

**PURCHASING  
CLASSROOM  
FURNITURE IN THE  
CURRENT CLIMATE**

**TRENDS, CHALLENGES, AND  
HOT-BUTTON ITEMS**

Current School Furniture Trends

## **GOODBYE TRADITIONAL CLASSROOMS, HELLO FLEXIBILITY**

Long gone are the days of solitary rowed desks. This design was previously a staple in the North American classroom; a nearly iconic image that defined education. Uncontested for decades, this traditional classroom layout is now giving way to flexible, unconventional designs that emphasize student mobility.

When it comes to learning, no two students are alike. Each student has their own unique set of strengths that accompany their education journey. In today's teaching environment, the ideal classroom is reflective of this diversity.

In an effort to create dynamic, engaging environments, many schools have replaced their rowed desks with mobile, non-traditional workspaces.

**EACH STUDENT HAS THEIR OWN UNIQUE SET OF STRENGTHS THAT ACCOMPANY THEIR EDUCATION JOURNEY.**

The Modern Learning Environment



**Desks have given way to tables that can be moved or interlocked with one another to form group collaboration spaces. Libraries are also starting to make changes, replacing clunky bookshelves with mobile book stations.**

Understanding that all students learn differently, some schools now present each student with a variety of seating options, allowing them to choose between an interlocking student table, low cushions, or bean bag chair. Each student can select the individualized station that aligns best with their learning style, while educators can change things up on the fly.

Current School Furniture Trends

## DESIGNING CLASSROOMS TO REFLECT DIVERSITY

Whether entering kindergarten or completing high school, each student has unique learning capabilities and needs.

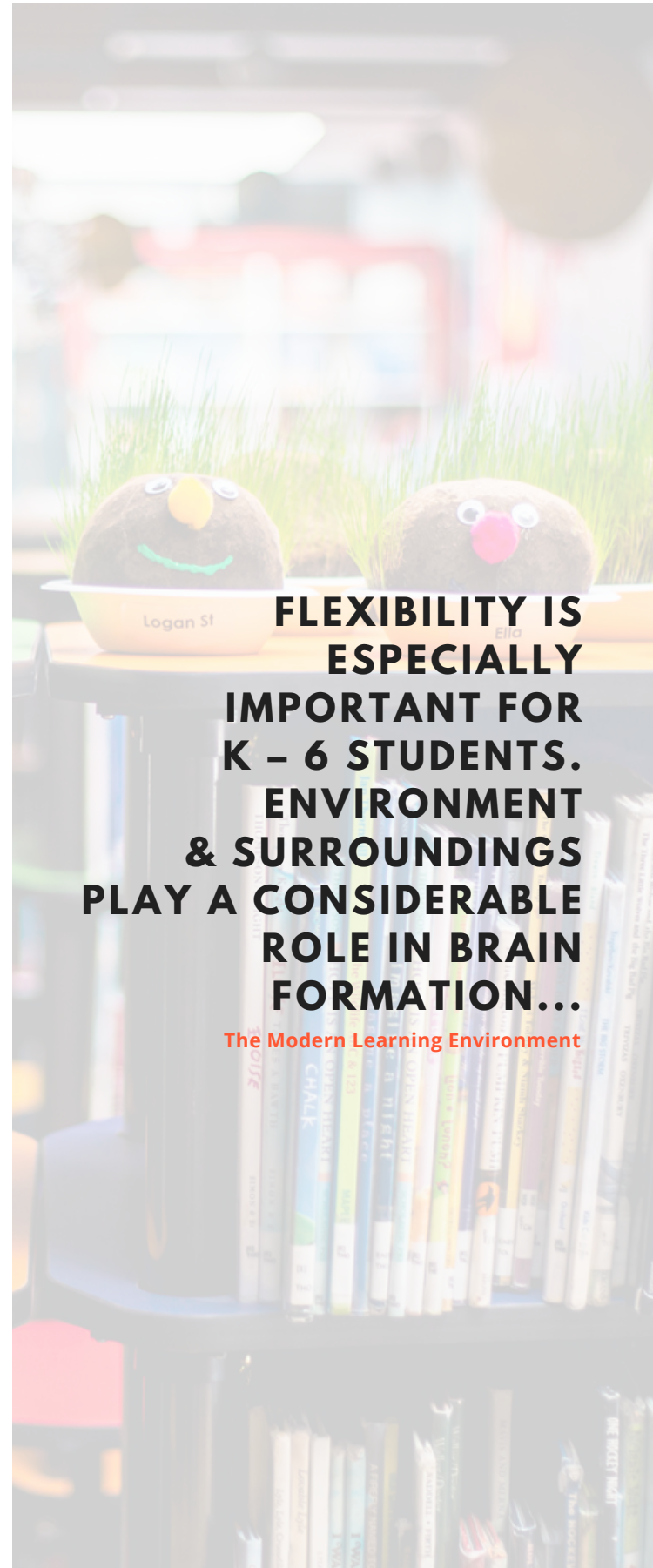
Statistics Canada reports that “3.2% of Canadian children have a learning disability...the equivalent of one child in every school bus full of children.”

**The contemporary classroom has transformed into a vibrant, active space that reflects this student diversity and accommodates all learning styles.**

Studies have conclusively proven that “the knowledge construction is not the same for all students. The experience in the classroom offers evidence that...students interact in a different way with the information that is presented to them, representing different learning styles.”

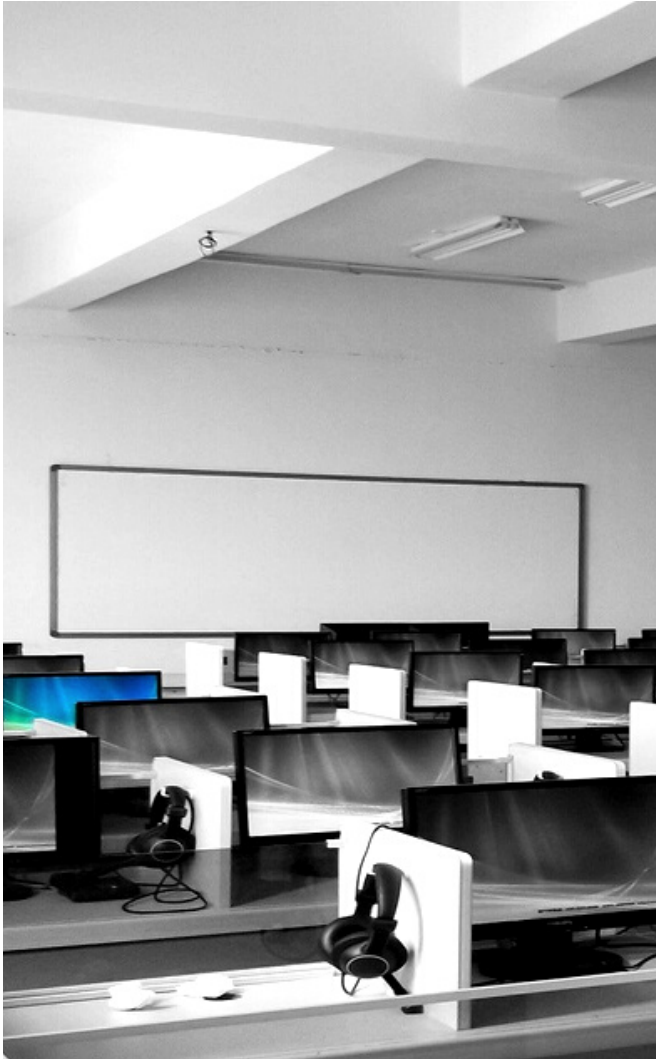
This flexibility is especially important for K – 6 students. Our environment and surroundings play a considerable role in brain formation, and innovative and pliable classrooms help foster growth. As kids enter school, the “the number diagnosed with a learning disability grows by nearly 25%.”

Reports cite that “these transition years are a key time” during which schools need to be assessing children and “accommodating those with a learning disability so they can reach their full potential.”



**FLEXIBILITY IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR K – 6 STUDENTS. ENVIRONMENT & SURROUNDINGS PLAY A CONSIDERABLE ROLE IN BRAIN FORMATION...**

**The Modern Learning Environment**



Current School Furniture Trends

## **TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM**

Classroom furniture is beginning to merge technology and design, with many companies creating engaging pieces that help students learn.

Educational research teams have determined that “there are a number of excellent examples of combining new pedagogical [teaching] approaches with technological infrastructure that improve student motivation and enhance the learning process.”

**Innovative products continue to be brought to the market to create collaborative and fun learning environments.**

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Current School Furniture Trends

## **STUDENT HEALTH IS KEY**

There is an increased importance on mental and physical health as society continues to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. To create a healthy physical environment, surfaces should be easily disinfected, school seating should be ergonomic, well-designed, and mobile.

Health difficulties continue to be an offshoot of a sedentary lifestyle, and being seated for 8 hours a day has been proven to harm the body.

**Furniture used in school settings should contribute to a flexible, mobile environment.**

Challenges to Implementing Ideal School Design

## BUDGETING

Across Canada, public school boards continue to operate on limited budgets.

These budget constraints are widely considered the largest roadblock to an ideal learning environment.

While certain school boards manage budgets at the district level, others allow each school to independently manage their yearly budget, giving them the purchasing power to allocate funds as needed.

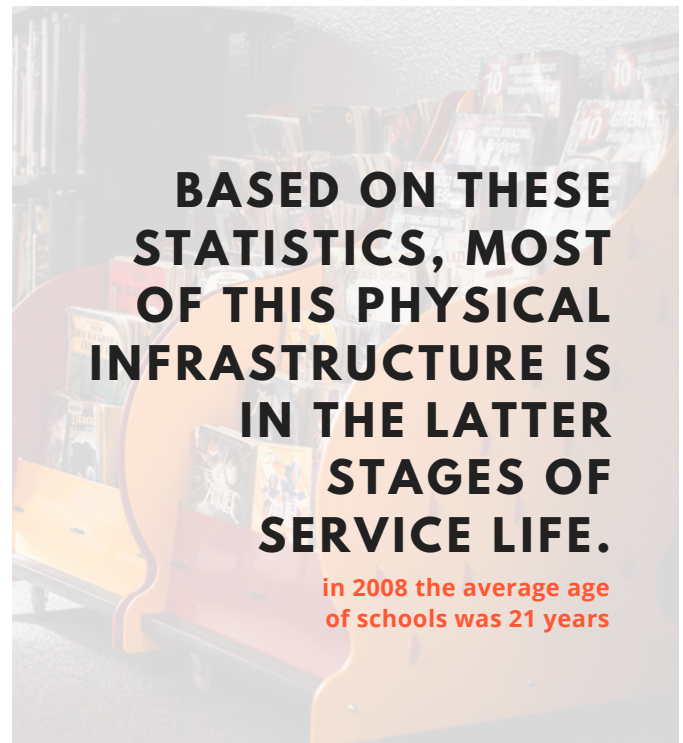
**Regardless of methodology, budgets need to be utilized wisely by investing in durable furniture that will withstand continued daily use.**

## AGING FACILITIES & REDUCED FACULTY

Many of the public schools across Canada are rapidly aging, requiring regular structural repairs and technological upgrades.

On average, the “service life of education buildings is estimated at about 40 years,” and in 2008, “the average age of elementary and secondary schools in Canada stood at 21.0 years.” Based on these statistics, most of this physical infrastructure is in the latter stages of service life.

In addition, there are very few new schools in development restricting students to these older facilities.



To make matters more challenging, many provinces are employing fewer teachers and support staff than in years prior.

According to budget documents, “Alberta schools will have 860 fewer teachers and about 1,400 fewer support workers employed in 2022 than three years earlier.”

**Classrooms will be larger than in previous years, and teachers will require functional, optimal environments to maintain the current education standard established in previous years.**

Exploring Canadian Made vs  
Overseas Furniture Supplier

## OVERVIEW

**Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, purchasing school furniture from overseas suppliers was commonplace for many school districts, however, this trend has changed, with many schools now choosing to purchase locally.**

There are a number of factors that led to this change.



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## SHIPPING & LOGISTICS CHALLENGES

The shipping delays and logistical challenges that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic are key drivers behind the reversal of this trend.

In 2020, many Chinese suppliers struggled to continue producing and transporting goods at pre-pandemic rates, resulting in extensive delivery delays and soaring rates. Furniture suppliers are often six months to a year behind schedule.

While Canadian suppliers often have a higher cost associated with their goods, the current wait for goods to arrive is much shorter than the anticipated delivery time for goods arriving from overseas. This is pushing many schools to explore local options.



Exploring Canadian Made vs  
Overseas Furniture Supplier

## **CUSTOMER SERVICE & COMMUNICATION STREAMS**

Many teachers cite a lack of communication as a key challenge when purchasing from overseas suppliers.

Often an e-mail portal is the only method of communication, and reliability tends to differ from company to company.

In contrast, Canadian suppliers tend to have call numbers and responses are timely, and most local companies have a warehouse or showroom where potential purchasers can view furniture prior to purchasing.

## **ETHICAL & SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES**

Company transparency has become an increasingly important factor in purchasing goods in recent years.

**Consumers want to know that they are purchasing from ethically responsible companies with sustainable business practices.**

Often, these factors can be difficult to determine when working with companies located overseas.

Each of these current market conditions have resulted in an uptake in the purchase of Canadian goods and services, shifting the trend away from purchasing internationally.



**CURRENT MARKET  
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CANADIAN GOODS  
AND SERVICES**

**Made In Canada**



Moen Furnishings

## ABOUT US

Based in Edmonton, Alberta, Moen Furnishings is a family-operated company that has been providing furniture for Canadian classrooms since 1983.

Passionate about education, Moen believes in creating flexible, durable and mobile furniture for students ranging from pre-kindergarten to graduation age.

Moen believes in creating school furniture that merges functionality and style to align with current classroom trends.

**Every Moen product is designed around fluid education environments and can be easily moved to help teachers create flexible, vibrant classrooms.**

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Moen Furnishings

## QUALITY GUARANTEE

Moens ethical products are sourced from Canadian distributors and manufacturers who produce high-quality furniture built to stand up to the wear and tear of everyday use.

While we design our furniture to last, we also understand that the unforeseeable can happen, which is why we offer a 10-year warranty on all Moen products.

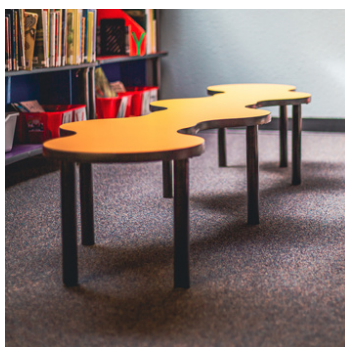




## OUR PRODUCTS

### Tables & Desks

Built for modular, functional classrooms, Moen tables come in various shapes and sizes. They can be organized for groups or used for moments of independent learning.



### Benches

Moen's signature squiggle-shaped benches are ideal for group discussions. They even fit in small spaces. They're both fun and functional!



### Bookcases

Our bookcases earned us quite a reputation because of their wheels. They inspire creativity, hold twice as many books as the traditional bookshelf and of course, easy to move around.



**BROWSE OUR ENTIRE LINE OF PRODUCTS**

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## CONTACT DETAILS

We offer over 500+ different finishes on our furniture and have a custom design team to help with your unique challenges. Start a conversation with Moen Furnishings to make your learning space brighter.

### Phone

780-469-9770

### Email

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