

Charter Schools and Special Purpose Schools Unique Program Spaces and Space Requirements

Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force
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New Mexico Public School Facilities Authority

Partnering with New Mexico's communities to provide quality, sustainable school facilities for our students and educators.

Charter School Definitions

6.80.4.7–“Charter school” means a conversion school or start-up school authorized by a chartering authority to operate as a public school.

- Start-up charter school means a public school developed by one or more parents, teachers or community members who applied to and were authorized by a chartering authority to become a charter school.
- Local or district charter schools are authorized by a local school board.
- State charter schools are authorized by the Public Education Commission (PEC).

Special Schools Definition

6.27.31.7– Special Purpose Schools means the New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD) and the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI).

- These schools are comprised entirely of students with special needs.
- NMSBVI has two schools; one located in Alamogordo and one in Albuquerque, which serves students from 3 years to 22 years old.
- NMSD, located in Santa Fe, serves students from 18 months to 22 years old.

Adequacy Standards

Traditional Schools & Charter Schools

- Adequacy Standards (Standards) are a benchmark for appraising existing and proposed facilities for all public schools.
 - Measure and evaluate existing school buildings.
 - Identify deficiencies in existing school buildings.
 - Ensure that every school has at least the minimum type and number of spaces and systems performance levels.
- Examples of Deficiencies
 - General education classroom is too small, less than the minimum described in the Standards for the special schools and charter schools.
 - Classroom is too hot (85 degrees), Standards require HVAC system to maintain temperature between 68 -75 degrees Fahrenheit at full occupancy.

Charter Schools Exemption from the Adequacy Standards

- Charter schools are different from traditional public schools in their approach to teaching and learning. For example:
 - Some charter schools utilize the local Boys and Girls Club for physical education.
 - Automotive or construction bays are used as educational classrooms.
- For these and other reasons charter schools are waived from the space requirements of traditional public schools.

Charter Schools Adequacy Standards Requirements

Charter schools are not exempt from the following Adequacy Standards requirements:

- Life health safety.
- Building efficiency/integrity.
- General education classroom minimum sizes.
- Environmental conditions (light, heat, air quality, acoustics).

Adequacy Standards for the Special Purpose Schools

- In 2011 the PSCOC directed PSFA to develop Adequacy Standards to meet the minimum needs for NMSBVI and NMSD.
- The facility needs for the comprehensive curriculum and life support requirements of these schools were not appropriately addressed by application of the adequacy standards
- These Special Purpose Schools Adequacy Standards address educational and residential space needs.

General Education Classroom Net Square Footages (NSF) for Charter Schools and Special Purpose Schools

NMSD	Classroom nsf per student
PreSchool	110
Elementary School	80
Middle/High School	75
NMSVBI	
Pre School	110
Elementary School	90
Middle/High School	85
Charter Schools	
Elementary School	32
Middle School	28
High School	25

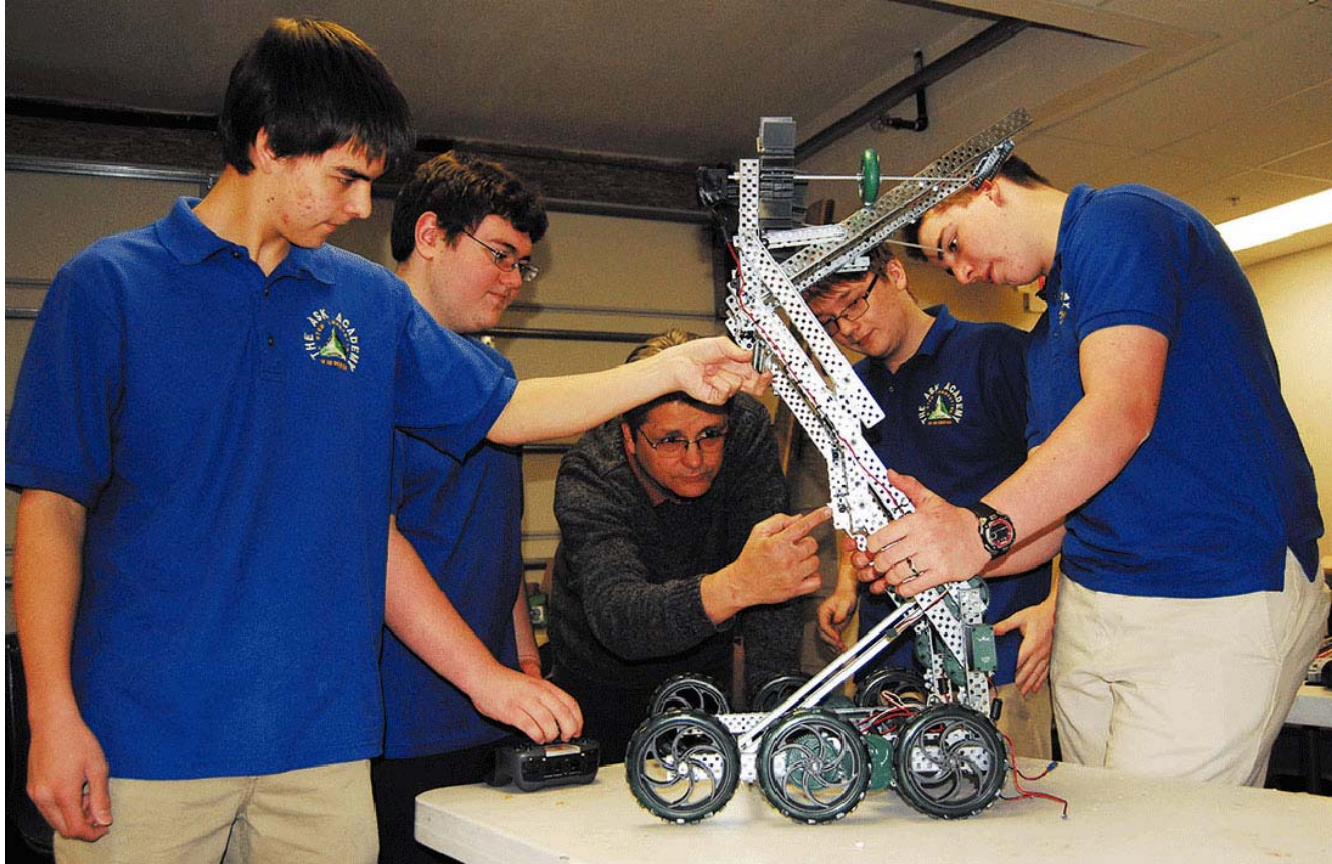
- Minimum general education classroom size = 450 NSF (18' x 25')

Charter School Vocational Education Spaces



- Students participating in mock trials

Charter School Vocational Education Spaces



- Students participating in robotics

Charter School Vocational Education Spaces



- Students participating in various types of performing arts

Charter School Vocational Education Spaces



- Students learning skills for the construction industries

Charter School Vocational Education Spaces



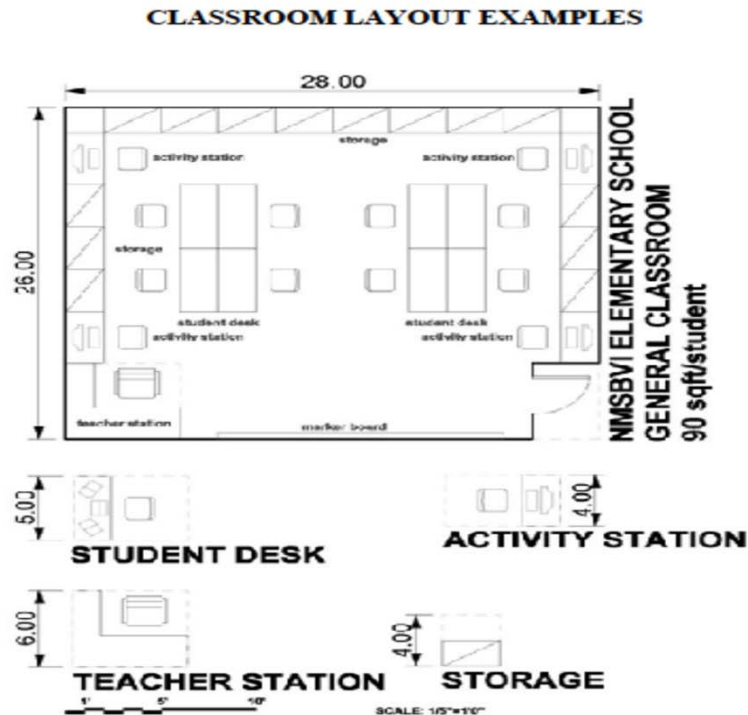
- Art education

Charter School Vocational Education Spaces



- Learning space for the health industry

Special Purpose Schools General Classrooms



- Classroom arrangement and size allows for mobility equipment and one-on-one teaching for students who are blind or visually impaired.

Special Purpose Schools

General Classrooms



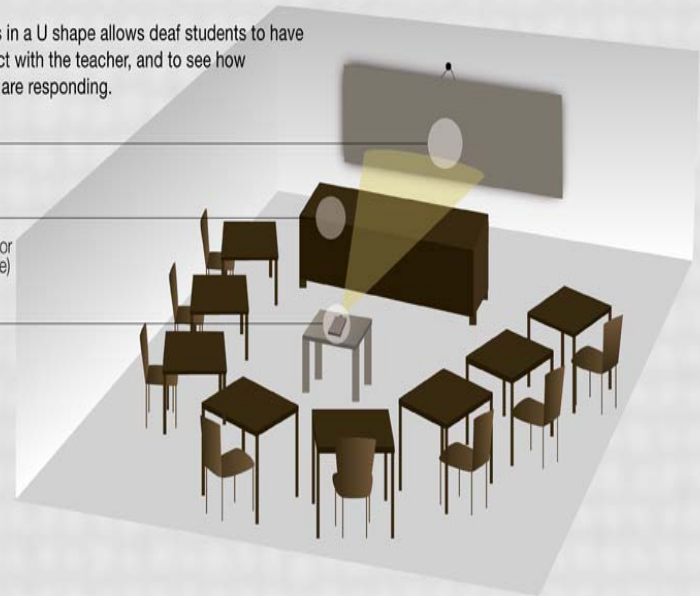
Optimal classroom arrangement

Arranging student desks in a U shape allows deaf students to have continuous visual contact with the teacher, and to see how other (hearing) students are responding.

Screen

Teacher's desk
(Space in front and behind for
instruction and/or dialogue)

Projector



- Arranging student desks in a u-shape allows deaf students to have continuous visual contact with the teacher for sign language.

Special Purpose Schools General Classrooms



- Special provisions for classrooms include larger, specifically shaped rooms to allow for increased floor space for mobility equipment.

Special Purpose Schools Classroom Characteristics



- Control of neural stimulation - The collateral disabilities of many hearing or sight impaired students may include autism or similar conditions that are sensitive to stimulation overload.

Special Purpose Schools Wayfinding



- Special purpose schools often require wider hallways.

Special Purpose Schools Wayfinding



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Special Purpose Schools Wayfinding



- Special purpose schools often require specialized, accessible playground equipment and play areas.

Special Purpose Schools Classroom



- Additional spaces may be needed to support mobility exercises and physical therapy of students.

Special Schools - Residential Needs

In addition to educational needs, both NMSD and NMSVBI have residential requirements:

Residential Program:

- Students may board at the school, requiring full residential programs with constant guardian care.

Assisted Living:

- The level of special needs may require special medical care.

Special Purpose Schools Residential Space



- Residential cottages on site, allow students to live independently on campus and learn life skills

Special Purpose Schools Residential Space



- Residential dormitories allow students to live on campus and learn life skills

Special Purpose Schools Residential Space



- Residential dormitories provide space for students to live on campus and learn life skills

Questions

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Thank You!