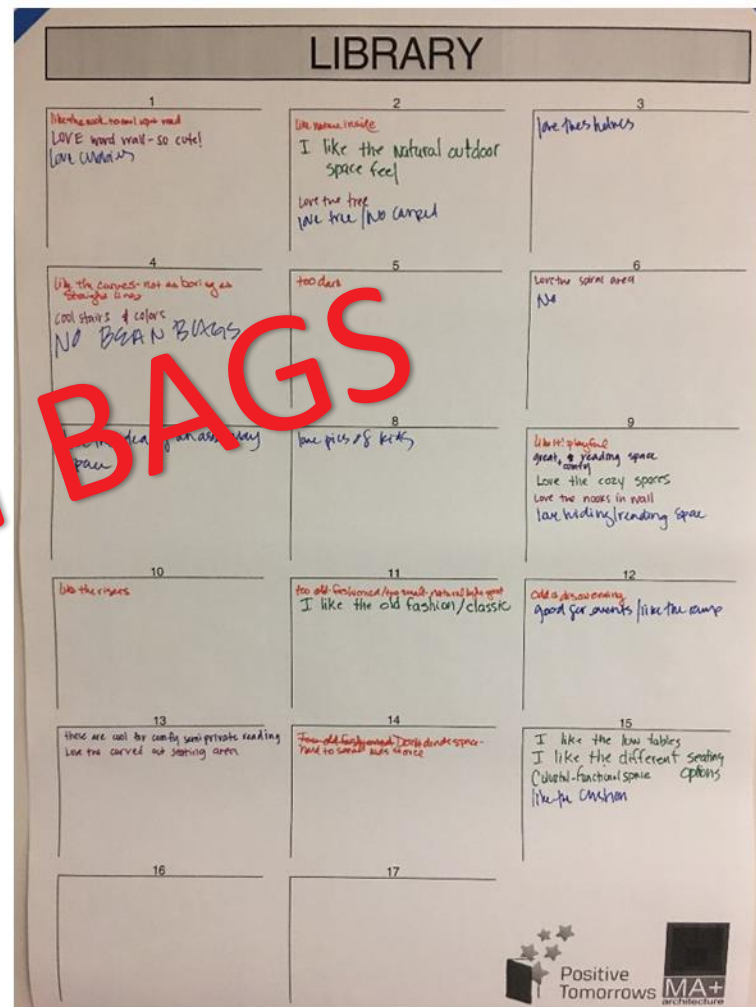




Pinterest

Members of the design team were present and moved around to answer questions and facilitate conversations.





NO BEAN BAGS

Pinterest

This helped the design team narrow down design options.



Food Lab



Treehouse



Reading Wall



Collaboration Space



Inspirational Words

Pinterest

Updated the original Pinterest board with images that received positive feedback by the faculty and staff.



WHY?

- Engages Community
- Collaborative Effort
- All Components Considered
- Everyone's Voice is Heard
- Finished Product Fits True Needs
- Overall User Satisfaction
- Faculty, Staff, and Students Feel Valued



Site Plan



Positive
Tomorrows

ReMerge

Exterior Design



Exterior Design



Exterior Design

Seven Core Principles





Exterior Design Back Porch



Exterior Design
Group Learning

Exterior Design Backyard



Exterior Design

Backyard



Floor Plan





Administration



Family Support



Kitchen/Food Lab



Gymnasium



Family Room



Literacy Lab



Maker Space



Music/Art



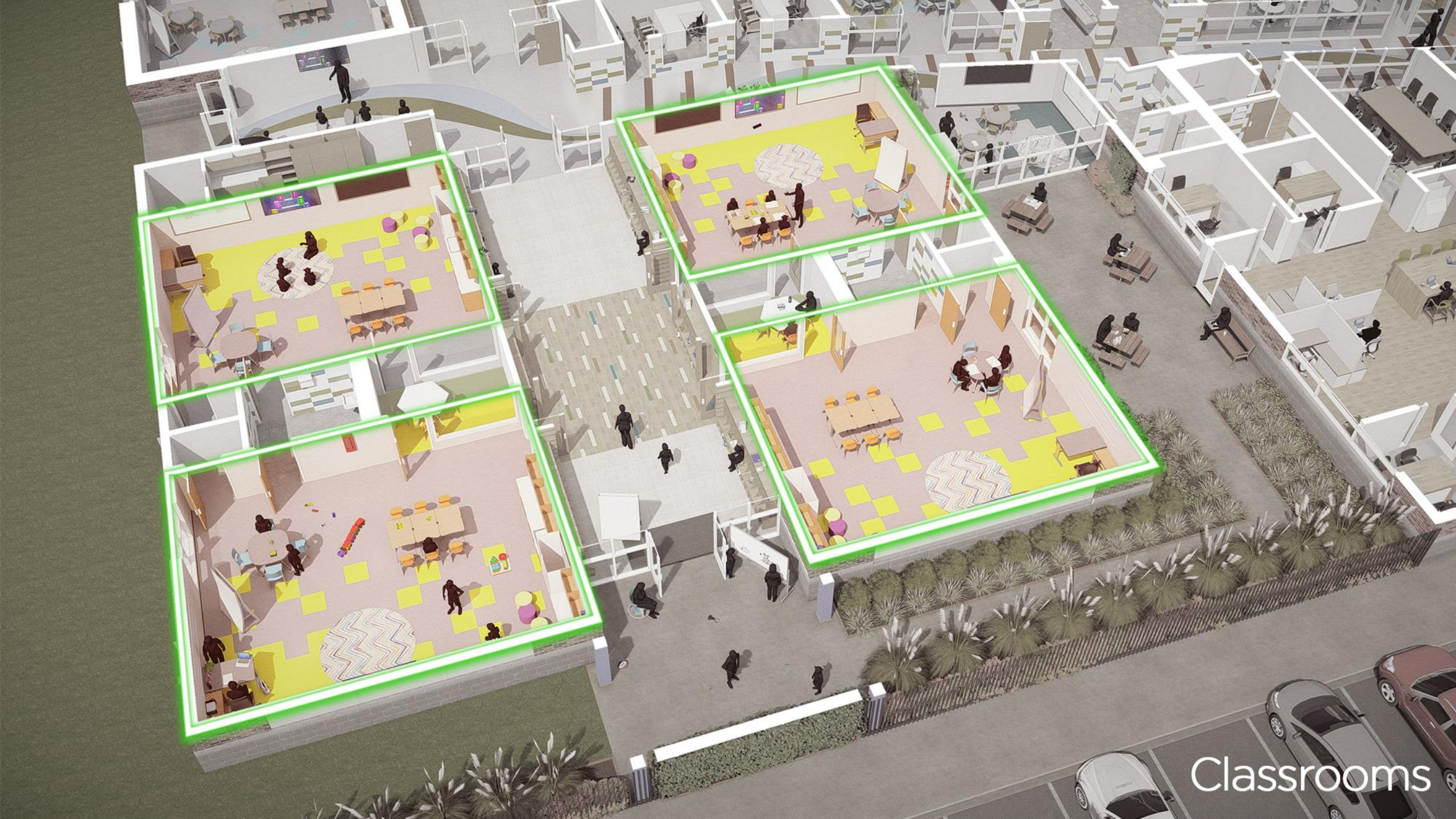
Special Education



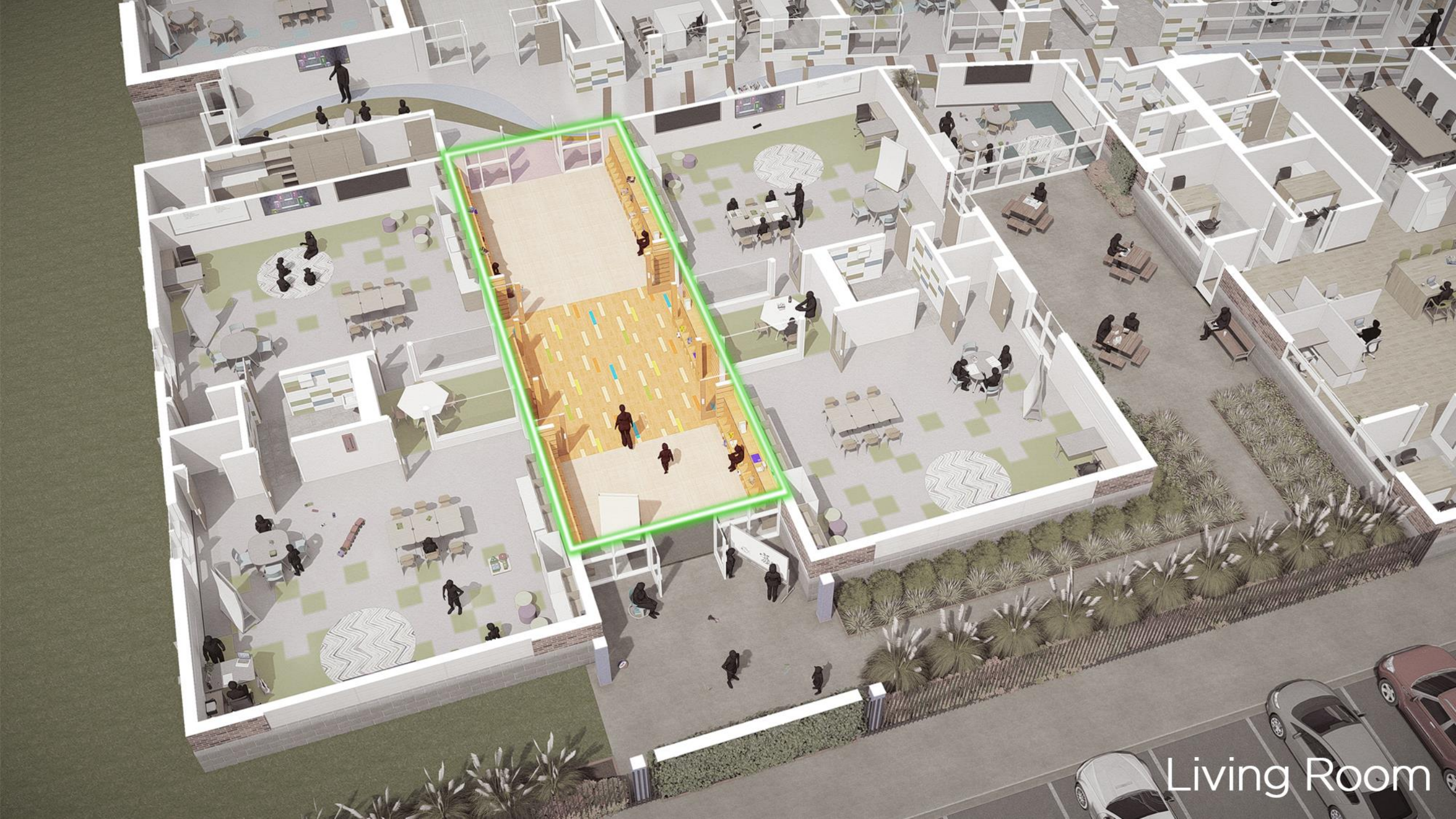
Classroom Pods



Collaboration Corridor



Classrooms



Living Room



Shared Restrooms



Touchdown Space



Treehouse Collaboration Space



Outdoor Learning Backporch



Outdoor Group Learning

INTERIOR DESIGN INSPIRATION “OklaHOMEa”

- Importance of “Home”
- Warm Colors
- Natural Elements
- Knowledge of Oklahoma
- Name spaces after areas in the home





Interior Color Selection



Maker Studio

Literacy Lab

Interior Design
Family Room



You are **braver** than you believe,
and **stronger** than you seem,
and **smarter** than you think.

Food Lab

Kitchen

Interior Design
Family Room & Kitchen

Clayton's Clubhouse



Interior Design
Clubhouse



Interior Design
Treehouse



reading family fun success
future loved create science reading family fun success
hope mathematics future loved create science reading family fun success
hope mathematics future loved create science reading family fun success

THROW
KINDNESS
Like
CONFETTI

Nabby
Ben
NICK
James
Liam
Anna
Allison
Jackson
Sarah
Ava
Ryan
Oliver

Interior Design
Livingroom



Q & A

THANK YOU!



Gary Armbruster, AIA, ALEP

Principal Architect, Partner
MA+ Architecture



Amy Brewer, M. Ed.,

Director of Education
Positive Tomorrows



For more information about
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www.positivetomorrows.org