

Only 18 Percent Of Teachers Give Their Classroom An “A”

National Study Suggests That Classroom Design Affects Student Performance

(NAPSA)—The next time you drop your child off at school ask yourself this: “Does my school make the grade?” According to a recent national survey of teachers, classroom design may affect student learning.

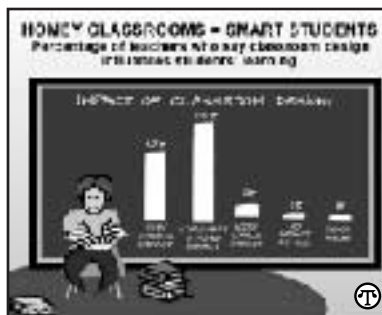
The study consisted of a survey conducted by Beth Schapiro & Associates, a research firm based in Atlanta, Ga., given to 1,050 public school teachers across the country. Of the teachers surveyed, only 18 percent gave their classroom an “A” for design; however, 92 percent of the teachers believe that classroom design has a strong impact on students’ learning and achievement. These statistics demonstrate that teachers believe there may be a direct link between classroom design and student performance.

Ninety-nine percent of the survey respondents believe that school design is important for creating a good learning environment in their classrooms, 89 percent believe it is important for teacher retention, and 79 percent believe it is important for student attendance. Because students and teachers spend most of their time in school, interior design is important for making their school experience a positive one. A school should be a place in which the students and teachers can feel comfortable.

Design Features That Count

Safety, comfort, lighting, and acoustics top the list of design features that the teachers surveyed believe impact the learning environment of their classrooms.

A classroom that minimizes the risk of accidents is essential for



the safety of students. For example, carpet in the classroom helps prevent slips and falls, and protects students from injuries.

Comfortable seating and workspaces allow the teacher to expand the learning area and be more creative in her approach to teaching. It also gives the students more flexibility around the room and a higher level of comfort.

Natural light combined with artificial light can brighten a room and stimulate the teachers and students, whereas windowless classrooms that have only artificial light can make students feel tense and cause eyestrain.

Carpet can create a quiet environment with good acoustics, which helps students concentrate on what they are learning. Teachers and students can be distracted if a lot of outside noise filters into the classroom from the halls or activities in other rooms.

In addition, 88 percent of teachers surveyed believed that having attractive colors, textures, and patterns on the floors and walls is an important design element.

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