

How to Leverage Your Emergency Relief Funds to Keep Your Students Thriving





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V.i.P.S. Solutions for ESSER Spending

he COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a lasting effect on U.S. workers and students. Luckily, sweeping action has been passed in the form of school stimulus via the Cares Act (signed into law in 2020), and the American Rescue Plan (signed into law in 2021). They are called.

Elementary and Secondary School
Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds .

The purpose of this unprecedented amount of funding for schools is to help students and teachers catch up after a year of learning loss caused by the pandemic. ESSER funds may go to a variety of solutions for school improvement over the course of the next two years, including education technology, mental health services, additional training for teachers, and improvements to infrastructure and air quality.

V.i.P.S. has been a leader in classroom design for 20 years. Over the course of the pandemic, V.i.P.S. has presented and produced a variety of school solutions for remote, hybrid, and distance learning to keep students and teachers learning. Now that it is time to help students.

integrate back into a formal in-person setting, V.i.P.S. continues to offer solutions needed to keep students safe and aid in their accelerated learning, as well as contribute to mental wellbeing.

In addition to QuickShip options, complimentary consultations, and our no cost Render to Reality™ services, V.i.P.S. offers top-of- the-line furniture for educational. environments where students can get back on track and thrive. This guide covers eight key topics that meet ESSER funding requirements and will help schools recover. ■



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## V.i.P.S. Solutions for ESSER Spending:

We Are Your One-Stop Shop!















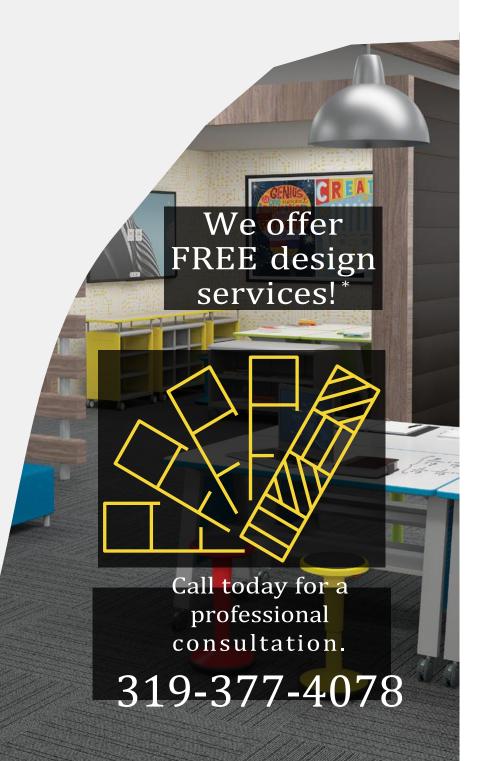












### Social-Emotional Learning Tools, Furnishings & Products

t V.i.P.S., our Thrive Philosophy drives the design process with the six characteristics of human development. Social-Emotional development is crucial to productivity from our adolescence to our senior <u>years</u>. It establishes the ability. to make meaningful connections with individuals and groups. Extracurricular activities and peerto-peer interaction are imperative for social-emotional development. But due to the pandemic, students were forced to change their routines, making it difficult to have necessary interactions that forge the foundation for life-long mental health and lasting relationships.

So, what can be done to help students continue on the path to empathy, awareness, and emotional intelligence when they come back to in-person school? It starts with creating learning environments that inspire students to be curious, creative, and maintain a sense of

security. V.i.P.S.'s goal is to foster each stage of the developmental journey from adolescence to adulthood. We realize that the key to designing environments that support social-emotional development is integration: integration of technology, integration of furniture, and integration of tools necessary for connection.

From a design perspective, mental health can be aided by enacting protective measures within each space that may reduce the spread. of COVID-19. It will also require furnishings where students can gather together and form community, sharing their ideas and feelings. so that they may process. Curvedand creative pieces like the Orbit MediaSpace Soft Seating, the Cocoon Media Space, and the Elevate Steps Soft Seating allow for collaborating and sharing . Add in the Essentials Mobile Clear Divider, and students are more protected while still being able to actively learn together. With tiered



Encouraging self-regulation and relaxation as students come back from isolation will be more important than ever.

Social-Emotional Learning Tools, Furnishings & Products

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seating available, these comfortable couch and table combinations will create that safe sense of a "home away from home", while still producing a mature collegiate-style environment for projects and individual study. These grounding and cozy settings lead to the ideal environment for groupthinks that will allow teenage students to feel. connected, creative, and professional.

More schools will be creating small nooks for retreating in library or lounge spaces. Yoga classes, tai chi, and other breathing and mindfulness classes are being seen more as part of a mainstream physical education. curriculum, and we should expect this trend to continue after the pandemic. It can be argued that it will be even more important now to encourage. self-regulation and relaxation techniques as students come back from a period of isolation and anxiety caused by the pandemic. Setting up spaces for relaxation for students is about providing options for seating that are calming and help release tension. V.i.P.S.'s rocking stools help.

to release excess energy by creating rhythmic micromovements. The indoor and outdoor Beanies are the ideal place to rest and relax after a long study session.

We know that most teens value both establishing a sense of individuation and a sense of belonging to a whole. This will be even more important as students return to school. Social-emotional learning will be on the forefront as we begin to recover learning losses and develop a new system of education in a post-pandemic world. For social-emotional learning and to establish a sense of belonging, furniture that. encourages group sharing will create a sense of openness, but it's also important to include plenty of options for individual study or down time, like the Koil Reading Nook for relaxation or the Schoolworks Study Carrel for deeper focus. Certain

students may be more easily.

Orbit MediaSpace Soft Seating

Tiered seating can help students feel connected, creative, and professional.



Elevate Steps

Soft Seating

Encourage openness and a sense of belonging with configurable group furniture.

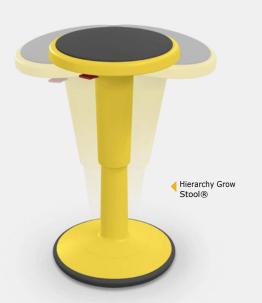
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### Social-Emotional Learning Tools, Furnishings & Products

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overstimulated or distracted than others. It's important to provide those students with desks that can be easily configured for group learning or spaced away from the whole so that they may focus on their own work.

The Enroll® Tablet Chair and Hierarchy Shapes Desk are ideal for both scenarios, allowing students to work together or alone depending on their needs.





Hierarchy Shapes Desk



# Solutions to Address Learning Loss & Accelerate Learning

Whiteboard tops allow students to work out problems and share their processes. This type of learning may help them retain knowledge.

the last year has not been easy on American students.

Learning loss caused by the pandemic has hit communities throughout the U.S., with some educators and experts fearing the long-term damage of this time spent.

away from in-person school. As many district leaders begin to plan for welcoming more students back to schools in person this fall, there is an urgent conversation happening for how to best help them catch up.

Breakout groups and accelerated learning environments may help students catch up after time lost. For these spaces, choosing configurable furniture that will allow students to gather together to focus attention. on the teacher will be helpful in not only establishing that sense of community, but also creating a space where listening and sharing are possible. The Mobile Teacher Workstation II can serve as the focal point for a space with configurable desks nearby. With porcelain steel

top options like the Hierarchy Shapes
Desk, Hierarchy Creator Table, and
Hierarchy Creator Desks, students can
work out problems and share their
findings, ideas, or processes. This
type of learning may help them retain
concepts and will make learning

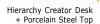
engaging and collaborative.

We know that student's value both establishing a sense of individuation and a sense of belonging to a whole. This will be even more important as students return to school. Socialemotional learning will be on the forefront as we begin to recover learning losses and develop a new system of education in a postpandemic world. For social-emotional learning and to establish a sense of belonging, furniture that encourages group sharing will create a sense of openness. The Orbit Media Space is a horseshoe shaped couch with a back table option that focuses the attention at a speaker and around the circle, so that students may interact and share. Other soft seating options in libraries,

Creating a home-like space helps eliminate distraction and boosts self-confidence.

Breakout groups and accelerated.

learning environments may help. students catch up after time lost.





Double Privacy Pod

### Solutions to Address Learning Loss & Accelerate Learning

continued from p. 9.

lounge areas, and cafeterias will allow students to congregate together in between classes and during breakout study sessions.

Although there has been learning loss with less in-person school, some students have actually thrived being able to work and concentrate alone at home without distraction. The trick now for educators welcoming students back is providing them with a space similar to what they had at home, helping to eliminate distraction and boosts self-confidence. The Privacy Pod is perfectly designed to help each student concentrate on the work at hand. A few pods placed throughout the room give individual learners who may be easily distracted or overstimulated the option to learn and think alone. For those who need some solo time, or alone time, the Koil Reading Nook provides a space for downtime and solo reading or study in a calm, curved shape that provides a rest for body and mind.





# **Solution**Solution Creating Inclusive Spaces for All Students

they must feel included. We know that learning gaps caused. by COVID-19 only widened what already existed between different socioeconomic groups. COVID brought problems with traditional models of learning to the forefront, leaving groups of students behind. Fortunately, this time has brought an awareness to the needs of students. We've learned that all students learn differently and have access to different resources.

Without attention being paid to underserved communities, students all over the country are being left behind. Although this year has been a challenge, it's also a good reminder of how we can improve the future of education for everyone going forward. Experts predict this time will have a ripple effect for years to come, and that many students will need extra assistance catching up.

When considering possible solutions for creating equity among different groups of students so that

all may thrive, there are obviously a lot of factors to consider. One is the importance of conscious room. design for educational environments. Classrooms that have the physical tools to facilitate group learning and enhanced discovery are more likely to produce successful students. That's why maker spaces are being seen more and more in today's classrooms. They may provide the tools necessary for students to collaborate and find a sense of community and autonomy at the same time.

The Compass family meets the needs of helping establish this type of student creativity and autonomy, while allowing for inclusion and collaboration. Visual communication items like mobile whiteboards will also help establish a communal sense of sharing and inclusion for all students to share ideas.

Students of all backgrounds and abilities must have access to engaging and active learning environments so that they are able to find their role. in a collaborative setting, as well as

Conscious room design includes the physical tools to facilitate learning and discovery. Dot Soft Seating Rocking Stool Compass Compass helps establish student Makerspace Tables creativity and autonomy while allowing for inclusion and collaboration.

Hierarchy Creator Desk ADA Triangle

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## **Creating Inclusive Spaces for All Students**

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channel their own specifics skills.

What do teachers need in their classrooms to create an optimal environment for fun, growth, and achievement? For science, math, arts, and robotics teachers, it may mean organizational tools or furnishings that encourage autonomy and independence in their young pupils. If tools are easy to store and organize, students can access them easily without a need for help. If classroom furniture is mobile, highly functional, and sleek, teachers will be able. to reach more students and have an easier time doing so. Providing teachers with desks that will allow.

them to store all materials and remain mobile will be great assets to helping them multitask. The <u>Avid Modular Desk System</u> is an ergonomic workstation that active teachers will appreciate for its function and comfortable feel.

Expanding on inclusion in every classroom requires accessible furniture. That's why V.i.P.S. has always created ADA approved desks and tables for students. Use alone, or join the Hierarchy Creator Desks

together in a number of ways to fit your needs. The highly versatile desk's ergonomic shapes provide flexibility and workspace comfort, now available in several sizes to meet ADA requirements and accommodate different abilities and needs. Choose from the ADA Square, ADA Triangle, ADA Rectangle, or ADA Half Round shapes to make your spaces more user-friendly.

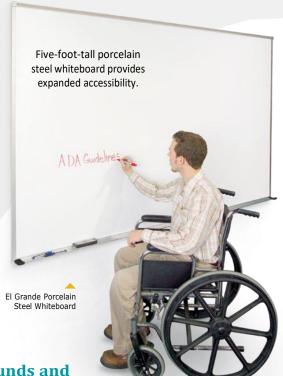
Hierarchy

Rocker

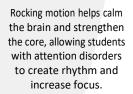
Chair



Compass Mini H3 Cabinet + Handles



Students of all backgrounds and abilities must have access to engaging and active learning spaces to encourage autonomy and independence.



Understanding the importance of meeting individual needs leads to choosing more non-traditional furnishings.





# Environments That Foster Active Learning

ands-on learning is also sometimes referred to as "active learning" or "experiential learning". It's the method of allowing students to tinker, play, and creatively problem solve in ways that are appropriate for their age groups. For young learners, this may mean simple activities such as finger painting. For older learners, this can mean lab work and STEM study. that involves creating, building, and experimenting. Sylvia Martinez is the co-author of the book *Invent to Learn*: Making, Tinkering, and Engineering in the Classroom . She says that the "maker movement" in schools is. a reflection of the 4th industrial revolution. This means that hands-on learning and STEM classes will better prepare students for the economy of tomorrow. But because of COVID-19, fewer students are learning in person due to concerns of safety and high community spread of the virus. We are just beginning to learn the effects of the varied schedules and new.

routines of our nation's students.

Active learning environments will help students catch up and stay engaged after a year of virtual or remote learning. Flexible furniture and active pieces facilitate group thinking, working together, and retaining concepts through practice and activity. For ESL students and multilingual learners, and those working on reading and writing skills, porcelain steel surfaces and desks will allow them the space to practice with each other. Our tables and desks with porcelain steel tops are great for collective activities, while our porcelain steel lapboards will give students places to practice language on their own.

Sharewall® provides students of all ages the opportunity to brainstorm and share ideas together on one large board, keeping students engaged and active while learning new concepts. For tinkering workshops and labs where student can explore, Compass Makerspace Tables and Cabinets

Hands-on learning and STEM classes will better prepare students for the economy of tomorrow.



stay engaged.

Some students focus more while

standing as blood circulation and

Active learning will help students catch up and

Hierarchy Grow Stool®

breathing patterns shift from sitting to standing.

Hierarchy CogNitiv Table + Standing Height Legs

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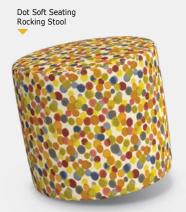
## **Environments That Foster Active Learning**

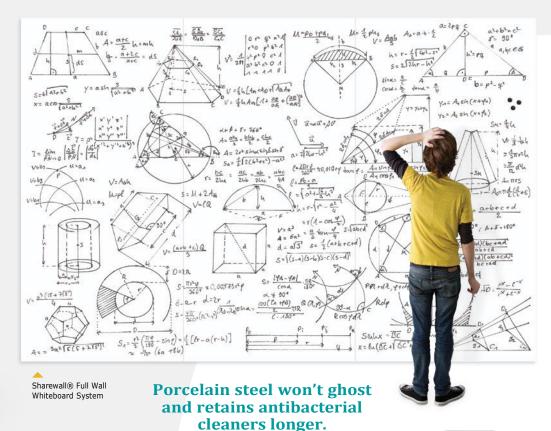
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were designed with active teachers in mind, allowing for space, movement, ample storage, and adaptability. Available in nine base sizes, the Compass cabinets are light and mobile, making them ideal for active teaching. Add handles to quickly and smoothly move materials throughout the entire classroom. Compass makes it easy to create custom filing stations, worktables, or teacher desk spaces with these durable cabinets, reinforced with braces for structural stability. Side panels and optional handles match our Hierarchy family of colors, encouraging creativity, play, and school spirit.

Active learning environments also require flexible furniture that will allow students to move and release excess energy. Our new <a href="Dot Rocking Stools">Dot Rocking Stools</a> and <a href="Soft Sway Rocking Chairs">Soft Sway Rocking Chairs</a> create rhythmic micromovements that aid in posture and focus to keep the most active learners engaged.











For ESL students and multilingual learners, porcelain steel surfaces and desks will provide practice space to facilitate learning and sharing.

## Environments Teaching That Foster > Teaching Active Learning

hen MooreCo interviewed teachers for the Thrive Together webinar, they spoke about what they most want in classrooms. Each teacher noted the importance of functional, mobile furniture that looks and feels great. With the availability of the ESSER funds, there has never been a better time to give teachers the spaces and furniture they deserve, especially following such a difficult year. Accelerated learning tools will help educators get what they need to help students learn more quickly.

So, what do teachers need in their classrooms to create an optimal environment for fun, growth, and achievement? For science, math. arts, and robotics teachers, it may mean organizational tools or furnishings that encourage autonomy and independence in their young pupils. The Compass collection was created with active teachers in mind. If tools are easy to store and organize, students can access them easily without a need for help. If classroom furniture is mobile, highly functional, and sleek, teachers will be able to reach more.

students and have an easier time doing so. Providing teachers with desks that will allow them to store all materials and remain mobile will be great assets to helping them multitask. The Avid Modular Desk System is an ergonomic workstation that active teachers will appreciate for its function and comfortable. feel. The ability to move with the space and set up a teaching area wherever needed is also important for today's teacher. A compact and easily mobile workstation such as the Mobile Teacher Workstation II or the Avid Podium allows freedom to roam and to be accessible to the students A good ergonomic chair, such as the Elate Task Chair, helps teachers with back support and body fatigue. Research shows that ergonomic furniture reduces employee absenteeism and workrelated injuries.

A compact and mobile workstation allows the teacher the flexibility to be anywhere in the room they are needed.



A good ergonomic chair helps teachers with back



# Safety Solutions for COVID-19 & Future Outbreaks

OVID positivity rates continue to decline as vaccinations continue to rise. Safety measures will need to remain in place to help curb the spread of the virus and prevent future outbreaks. V.i.P.S. has been providing solutions throughout the pandemic for every learning situation and style.

#### Hybrid Learning

In the event of a future outbreak, a hybrid model classroom would allow students who benefit most from being in the classroom physically to learn safely at school, while students who are able to learn remotely can do so from the comfort of home. A hybrid classroom requires a few simple tools: remote learning software, an interactive display, a webcam, and furniture that is lightweight, mobile, and easy to clean. Interactive smartboards can create an "in-the-room" feeling for hybrid classes where some students learn at home and

some learn remotely.

#### In-Person Learning

Innovation in classroom design means that students and teachers can have fun while being conscious about their own safety and the spreadof COVID-19. V.i.P.S. has always provided durable, cleanable, and lightweight collaborative pieces that happen to be ideal for this moment.

We've also added protective items to our product line, including the Essentials Mobile Clear Divider and the Trifold Acrylic Desktop Screen, and the Clarity Acrylic Desktop Dividers so that teachers and students can continue to learn effectively and have fun while doing so.

#### Online/Distance Learning

For communities whose cases are on the rise at any given moment, a school district may choose distance learning as the safest temporary.

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### Safety Solutions for COVID-19 & Future Outbreaks

continued from p. 19.

option. User-friendly tools can help parents, teachers, and students continue to work and learn from home without missing a step. The keys to successfully learning from home and teaching remotely include engaging. educational technology and a home learning classroom with pieces that encourage focus and active learning. For this, we recommend the i3SIXTY Digital Flipchart, i3Learn Hub software, and the i3TOUCH Interactive Displays to help keep students and teachers connected at a distance.



i3TOUCH Interactive Display





We can help keep students and teachers connected and safe whether in-person or distance learning!











### Educational Technology for Remote Learning

research over the last year hasshown that remote learning has further widened existing learning gaps between students. This means that some students fell behind, due to a lack of access to the tools needed to learn at a distance. A reported 15 million American students lack reliable internet

<u>connection</u> and the devices needed to continue learning from home.

Although remote learning presented its challenges for teachers, parents, and students, it has been utilized by nearly half of American families. An upside to remote learning is that it may expand future opportunities for continued learning online in the future. This means. that learning at a distance can now be used for future events such as inclement weather days or distance learning when necessary.

Chloe Hosid is a Design Researcher in the Education Studio at Corgan.

She said that technology has had a profound impact on students' ability to learn through the pandemic and

will undoubtedly continue to play a role in the future of classrooms. She mentioned the benefits of interactive technology and gave insight about the pathways to education through virtual reality. Going forward, interactive educational technology is a necessity. Access to internet, mobile learning devices or home laptops, and updated educational software are necessary tools for schools to continue to educate students effectively even if distance learning is an option in the future.

Choose methods that meet you where you are, allowing you to seamlessly transition to teaching from a distance without needing several hours in training or a background in IT. The i3LearnHub software is userfriendly and facilitates the exchange of lessons and schoolwork remotely. It is the ideal platform for teachers to send lessons directly from them. Google Classroom accounts. Students can easily receive lessons and work with shared content, including text, videos, images, and 3D models. Once

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i3SIXTY Digital Flipchart

## **Educational Technology for Remote Learning**

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assignments are complete, teachers can open the student's completed work in <u>i3LearnHub</u> and give feedback using Google Classroom.

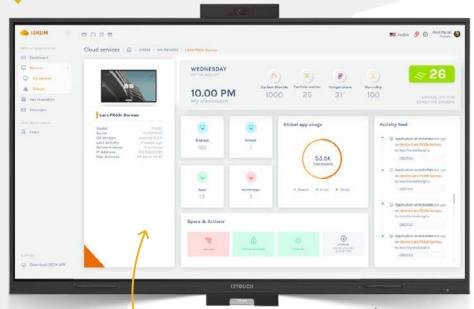
One of the best tools for creating a sense of "being in the room" to minimize distraction is interactive. whiteboard technology. For teachers, this tool acts like a traditional chalkboard or dry erase board, allowing annotations in real time. It also provides shareable visuals for students everywhere. The i3TOUCH E-Series Interactive Display is a smartboard that comes in three sizes and includes a browser and screen share function so that students can actively partake in lessons and presentations.

According to Psychology Today, our brain serves mainly as an image processor, as the primary function of our sensory cortex is to take in process what we take in visually. This means that learning through images is a key component of concept retention for most people. That is. why we stress the importance of up-to-date visual tech, available in devices like the i3SIXTY Digital

Flipchart. This interactive mobile whiteboard features 90° rotation capability, allowing for different presentation styles according to the programs being used. With screen sharing capability and precise imaging, teachers can write, draw, and annotate, and edit in real time, allowing them to facilitate lively conversations and Q&A sessions with students.



i3TOUCH Interactive Display



Includes a browser and screen share function so that students can actively partake in lessons and presentations.

With i3LearnHub software, students can easily receive lessons and work with shared content.

> Dot Soft Seating Rocking stool



### Engaging Extracurricular Environments



ith the future comes great possibility. Each school, teacher, student, and parent now has a greater awareness of what they need to succeed in learning. Whether it's more widespread internet access, readily available STEAM courses, or classroom environments that create discovery, society must now meet these students' needs to create a better tomorrow. STEAM refers to. a set of subjects that help prepare students for the jobs of today and tomorrow. It's an acronym for science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Helping students have accessto great STEAM classes is necessary for their success. According to Forbes, "Ten of the top 14 fastest- growing industries require some kind of STEM training." In schools around the world, STEAM classes create environments for creativity and strategic, collaborative problem.

problem. solving. Robotics classes, for example, allows students to come together.

and put mathematics, science, and engineering into practice.

Implementing STEAM lab, collaboratoriums, and arts spaces will help students discover their talents, finding a sense of self-esteem and enjoying coming to school. The arts help students discover their own talents and skills and serve as an outlet to process and express complex emotions. This will be extremely important following a year of change caused by the pandemic. For environments that foster creation and artmaking, the Compass collection stands out for making ideal STEAM spaces. With maker space tables and cabinets, students can access materials independently and delve deep into the creation process with wide durable surfaces for creating. Being a student in the digital age also means that you aren't confined to the mediums of the past for self-expression. Providing students

with other modes of visual creation like smart boards will help them



Cabinet + Handles



STEAM classes create.

environments for strategic problem solving and are great conductors of DEI.

## **Engaging Extracurricular Environments**

continued from p. 25.

brainstorm and think out loud, while connecting them to new ways of expression.

#### Compass for STEAM

Compass by V.i.P.S. is a comprehensive line of storage cabinets and maker space furniture designed to get the most out of your classroom space and your time with students. We brought our Hierarchy Mighty 8 design principles to full expression when creating Compass, with focus on adjustability, mobility, color, simplicity, visibility, engagement, comfort, and collaboration. The Compass line is as functional as it is versatile, balancing the need to have supplies and tools handy with ample workspaces designed for thought, play, and organization. Each piece was created with learners of all ages and rooms. of all sizes in mind. The result is a collection that facilitates hands-on learning and improved mobility for educators, leading to a dynamic and engaging classroom environment.

Whether it's the design of a maker space, transforming a lab, or renovating a computer room, adding Compass to educational spaces will give teachers and students more. freedom to explore. Optional add-ons include peg side panels, Ogee double-sided whiteboard tops, TV mounts, laminate or butcher block tabletops, wardrobe hooks, porcelain steel whiteboard backs, and more. Crafted with durable and easy-to-clean. steel, these cabinets will last years, simplifying daily activity for teachers while keeping students engaged.

Designed to accommodate sketching, experimenting, building, and other facets of the creative process, Compass Makerspace Tables make it easy to create an atmosphere where discovery can take place through hands-on learning. Tables come standard with durable and scratch-resistant laminate tops, or you can upgrade to butcher block tops that are made of solid maple hardwood, designed to withstand years of use in a variety of settings. Optional side panels and shelves

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## **Engaging Extracurricular Environments**

#### **STEAM programs:**

- Help engage children on the autism spectrum.
- Help students of color with science.
- Help engage female students with engineering.
- Help gifted and talented students self-regulate emotions.



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complete the tables, providing storage for learning tools. Side panels include peg holes to keep tools handy and organized, leaving a clear tabletop. for better use. The <a href="side panels">side panels</a> and laminate top edgeband colors comein all Hierarchy colors, allowing easy color-coding of zones or other spaces. These are just a few reasons that the

Compass Collection is superior to other versions of educational cabinets and workspaces. Supplies and tools become easy to access with plastic totes, shelves, and cubbies that conveniently hold everything you need to complete projects, lessons, and experiments. Laminate-surfaced tables provide easy cleanup after

projects and will accommodate

Makerspace Robotics Wall Kits . Any
learning environment becomes a
workroom with organizational tools
and shelving that make storage a snap.
Help your students discover a new
world in each classroom with the
Compass collection.





# For Health & Well-Being

Tt's important to note that COVID-19 is an airborne virus and extremely contagious. ESSER funds can go to improved air quality systems and infrastructure to help keep students and teachers safer. V.i.P.S. is proud to partner with i3-<u>Technologies</u>, offering integrative technical solutions that have helped keep workers and students connected. Their newest creation is an air quality monitor called. the i3CAIR. It's a comprehensive solution that allows the monitoring, alerting and reporting on indoor air quality, and fully integrates with any

Through ambient monitoring and data analytics, an air monitor such as i3CAIR can promote well-being, health, and safety in classrooms and work environments by accurately measuring four different parameters of optimal air quality, including: temperature, humidity, particulate matter and carbon dioxide. A blog post on i3-Technologies' page describes, in detail, the importance of these parameters.

<u>i3TOUCH</u> interactive display.

If your employees, teachers, students, or parents are concerned about the air quality of their school or workplace, now may be the time to consider an integrative and userfriendly air quality monitor like the i3CAIR.

Dr. Amy Rohsner, PT and Dr. Lisa Harris, OT (co-owners of Healthworks Ergonomics in Austin) spoke at V.i.P.S.'s Thrive Forward webinar about the importance of ergonomic furniture for posture and spinal support. Dr. Rohsner mentionedthat deep breathing helps to increase productivity and brain function, as well as reduce stress. Breathing spaces and meditation areas will help students combat stress by allowing them to take some time out and recenter themselves. Taking deep breaths triggers a parasympathetic nervous system response, which takes us from "fight or flight" mode. to "rest and digest" mode. For this reason, great air flow throughout each room is important, as is the opportunity to take to breathe deeply in the middle of a busy school day.



If you are concerned about the air quality in your spaces, consider an integrative and user-friendly air

