Bringing Students Back
A Guide to Creating Safe and Productive Post-COVID Learning Environments
School Furniture that Returns Students to Safe Learning

As school districts continue to adopt a mix of in-person, remote and hybrid learning, what resources are needed to meet new challenges?

We have the solutions to meet your deadlines.

Safely returning K–12 schools to some degree of in-person learning is a monumental challenge. Smith System’s innovative furniture helps schools forge ahead with confidence. This guide shows how to create safe, cohesive and re-energized learning communities that:

- Activate all spaces to meet social distance requirements
- Engage in-person “Roomies” and distance-learner “Zoomies”
- Support concurrent teaching methods
- Address learning loss
- Promote mental and emotional well being
Smith System Saved the Day —

When my district (Forney ISD) decided that we would start the 2020 school year with a Face-to-Face model, we evaluated our classrooms and realized that we had student tables all over the district, and at every grade level. We approached Smith System and asked them for as many individual student desks as possible. We purchased 2,376 Mini-Diamond Desks and 650 Silhouette 20x27 desks. They were ordered on July 30th and most were ready before Aug. 17th, the first day of school. We were able to keep our students 6 feet apart because of Smith Systems’ quick turnaround and hard work. We also love their products!!! I can’t thank them enough!

Judy Webber, Ed.D
Chief Learning Officer @ Forney ISD
Maximize Indoor Footprint

Schools can rearrange classroom furniture to meet physical distance criteria. Replace grouped desks and meeting tables with individual desks from Smith System. Our options include adjustable-height desks in cost-efficient traditional rectangles and fun nesting shapes for future collaborations.
Leverage In-Between Spaces – And Outside

Find extra space by thinking outside the classroom box. Take advantage of extended learning areas like hallways and window nooks, common spaces and outside. We have the furniture to keep casual spaces comfortable, productive and safe. (Our new upholstered soft seating is bleach-cleanable.)
Engage “Roomies” and “Zoomies” Simultaneously

There’s no playbook for hybrid teaching. It requires impressive technology set-ups, communication and creativity to equally engage in-person and at-home students.

Support concurrent teaching and hold students’ attention with furniture that can create community, quickly. For many classrooms, that means reconfiguring furniture on the fly so students can toggle large projection screens and one-on-one monitors.

NEW: Cascade Air
Portable Classroom Air Purifiers

Help prevent the spread of viruses and airborne allergens with our new Cascade Air purifier. Its HEPA filter captures 99.97 percent of airborne particles. Similar to Smith’s Cascade Storage system, the unit’s sleek design – and its quiet hum – makes this purifier ideal for classrooms.
Address Learning Loss

Some students lost a lot of ground during the pandemic and existing disparities widened. Address “COVID Slide” with thoughtful study zones and tutoring spaces. Smith System furniture helps create semi-private spaces that let students refocus on learning, not worrying.

Flowform™ Curved Unit with Totes
Flowform™ Curved Bench Divider
Promote Well-being

The pandemic has renewed the emphasis on student and teacher well-being. Provide spaces where people of all ages can reflect and decompress individually or in small groups, and with counselors if needed. Consider campfire-style set-ups with clear sight lines that encourage eye contact.
Four-Steps to Being Furniture-Ready

Schools still face many uncertainties, but at some point, the majority of students and staff will return to in-person learning. So plan ahead. This is an opportunity to upgrade existing spaces and furnish unactivated spaces. Here’s how:

1. **Assess**
   Inventory your existing furniture and survey what students (and staff) will return to in-person learning.

2. **Add Up**
   Tally the quantities of new furniture needed. Know your options for sizes, styles, shapes and color. Identify second-choice options, too, especially if your deadline is tight.

3. **Ask**
   Lead times vary among suppliers. Ask about turnaround time, from order placement to final in-place assembly. Smith System can work with schools to meet deadlines for most any size order.

4. **Action**
   Place your order and prepare spaces for delivery. Streamline school clutter ahead of time to create more room for safe spacing.
How to Purchase for Beyond the Pandemic?

Invest in flexibility and quality. Choose individual desks that can fit into collaborative groupings, once that’s safe. Consider adjustable-height desks, tables and chairs, and add casters for mobility. Color options matter, too. Stick with neutral colors if items might get shuffled to other spaces or grade levels in the future.

Interchange Wing Desk  Interchange Diamond Open Front Desk  Interchange 3-2-1 Table
Smith System Can Help and Inspire

We have the solutions to help K–12 schools safely reunite their learning communities. As always, we’re committed to staying informed and ready as we all – finally – inch forward!


Plan your school re-opening at SmithSystem.com. Scroll down to request a project quote and layout help, or contact your local Smith System dealer.

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We love to chat.
You’ve got questions and guess what? We have answers. Give us a call, and together we will explore what your school needs, and pick from our full array of options for fun, functional furniture. Two minds are always better than one, right?

We do not sell direct to schools, but we do have a trusted network of authorized local, regional, national, and online dealers. Your dealer will help in making final choices, placing orders, and installing your shiny new furniture. Our regional sales managers are available to help guide you through the furniture selection process.

Call us at (800) 328-1061 or use our online chat system for immediate answers.