

What is it?

Arranging the space so all students can see, hear, move freely, and engage to maximize learning and allow for active supervision.

What does it look like?

Working within the space available, the teacher arranges the student learning areas to allow for multiple configurations (circle, rows, groups) to match to the learning activity, while ensuring freedom of movement in a clean and organized space.

Curriculum visuals (e.g. the teaching matrix with school rules, posted routines for behavior and academic skills, etc.) are current.

Why?

Effective arrangement of the Physical Environment...

- Increases on-task behavior,
- Increases perception of safety,
- Supports a respect of others' personal space,
- Makes it easier to use the curriculum visuals,
- Allows for teacher movement (Active Supervision)

Trauma-Lens?

A well designed classroom environment promotes of sense of safety and security for students impacted by trauma.

How?

Class-wide: Define spaces, organize storage, reduce clutter and old materials.

Complete a visual scan of curriculum materials posted throughout the space. Is the content still relevant? Does it reflect the most current behavior and academic curriculum? Ensure these tools are in locations where they are needed and easily referenced by teachers and students.

Whole group: Arrange seating so all students can engage; Develop and post routines for safely and efficiently moving desks into different arrangements.

Small group: Arrange seating so all students can equally participate, limit distractions.

Tips?

- Partner up for peer feedback: invite a colleague to view your space to make recommendations for improvement.
- Review data on recent behaviors and consider how the physical environment contributed, and could be adjusted, to reduce future occurrences.
- Include options for multiple arrangements to support learning activity:

Desks in Rows

Whole group instruction; Assessments; Attention toward one instructional location (e.g. "board")

Desks in Clusters

Small group and cooperative learning.

Desks in Circle/U-Shape

Encourages discussion and participation.