

Massachusetts School Building Authority

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Break-out Spaces in Elementary Schools



Overview

- Elementary School classrooms and related educational areas
 - Classrooms
 - Break-out spaces (*small group, support, reading, computers, project spaces etc.*)
 - Teacher Planning areas (*located in classroom or administration areas*)
 - Specials (*art, science, maker spaces, etc.*)

- Does MSBA require or support 21st Century / Project Based Learning?
 - The space summary *accommodates* all approaches
 - MSBA *requires* flexibility and potential adaptation
 - The current space summary allows for alternate design approaches while maintaining MSBA space standards.

- MSBA expects design flexibility to accommodate changing pedagogies throughout the life of the building (*e.g. flexible spaces, readily renovated partitions, flexible technology systems, standardized structural dimensions, etc.*)

- Can Elementary School classrooms serve as “specials” rooms?
 - Consider requiring a sink in each classroom to allow for science instruction, art, project activities, etc.

- What is the ideal number and location of teaching walls?
 - Maximize teaching walls / surfaces in classrooms



Overview

- How do these requirements inform systems design?
 - Technology
 - Plumbing
 - Electrical
 - Safety

- Need for early programming with the District regarding furniture.
 - Moveable tables and chairs
 - Compatible with technology
 - Adjustable
 - Light and durable

- Potential Space Summary updates - Pilot program;
 - Calculates guideline GSF = guideline NSF x 1.5 (not GSF per student)
 - Tracks proposed spaces for each of 6 phases (PDP, PSR, SD, DD, 60% & 90%)
 - Includes updated definition of Grossing Factor
 - Media Center description includes library, Learning Commons, etc.



Analysis

The MSBA conducted a review based on 18 Elementary Schools from the Preferred Schematic Budget of March 30, 2011 – January 14, 2015 (4 years).

Based on the 18 New Construction Projects, the MSBA concluded that there are five general variations of break-out spaces:

1. Shared Vestibule
2. Shared Support Room
3. Neighborhood Cluster
4. Multiple Types
5. No Dedicated Space

The study includes projects from nine Designers:

1. HMFH Architects
2. Drummey Rosane Anderson
3. DiNisco Design Partnership
4. Dore & Whittier
5. Mount Vernon Group
6. Lamoureux Pagano & Assoc.
7. Jonathan Levi Architects
8. Turowski 2 Architecture
9. Margo Jones

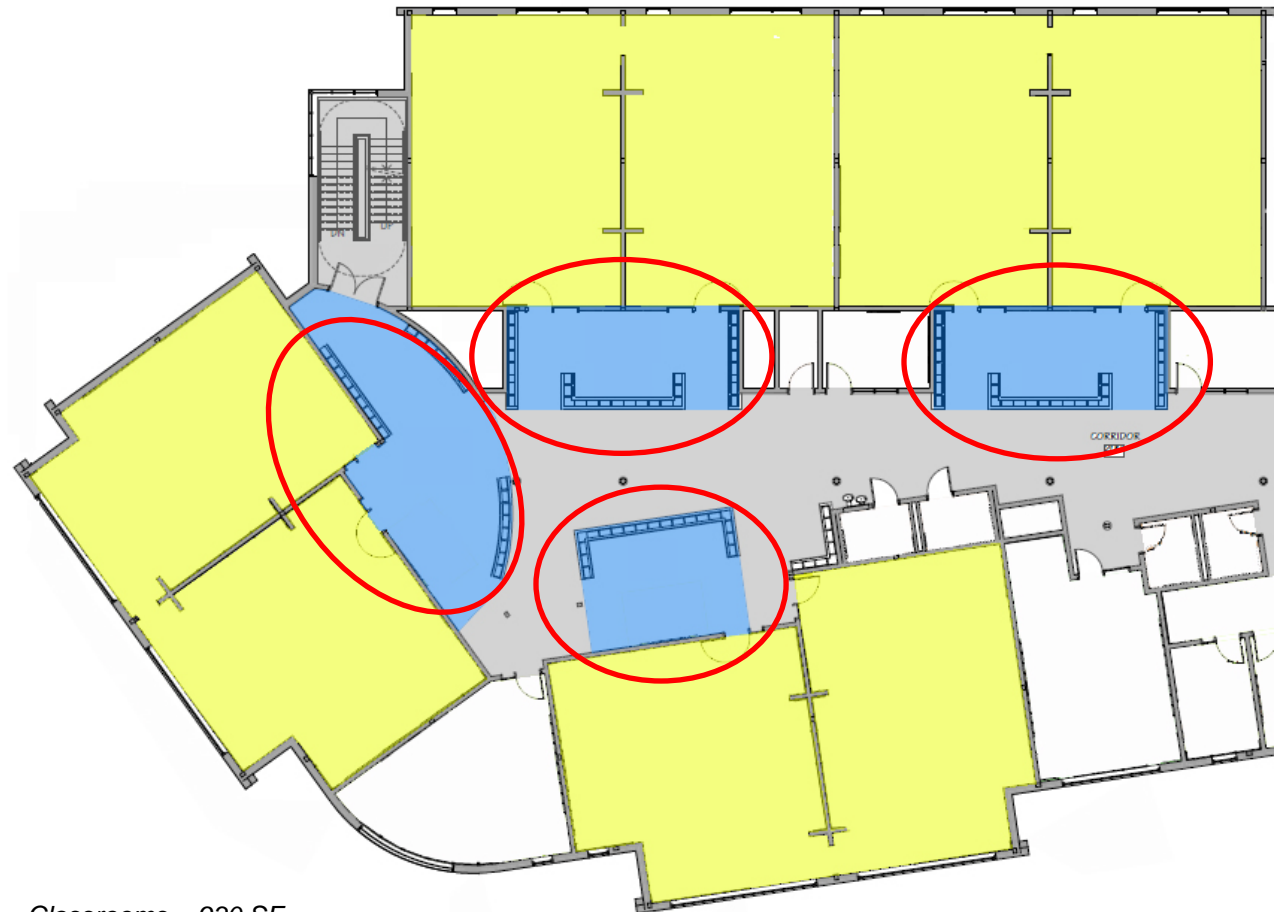
Notes:

The floor plans shown in this PowerPoint are samples of elementary school classrooms from across the Commonwealth. The MSBA is sharing these floor plans in an effort to assist Districts with their own local planning efforts. The MSBA is not recommending specific plans or layouts but is instead providing this information for districts to use to develop floor plans that are best suited to the needs of a particular district. If you would like more information about a specific set of floor plans, please contact Karl Brown (617-720-4466) at the MSBA.



Break-out Space - Shared Vestibule

- Space intended for students with direct association with connected classroom(s).
- Vestibule used for interaction and storage prior to entering classroom(s) and can be used while class is in session.



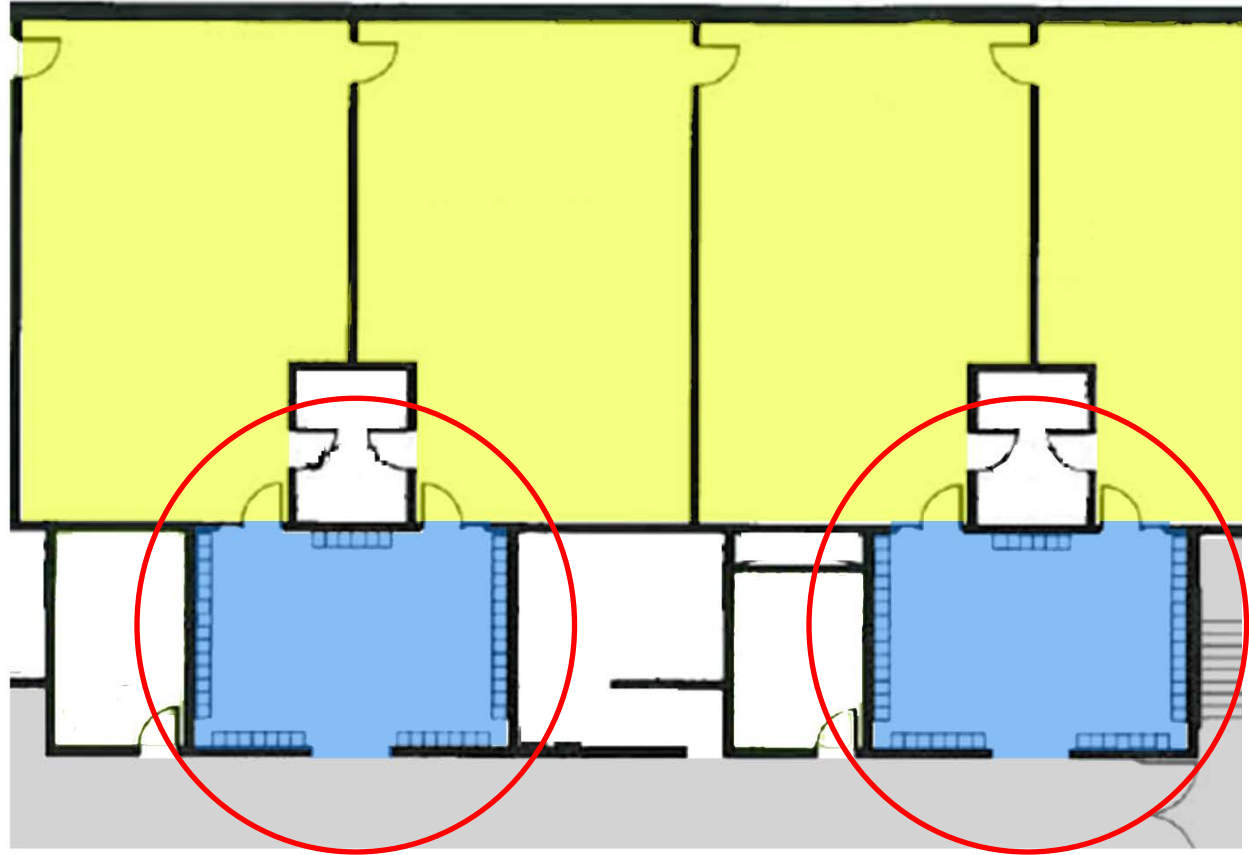
Classrooms – 930 SF

Break-out Space – 340 SF



Break-out Space - Shared Vestibule

- Lockers or cubbies can be placed along the walls for closed off storage.
- Frees up space for quiet learning activities and teaching wall area.



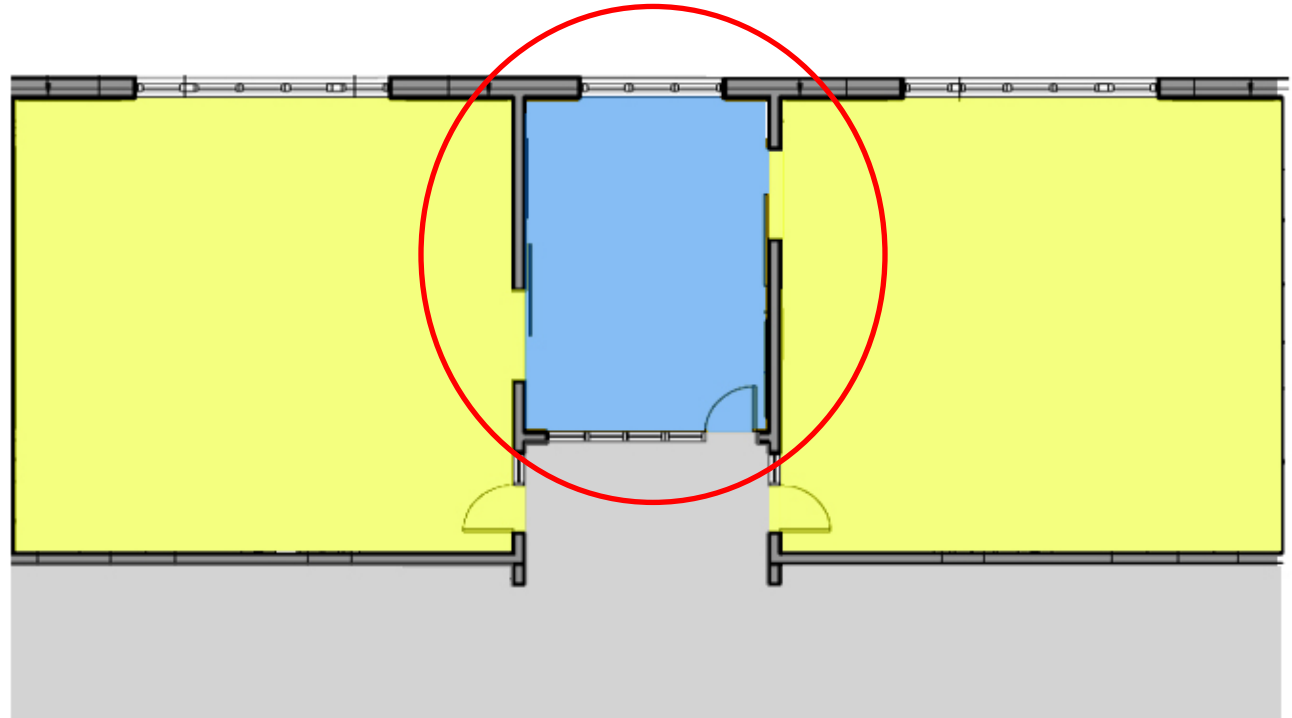
Classrooms – 900 SF

Break-out Space – 400 SF



Break-out Space - Shared Support Room

- Room is used as a collaboration area for primarily the same grade level.
- Connects directly with adjacent classrooms.
- Can be expanded for larger group settings by opening both moving partitions.



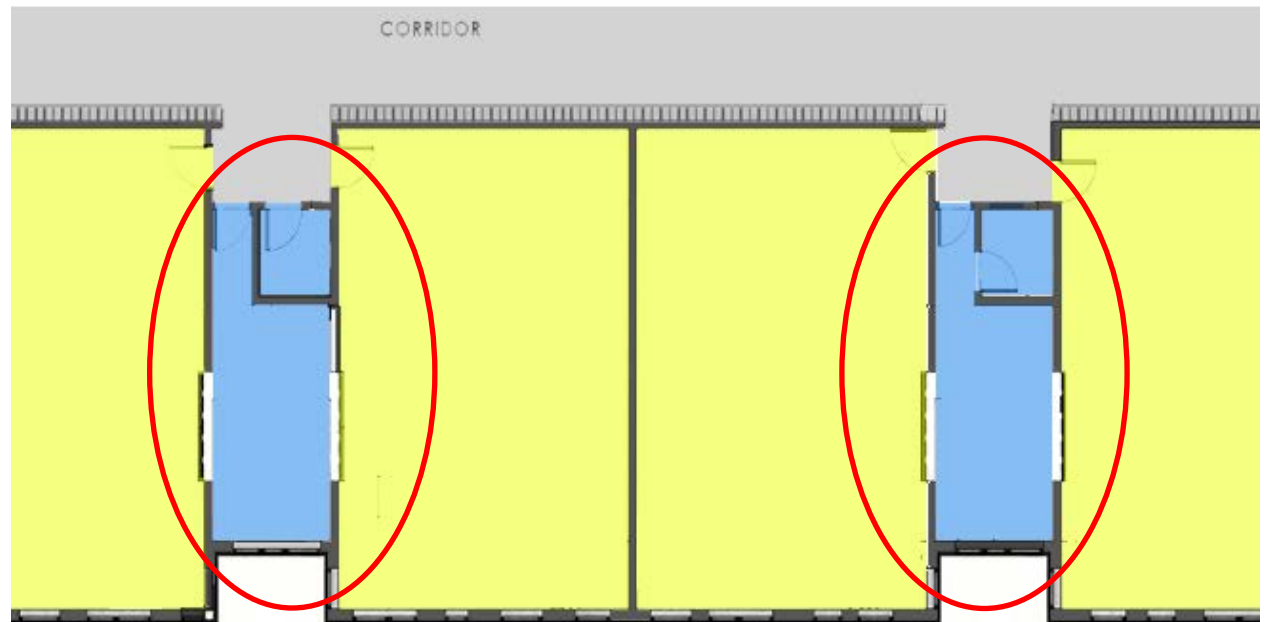
Classrooms – 900 SF

Break-out Space – 300 SF



Break-out Space - Shared Support Room

- The partition walls could be used as another teaching wall.
- Room can be used for smaller groups or for teaching planning.



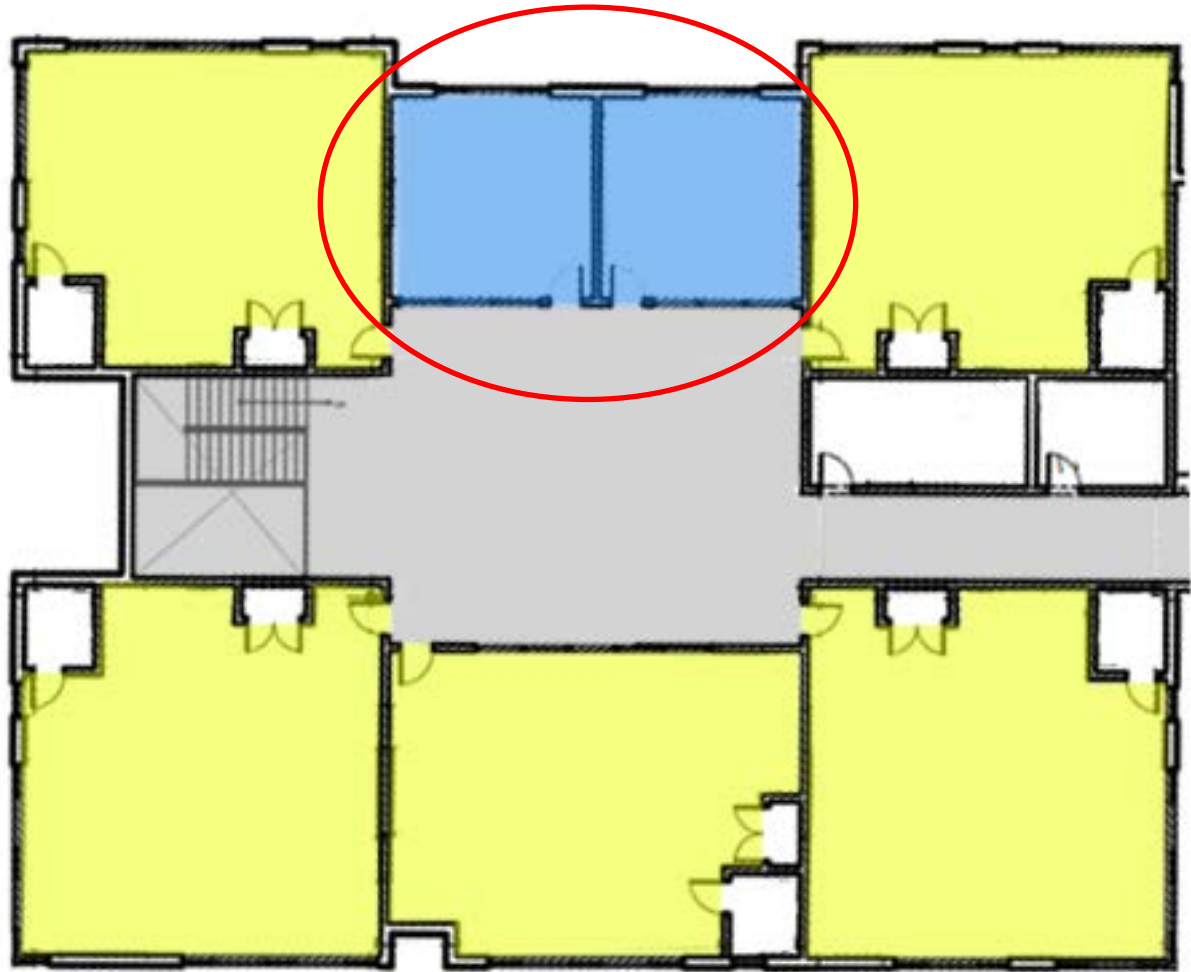
Classrooms – 970 SF

Break-out Space – SF included in classroom SF



Break-out Space - Neighborhood Cluster

- Smaller classroom(s) that are part of a learning neighborhood
- Room(s) are used for smaller group study sessions for more individualized learning



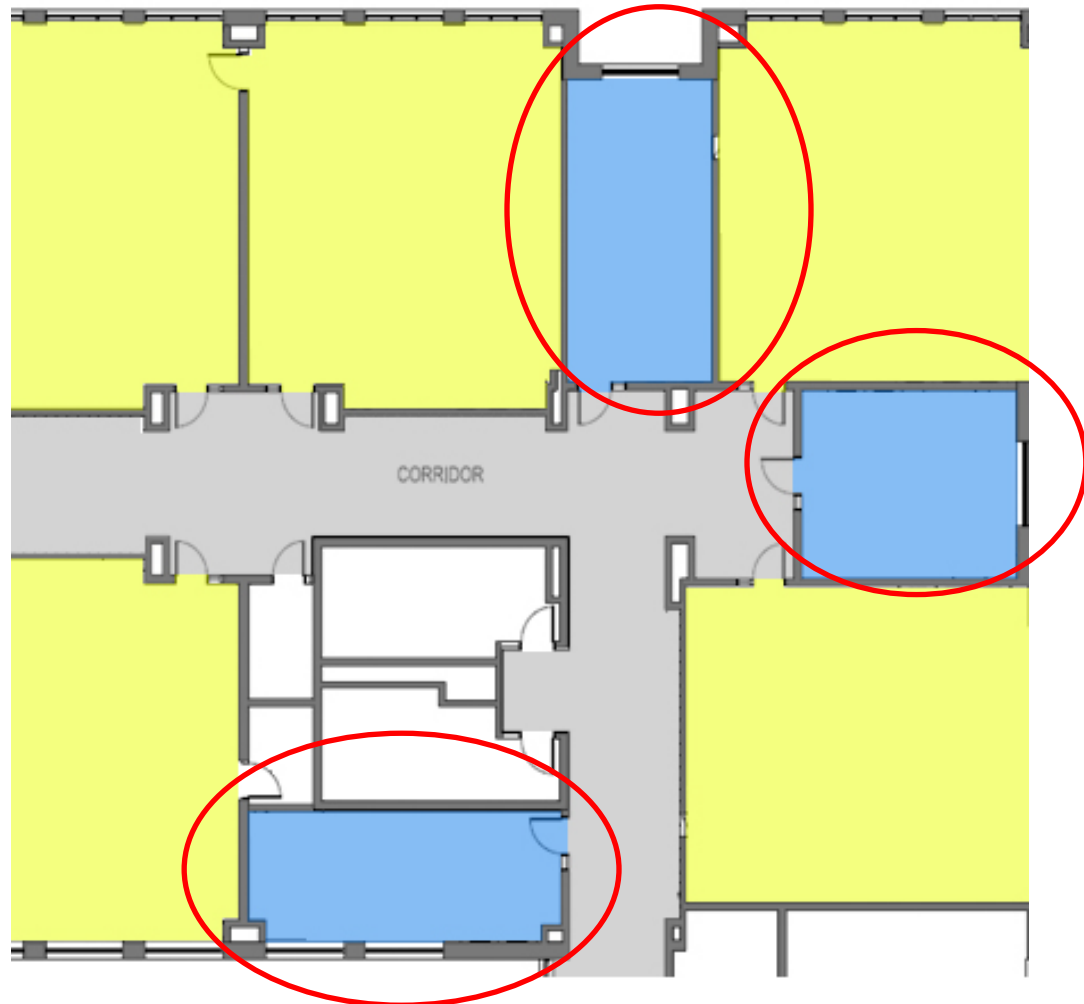
Classrooms – 960 SF

Break-out Space – 350 SF



Break-out Space - Neighborhood Cluster

- Provides smaller areas for flexible individual and small group instruction.
- These spaces must be scheduled by appropriate staff.



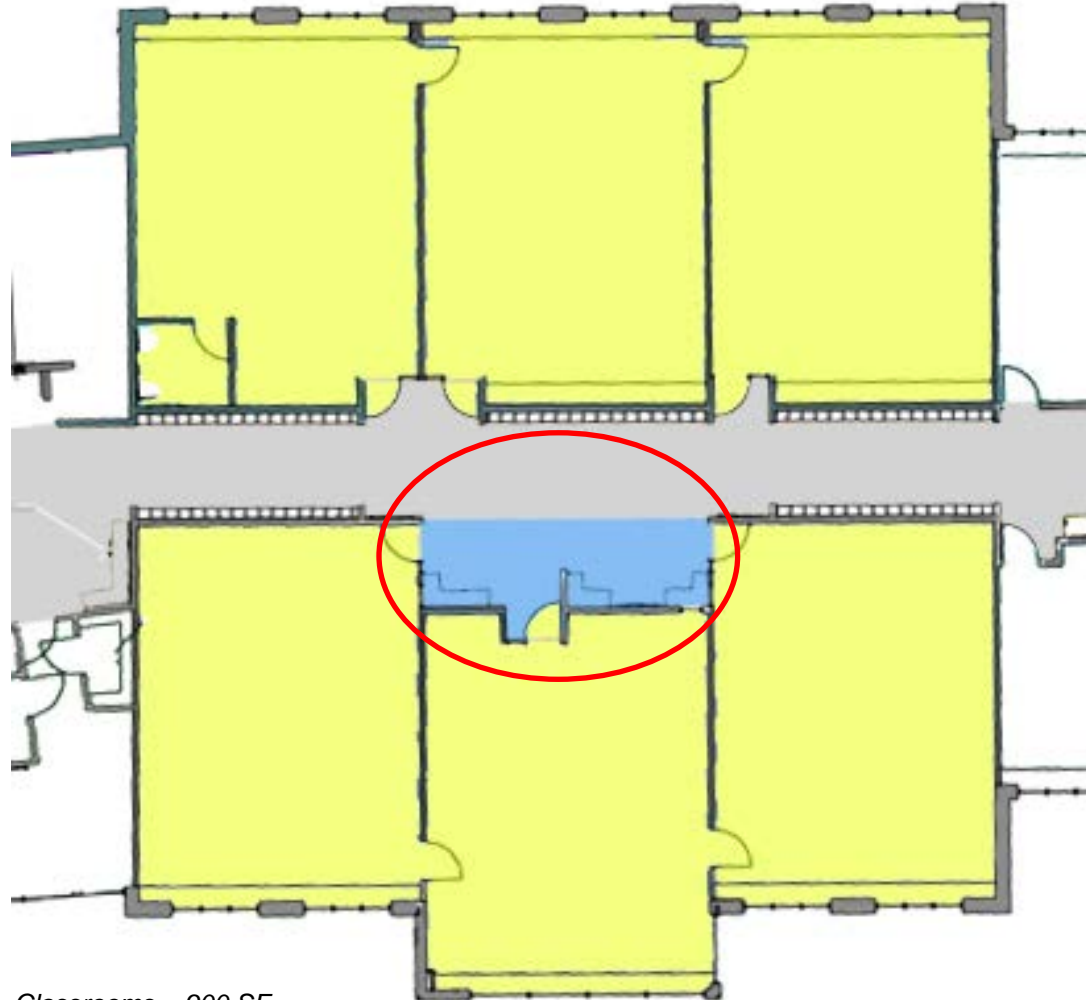
Classrooms – 950 SF

Break-out Space – 350 SF



Break-out Space - Neighborhood Cluster

- Smaller break-out space used for the nearby classrooms can be marked with simple furniture as a bench or table.
- Informal break-out space used by students during a free period. Do not need to be scheduled.



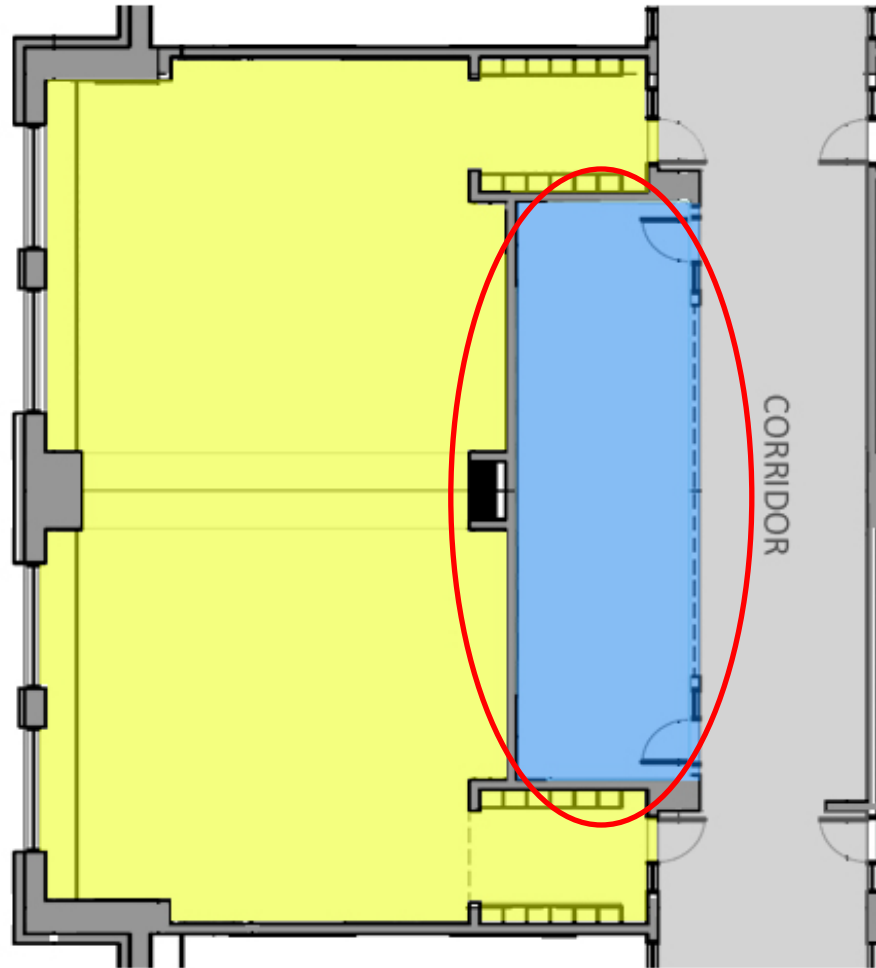
Classrooms – 900 SF

Break-out Space – included in Grossing Factor



Break-out Space - Neighborhood Cluster

- Some break-out spaces can be closed for a private classroom use and then opened for communal use.
- Additional and often specialized instructional, testing and support spaces, with careful consideration to the grade configuration and scheduling conflicts of staff.



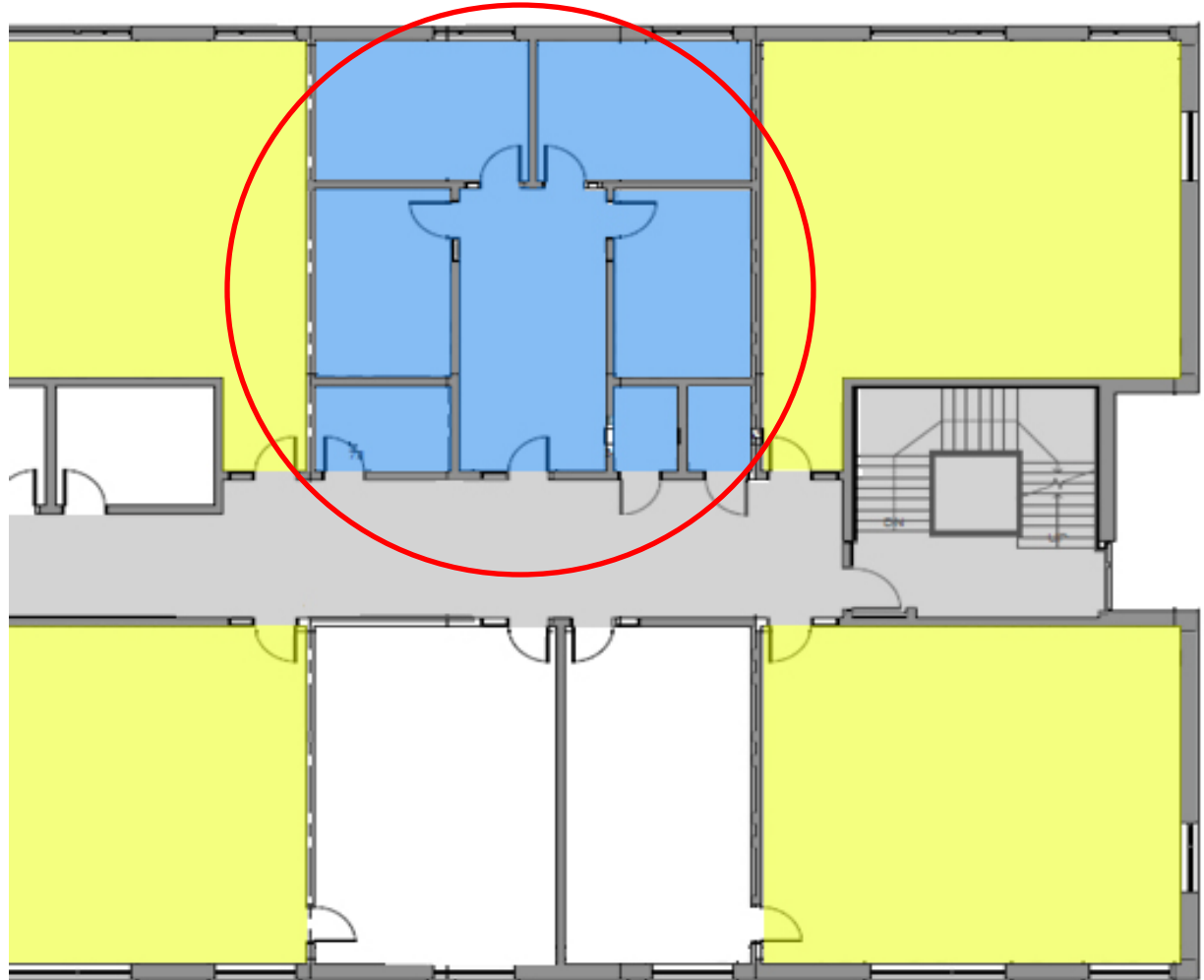
Classrooms – 830 SF

Break-out Space – 420 SF



Break-out Space - Neighborhood Cluster

- Dedicated supportive space(s) that allows staff to work with students on a specific function.
(e.g. technology/computer rooms, media centers, speech therapy etc.)



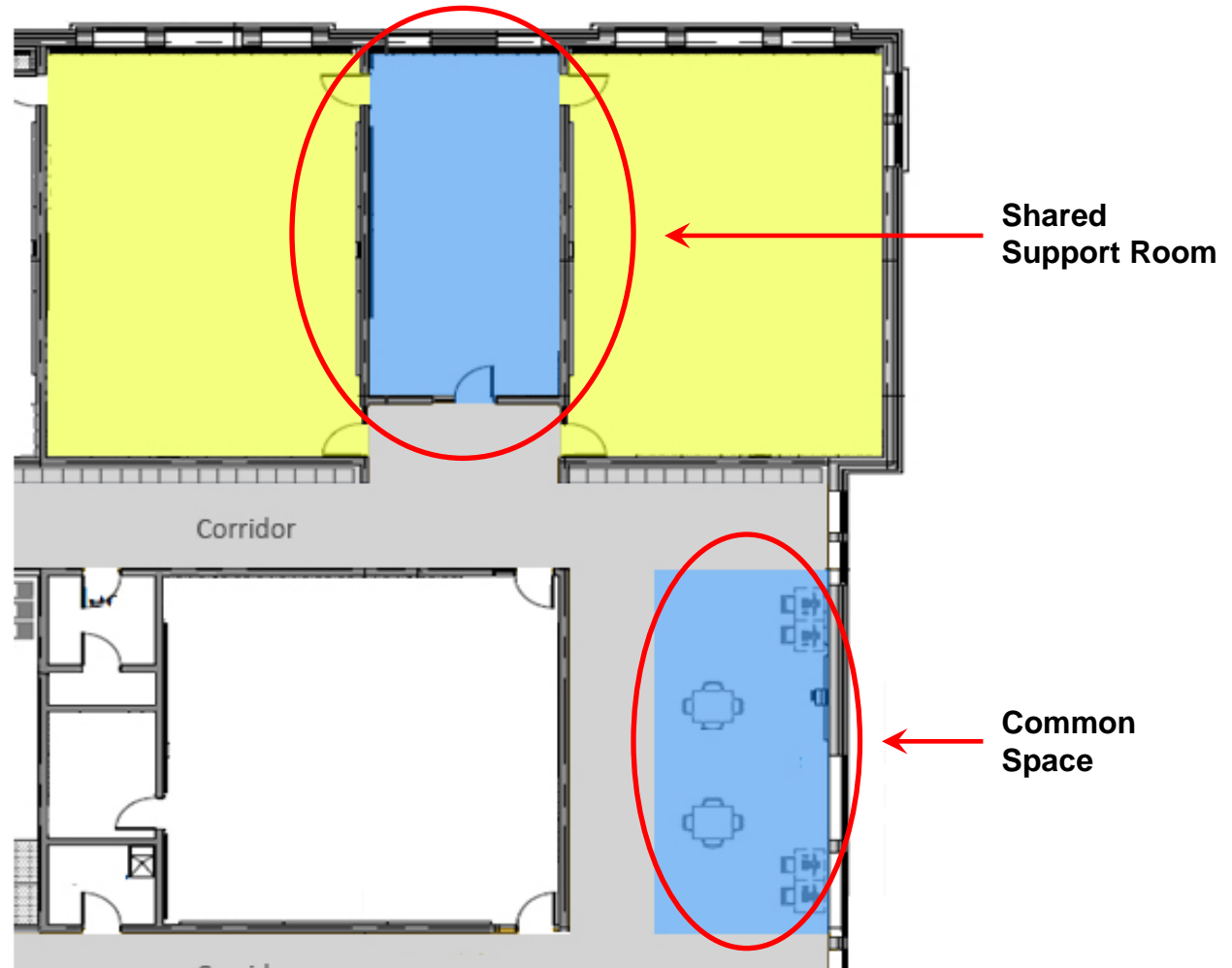
Classrooms – 900 - 940 SF

Break-out Space – 160 - 190 SF



Break-out Space - Multiple Types

- Multiple types of break-out spaces mixed together throughout the classroom areas.
- Can be used for specialty staff such as part time Special education, Speech, Therapists, etc. or full time staff that do not have committed space but share storage and workspace as well as other resources.



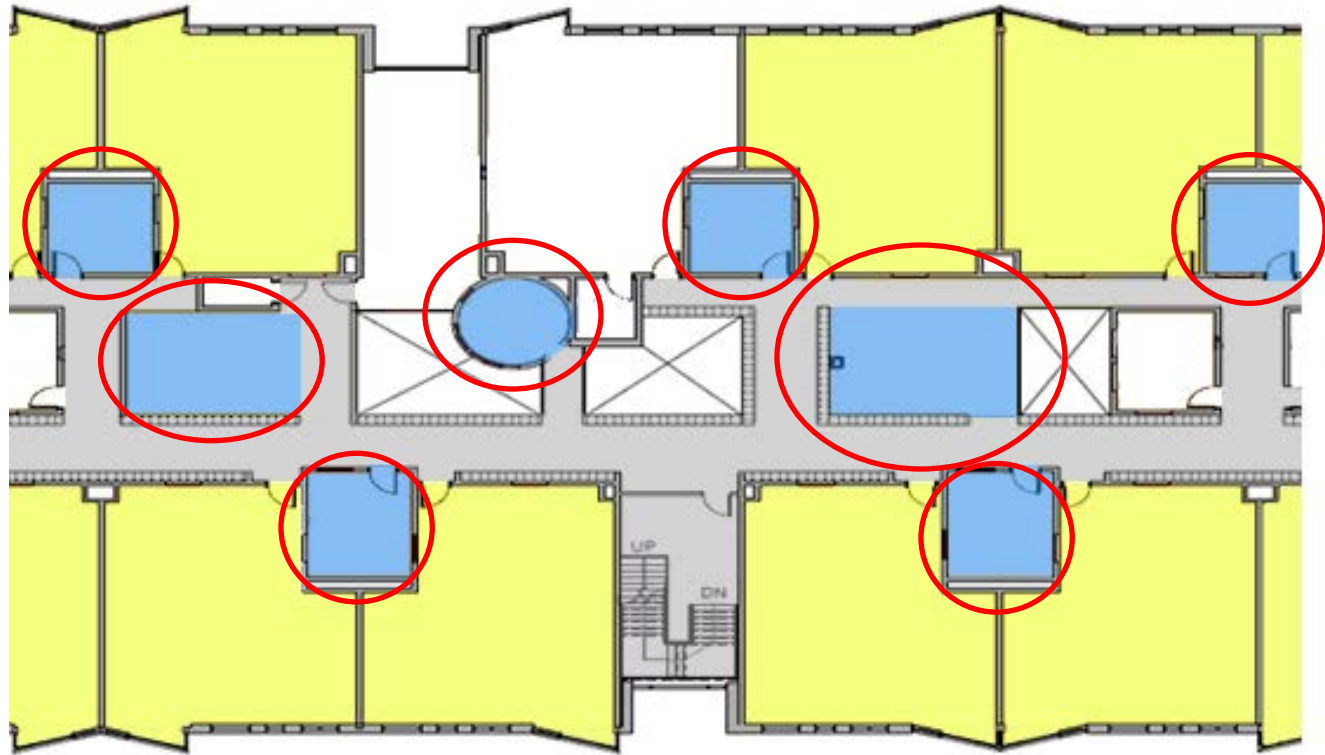
Classrooms – 950 SF

Break-out Space – 480 - 490 SF




Break-out Space - Multiple Types

- These flexible areas are envisioned to be visible from all surrounding classrooms, allowing independent and collaborative group work.
- Teachers may elect to send students to these areas during class time while remaining in the classroom with other students or they may choose to reserve a project area for an entire class.



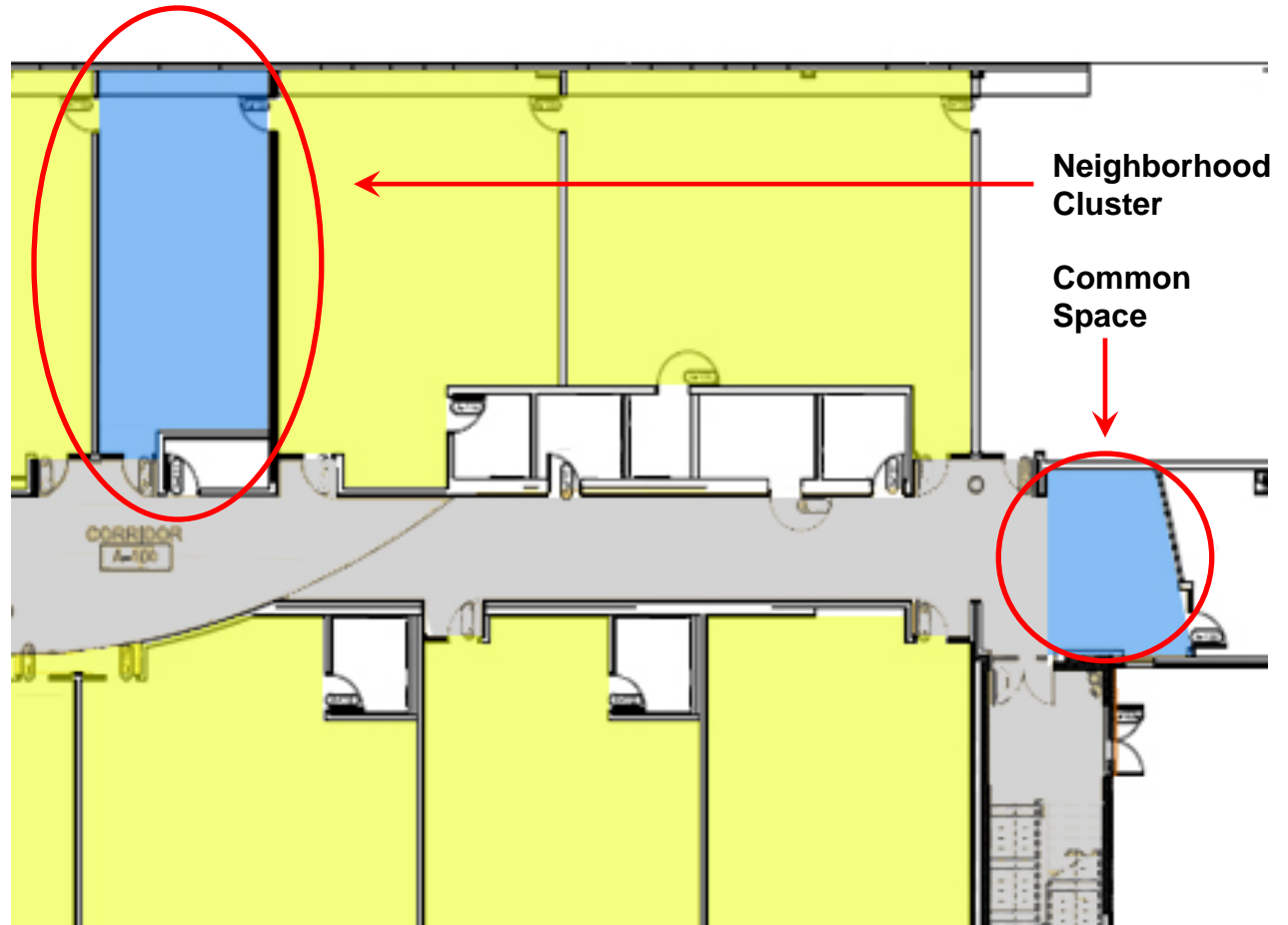
Classrooms – 870 SF

Break-out Space – 150 - 500 SF



Break-out Space - Multiple Types

- Having multiple types of break-out spaces can aid in the flexibility of the building.
- For example the neighborhood cluster room shown in this diagram can be changed if needed to add another classroom.

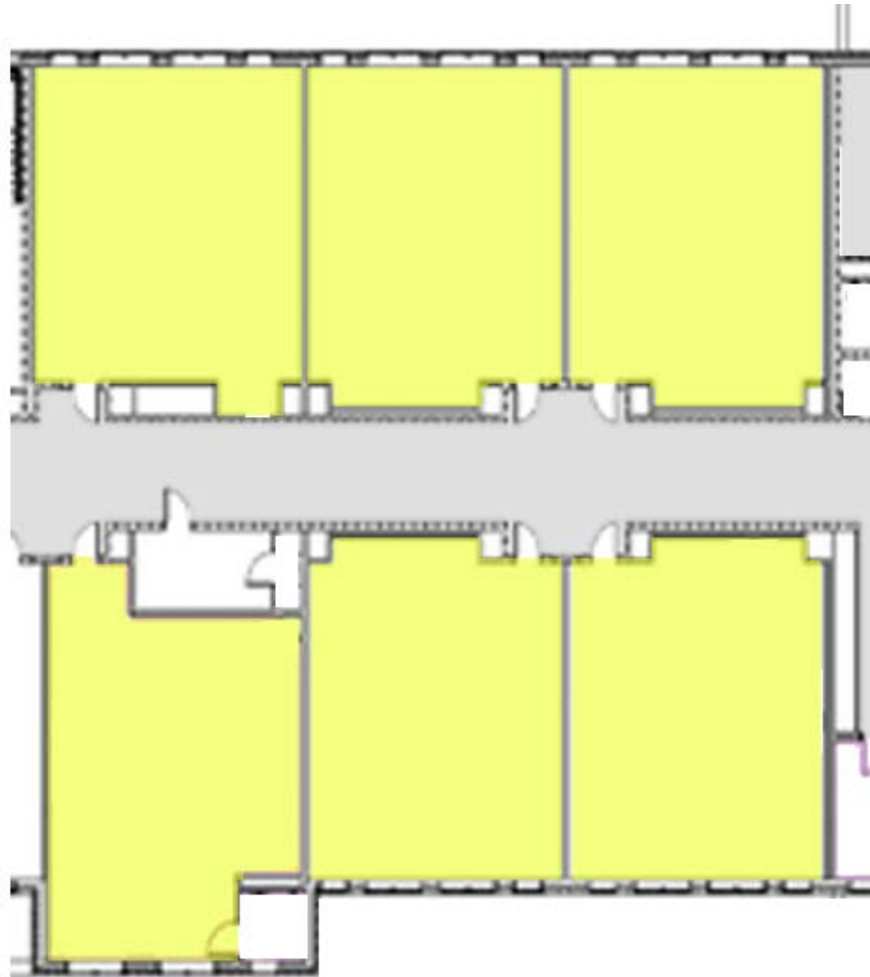


Classrooms – 930 SF
Break-out Space – 500 SF



Break-out Space – No Dedicated Space

- Schools with no dedicated break-out space may have larger classroom sizes to allow Project Based / Differentiated Learning within the classroom.



Classrooms – 1,000 SF

Break-out Space – included in classroom SF

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Questions?

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