ASSOCIATION FOR
LEARNING
ENVIRONMENTS
CHICAGO
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BRIAN REGAN
APRIL 7

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Speakers List

- Dr. Tony J. Poole – Assistant Superintendent of Special Populations, CHERRY CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT
- Jessica Blanford, AIA – Principal / Director of PK-12 Education, MOA ARCHITECTURE
- Kasia Bulkowski, AIA – Associate Principal, MOA ARCHITECTURE

Course / Learning Objectives

- Understand the broad challenges in the mental health support structure for children and adolescents in the United States.
- Leverage stakeholder engagement on mental health issues and illnesses.
- Discover strategies for planning and designing learning environments for students in mental health crises, including how to “de-institutionalize” spaces and thoughtfully integrate ligature resistant fixtures and finishes.
- Gain a new facility type to advocate for with school district clients nationwide.

Why are we here today?

A problem:
Less than half of U.S. adults and children with mental health conditions are receiving the treatment they need.

A question:
What can a school district do to address this?

How can a school district help?

ONE:

Defining the problem

TWO:

Developing the program

THREE:

Design Considerations

Cherry Creek School District

4th largest district in Colorado

70 schools

55,000 students

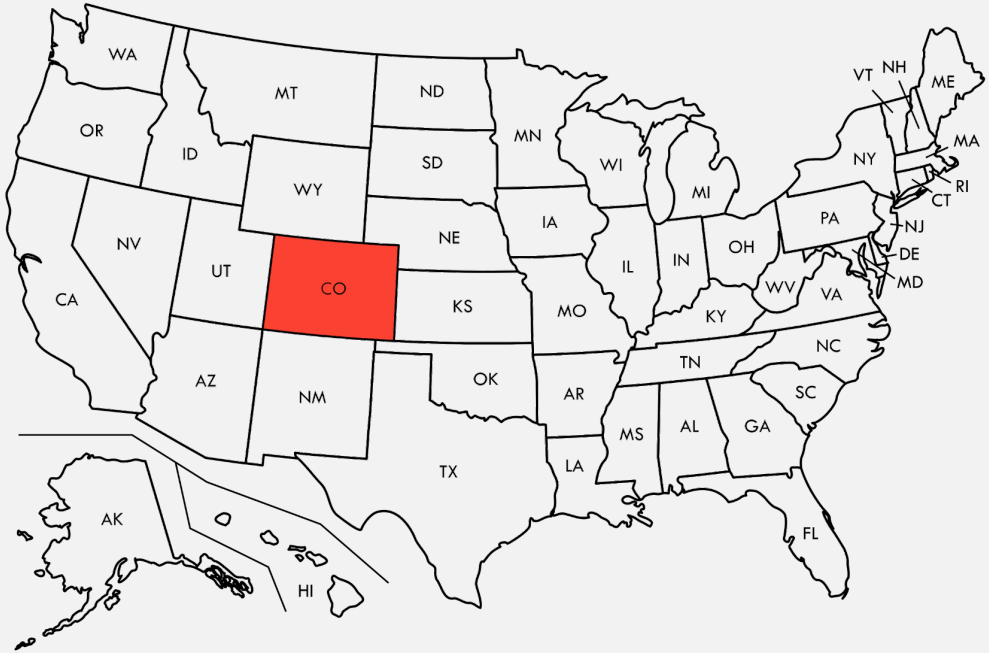
The Big Picture:

In 2018-2019, the CDC reported that among adolescents aged 12-17:

18.8% seriously considered attempting suicide.

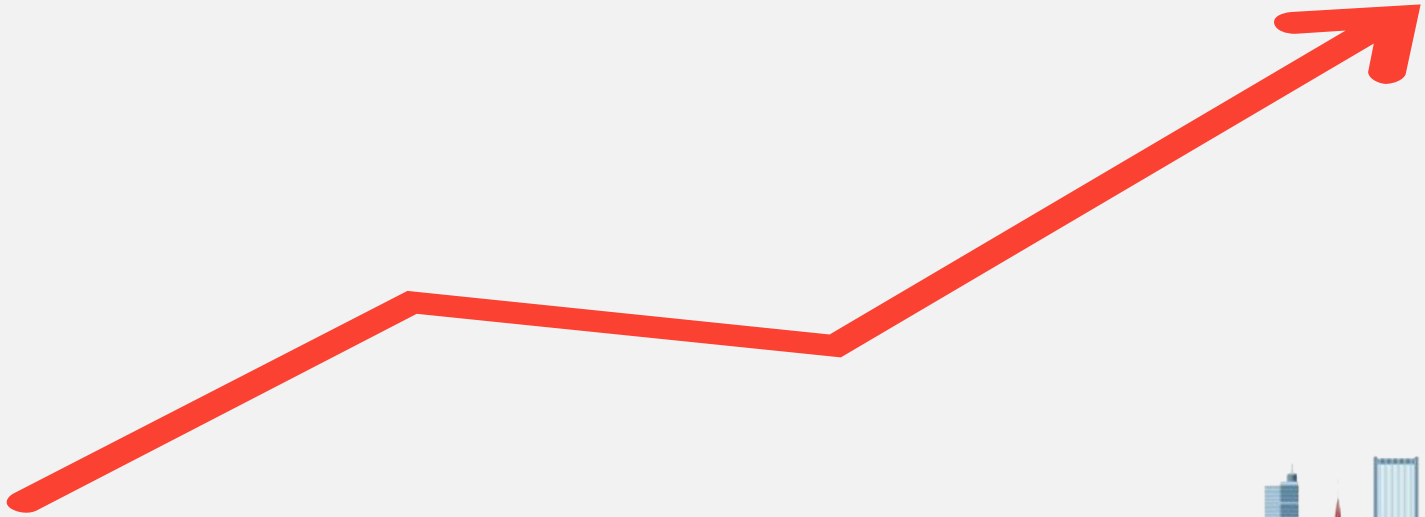
8.9% attempted suicide.

How is our state doing?



Colorado ranked **42nd** in the nation in mental healthcare for kids

Suicide Risk Assessments at CCSD



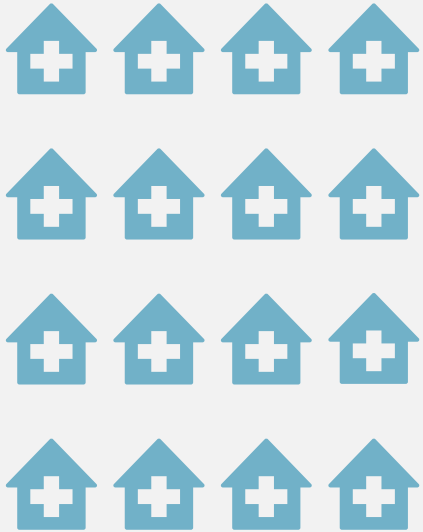
In any given year…

We place 50-100 students in day treatment facilities…

at a cost of $1.25 to 3 million

10 years ago… The State of Colorado had 77 placement options.

10 years ago… **Today…**

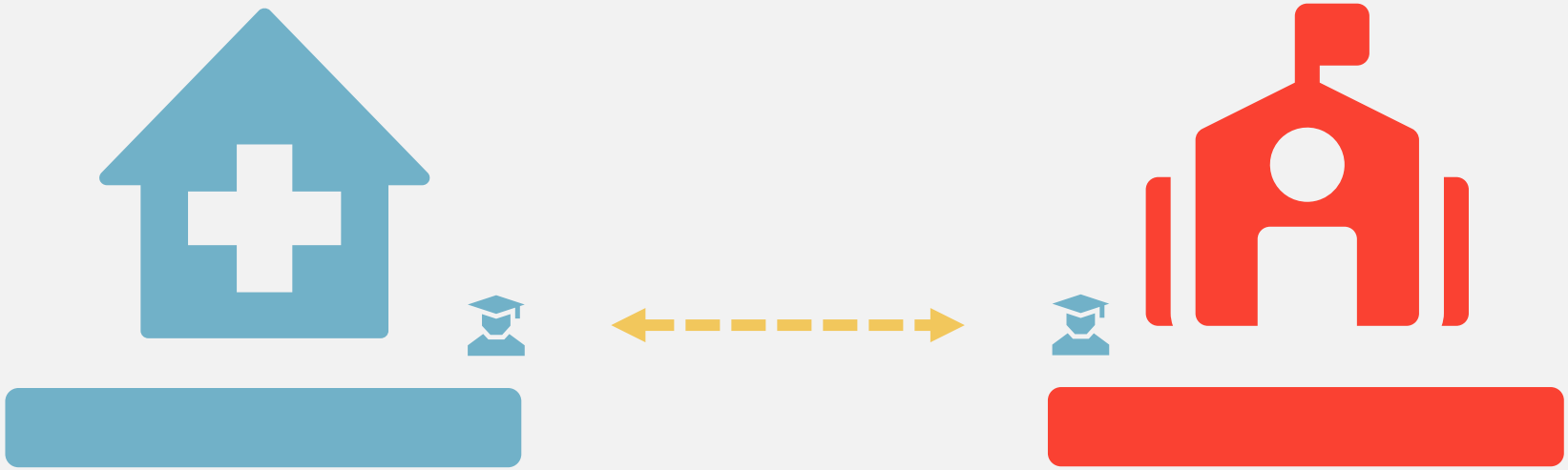


The State of Colorado has 16 placement options.

At any given point...

CCSD has an active waiting list of **5-15 students in crisis**.

The Gap



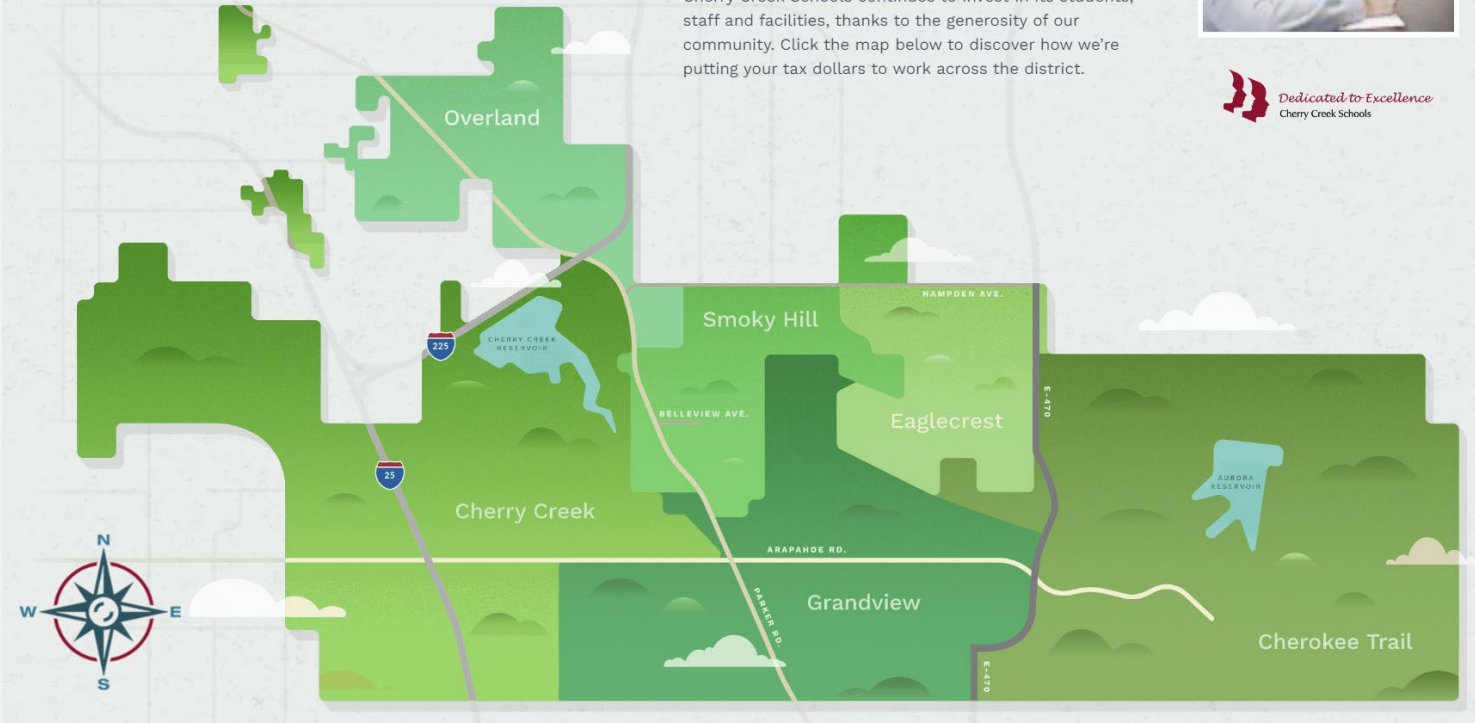
“If you want day treatment spots, maybe you should build your own.”

Cherry Creek School District

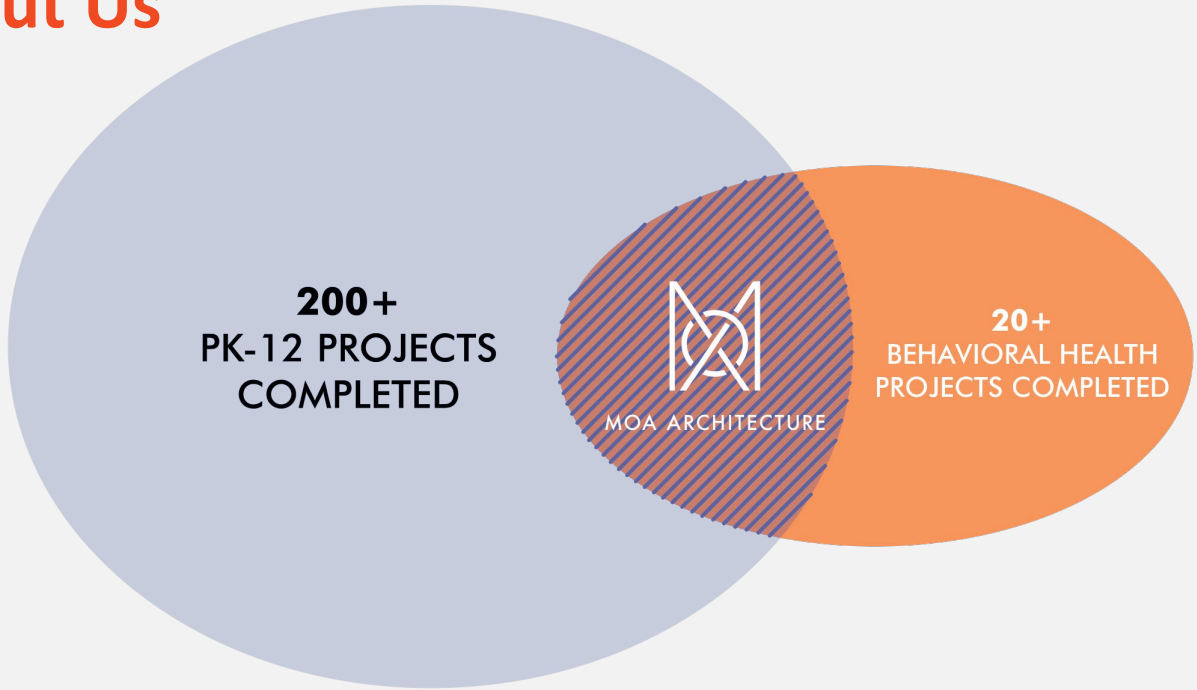
Mapping Our Future

Cherry Creek Schools continues to invest in its students, staff and facilities, thanks to the generosity of our community. Click the map below to discover how we're putting your tax dollars to work across the district.

Dedicated to Excellence
Cherry Creek Schools



A Little About Us



PK-12 Learning Environments

PK-12 Learning Environments

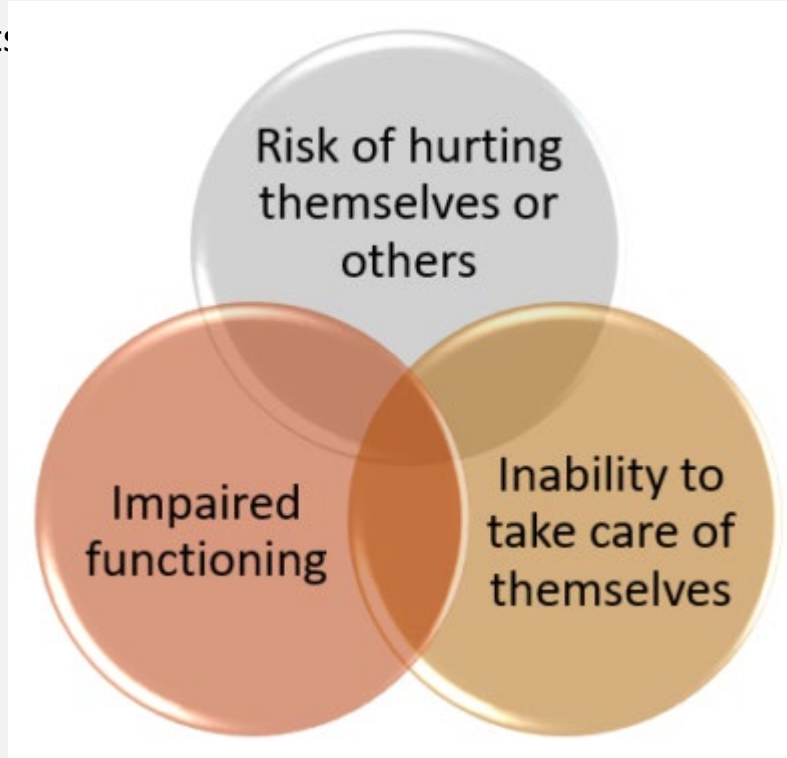
Programmatic areas typically found in Middle and High Schools:

Classrooms
Cafeteria
Gymnasium
Nurse's Office
Art Room
Music Room
Library
Lockers

Computer Room
Auditorium
Principal's Office
Commons Area
Outdoor Play
Media Center
Staff Breakroom
Science Lab

What is an acute mental health crisis?

- How does it manifest itself in adolescents
  - Externalizer
  - Internalizer



What is a day treatment center?

“Partial hospitalization program for patients with mental, emotional, and/or addictive disorders who do not require 24/7 inpatient care.”

What is a day treatment center?

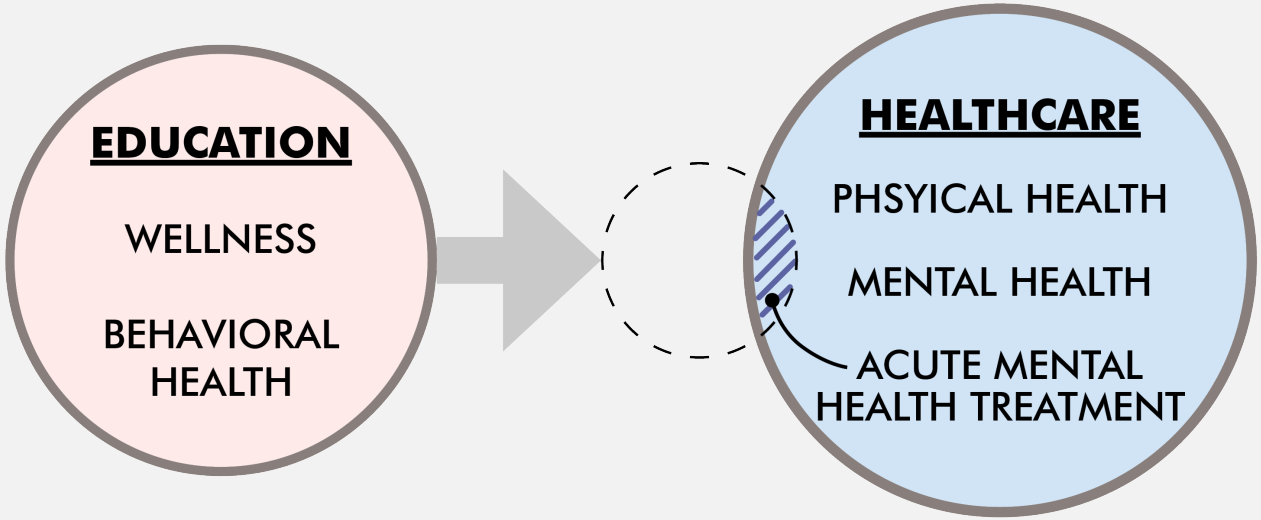
Day Treatment Environments?

Programmatic areas typically found in Day Treatment Center:

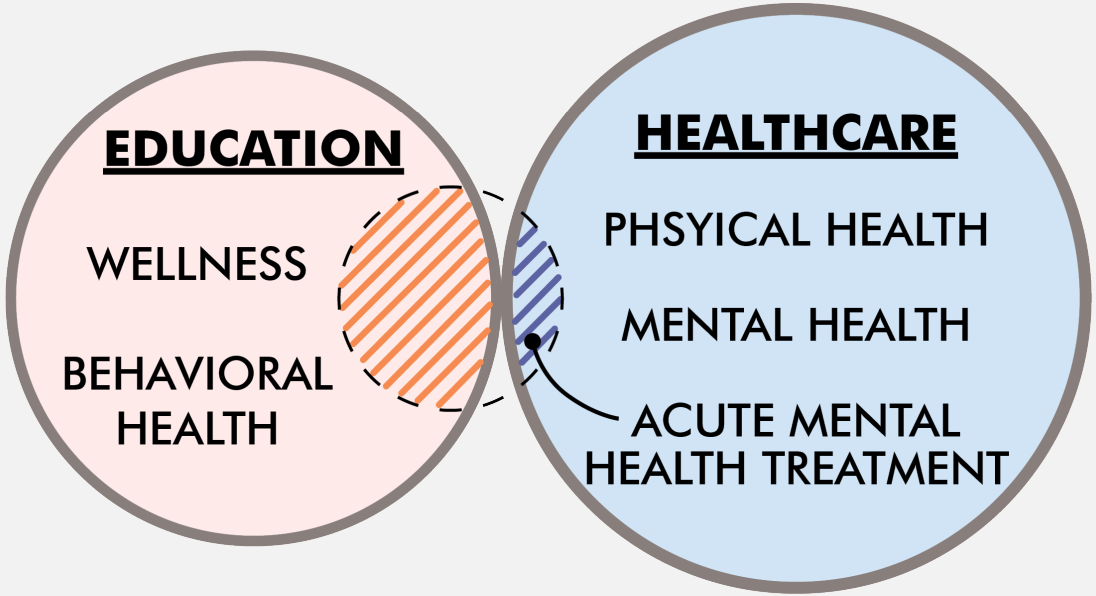
Exam Room
Consultation Room
Group Room
Observation Room
Seclusion Room
Quiet Room
Soiled Holding

Activity/Multipurpose Room
Nurse Station
Medication Safety Zone
Nourishment Area
Patient Toilet Rooms
Clean Storage
Staff Lounge & Toilet Room

The Gap


EDUCATION
WELLNESS
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
HEALTHCARE
PHSYICAL HEALTH
MENTAL HEALTH
ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

The Gap


EDUCATION
WELLNESS
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
HEALTHCARE
PHSYICAL HEALTH
MENTAL HEALTH
ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

What is this facility?

- This facility bridges the gap between an intensive in-patient treatment center and a typical school.
- What needs to happen in this building – what is the purpose of each space
- Therapy that meets you where you are

Program Vernacular

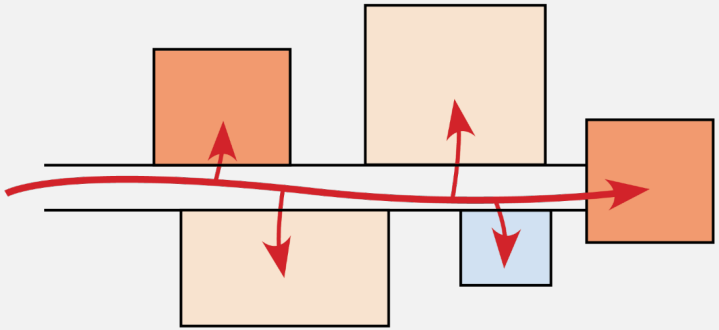
Programmatic areas typically found in Traverse Academy:

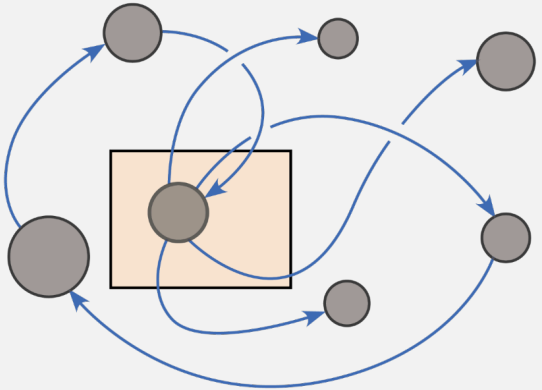
Reception	⟹	Café	⟸	Check-In Desk
Principals Office	⟹	Focus Room	⟸	Seclusion Room
Counselors Office	⟹	Group Therapy	⟸	Group Room
Classrooms	⟹	Homebase	⟸	Activity/Day Room
Teacher’s Lounge	⟹	Workroom	⟸	Nurse Station

Design Approach

Mapping Student's Experience

- Linear vs. spaghetti flow diagram





“day in the life”

Designed to appear comfortable, attractive, relaxing and as residential in character as possible

TRAVERSE
Academy

EXIT

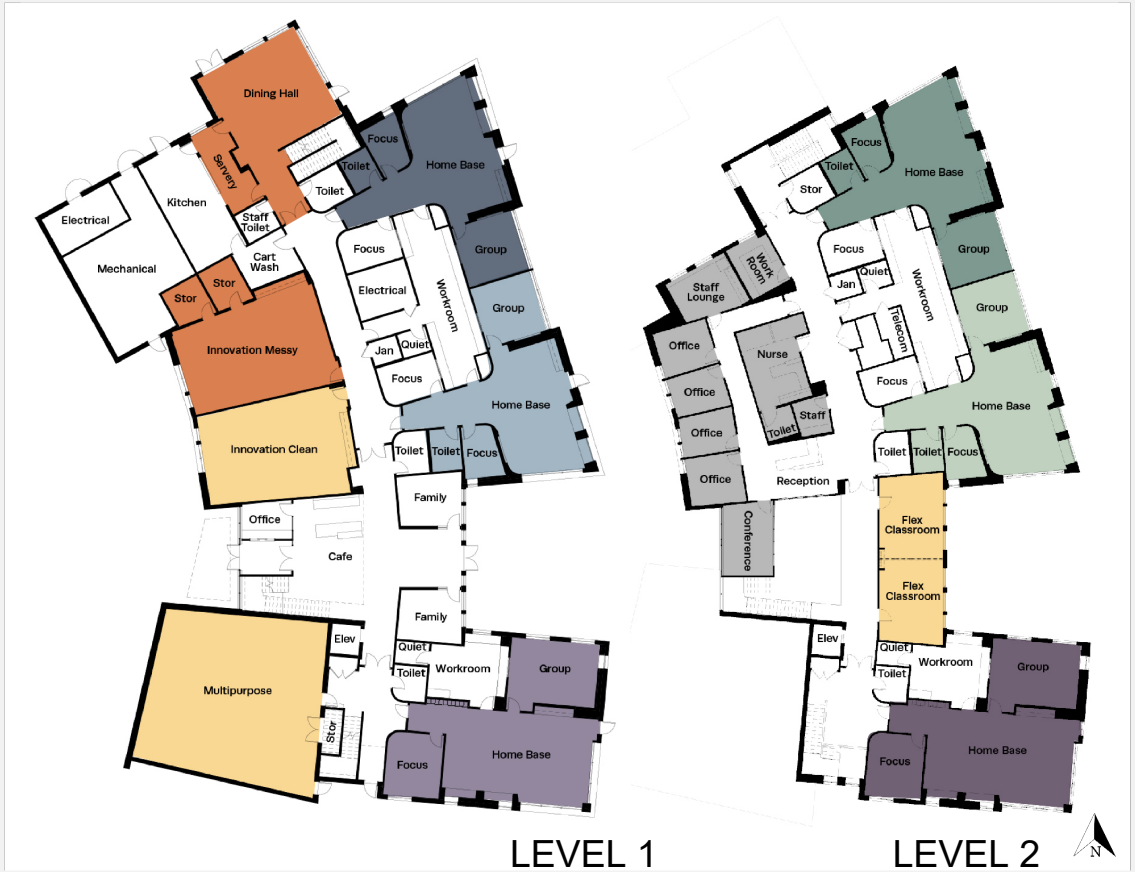
ORIGAMI
STORAGE

Placemaking: Inspiration

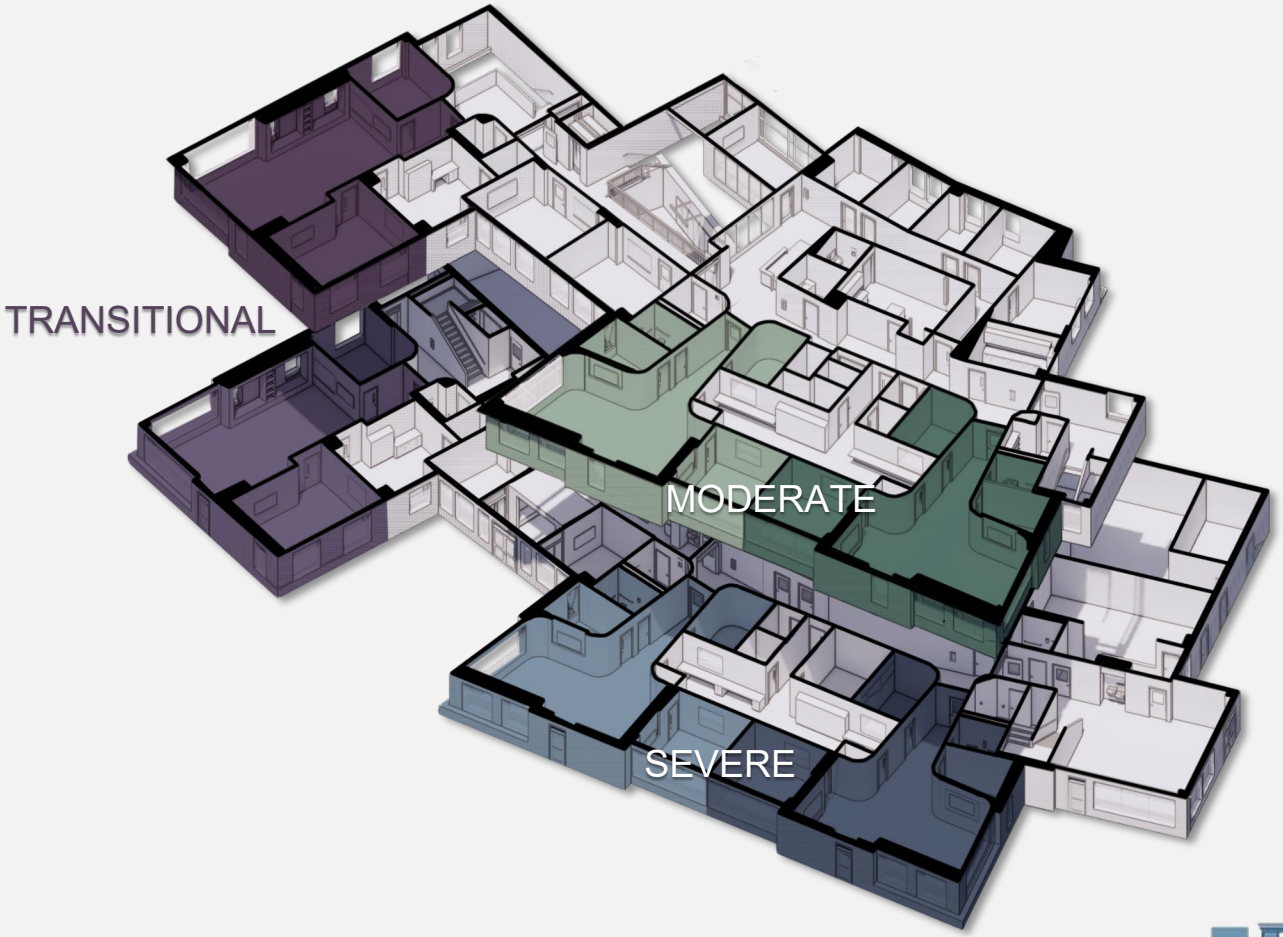
Color Study: Wayfinding

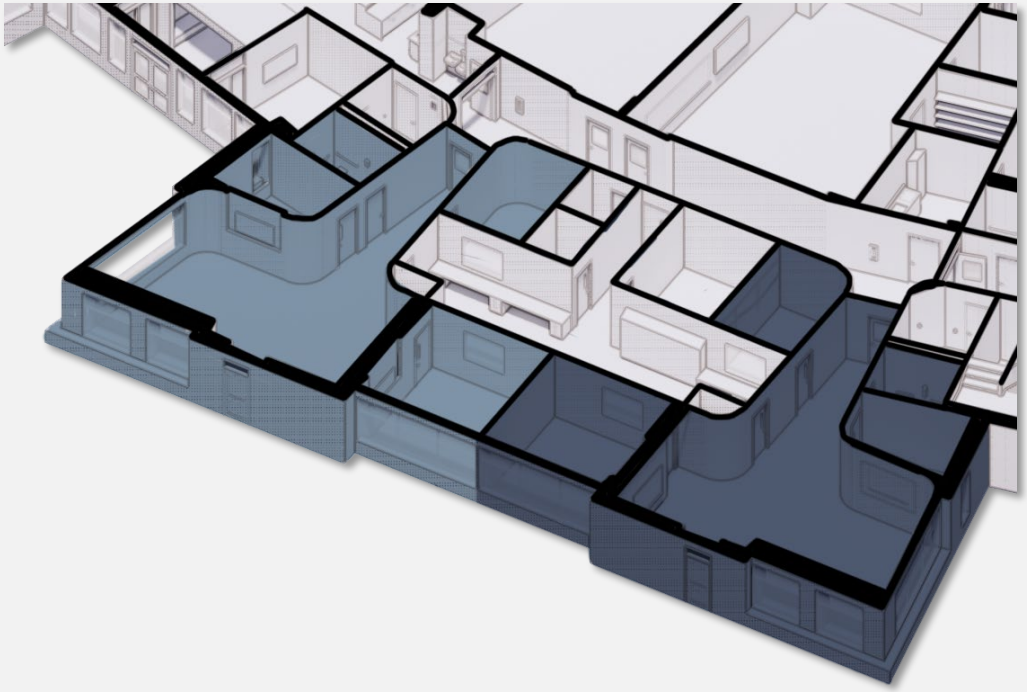
Level Two	TRANSITIONAL 8-12	MODERATE 4-8	MODERATE 8-12	GATHERING
Level One	TRANSITIONAL 4-8	SEVERE 4-8	SEVERE 8-12	GATHERING

Floor Plan Overview



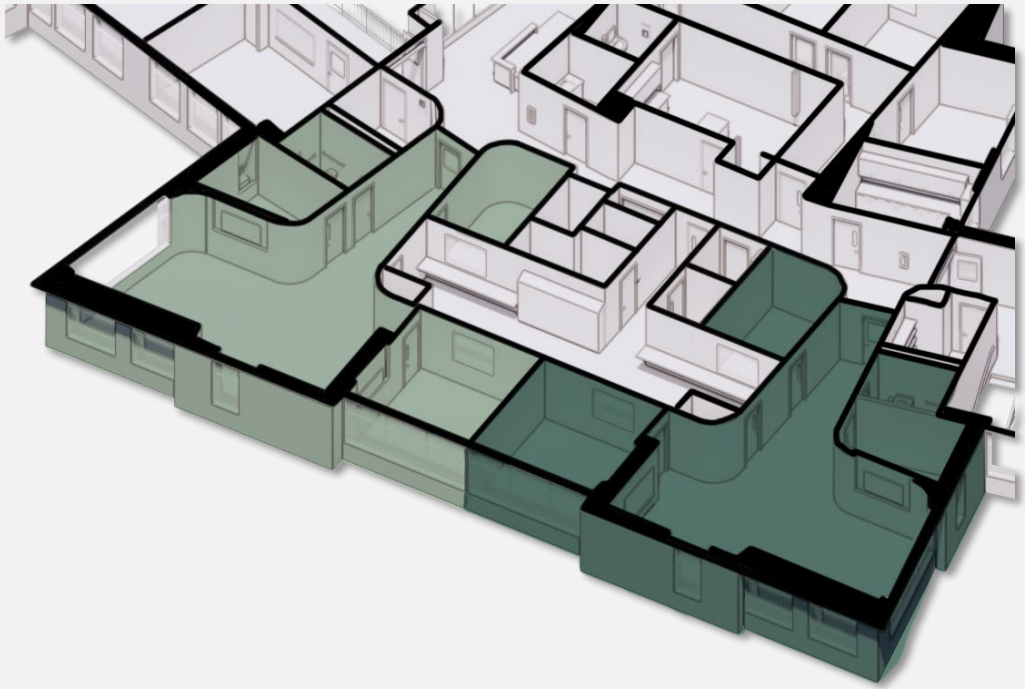
Care Models





Severe

- Transitioning from an in-patient facility
- 1:4 student/staff ratio
- Intensive Outpatient Program
- Meals in classroom
- Counseling at 6-8 hours



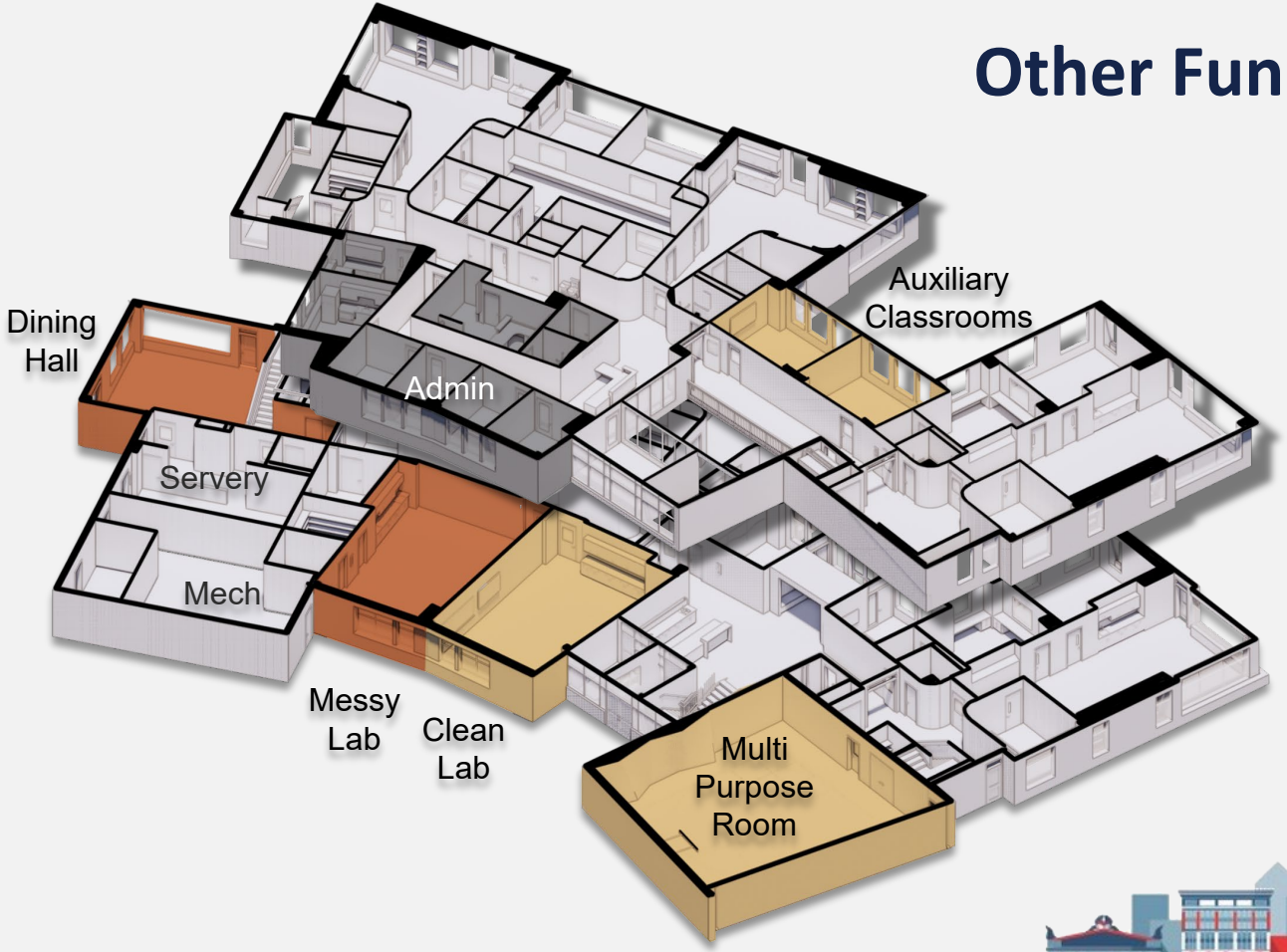
Moderate

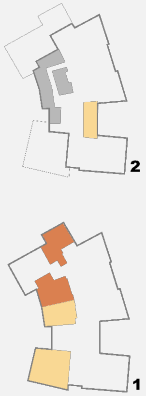
- 1:7 student/staff ratio
- Counseling at 4-5 hours
- Meals likely in classroom
- Return to some core instruction within the pod

Transitional

- 1:10 student/staff ratio
- Blends into a standard classroom environment
- Counseling at 2-3 hours
- Return to core instruction throughout facility
- Lunch at dining hall

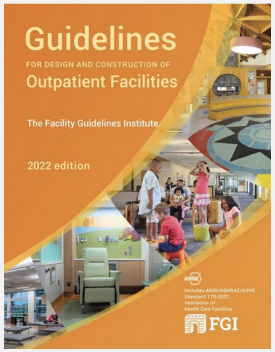
Other Functions

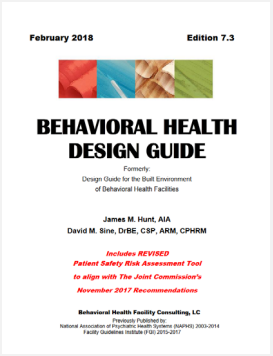




Ligature/Tamper-resistant design resources

- Behavioral Health Design Guide
- NY State Office of Mental Health Guidelines
- FGI Guidelines for Outpatient Facilities





There is no such thing as Anti-Ligature

Determining Risk Category Levels

STAFF WORK AREAS, BUILDING SUPPORT SPACES	HOMEBASE & CLASSROOM AREAS, HALLWAYS	FOCUS ROOMS, GROUP THERAPY ROOMS	RESTROOMS
NO STUDENT ACCESS	LEVEL I	LEVEL II	LEVEL III
STAFF ONLY	MODERATELY - HIGHLY SUPERVISED	MINIMAL SUPERVISION	FULL PRIVACY

Level 1

Level 2

Level III

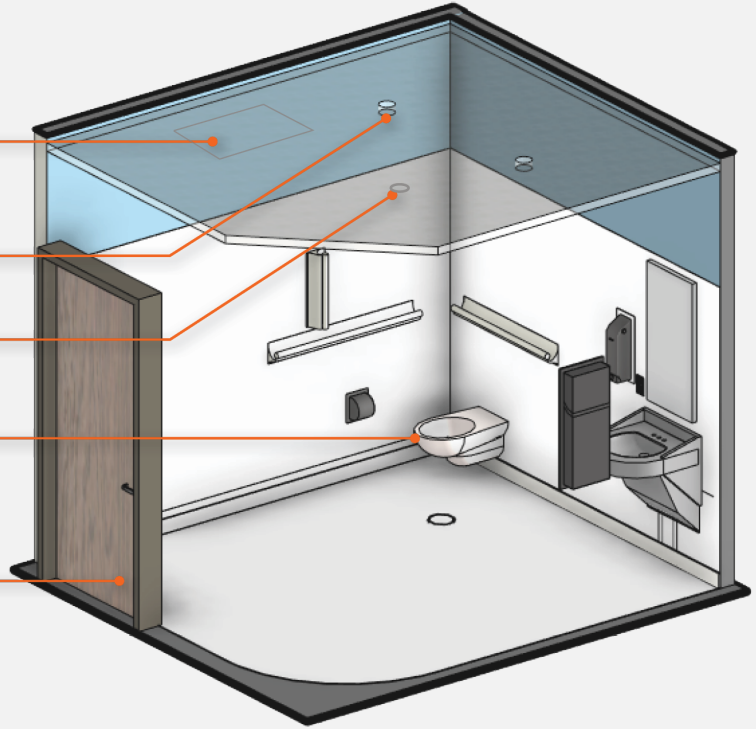
LIGATURE RESISTANT GRILLES WITH TAMPER RESISTANT FASTENERS

RECESSED LIGHTING

LIGATURE RESISTANT FIRE SPRINKLER HEADS

LIGATURE RESISTANT PLUMBING FIXTURES AND TOILET ACCESSORIES

CONTINUOUS HINGE WITH RESCUE HARDWARE



Level II

LIGATURE RESISTANT GRILLES WITH TAMPER RESISTANT FASTENERS

LIGATURE RESISTANT FIRE SPRINKLER HEADS

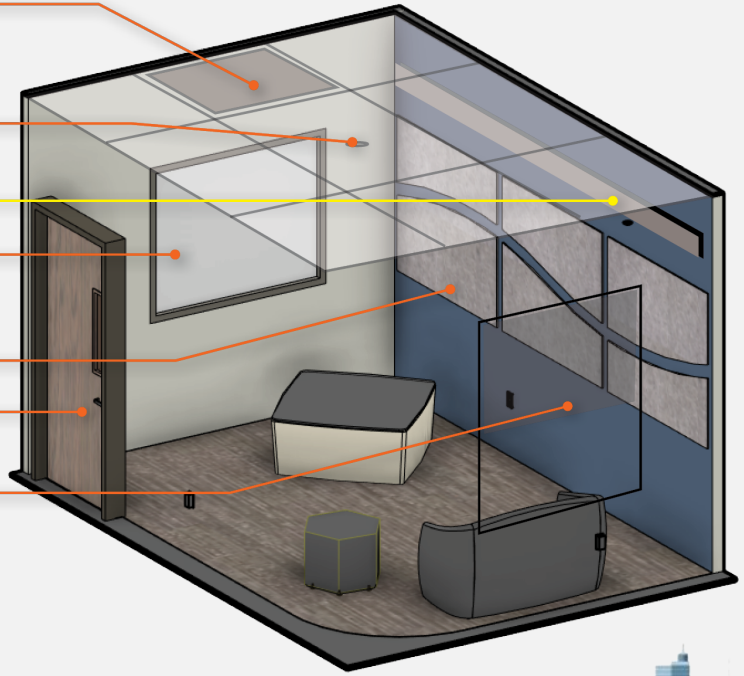
RGBW TUNABLE LIGHTING

ONE WAY OBSERVATION WINDOW WITH PICK RESISTANT CAULK

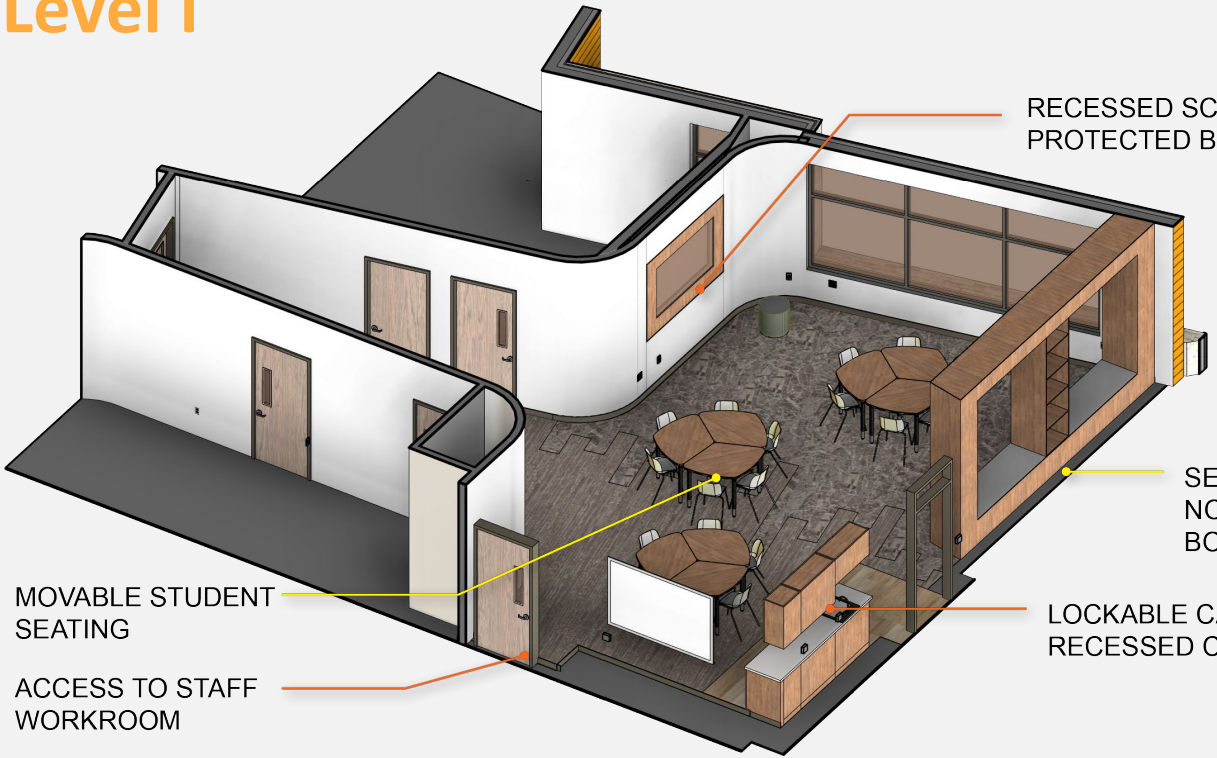
ACOUSTICAL PANELS

CONTINUOUS HINGE WITH RESCUE HARDWARE AND A VISION PANEL

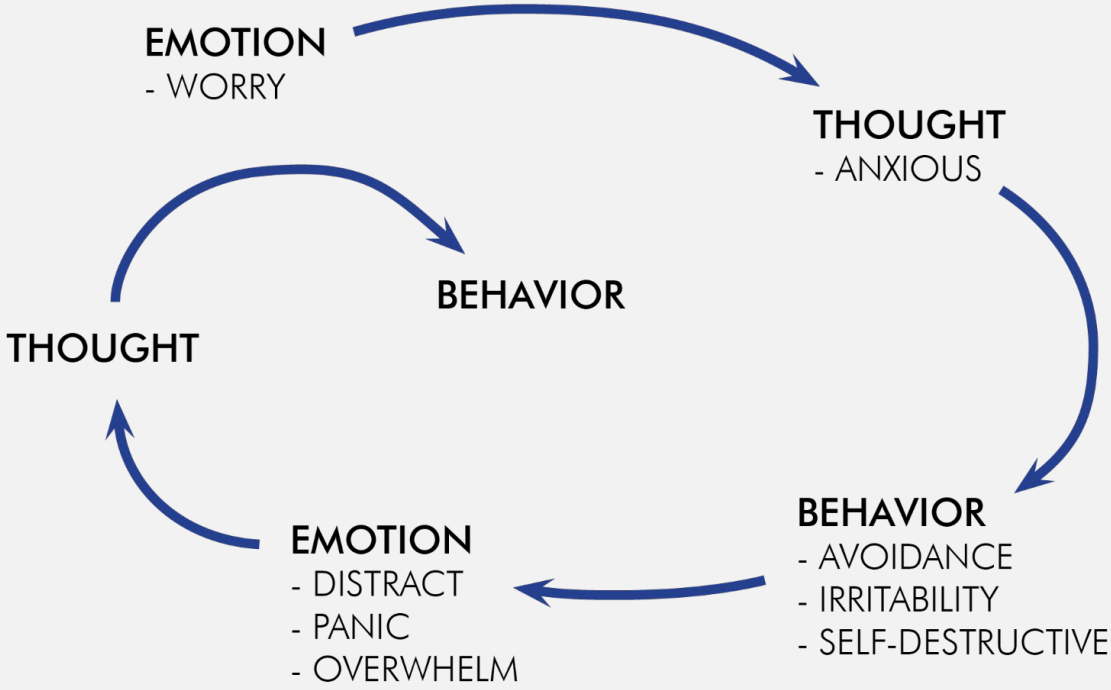
MOTORIZED CORDLESS SHADES AT EXTERIOR WINDOWS



Level I

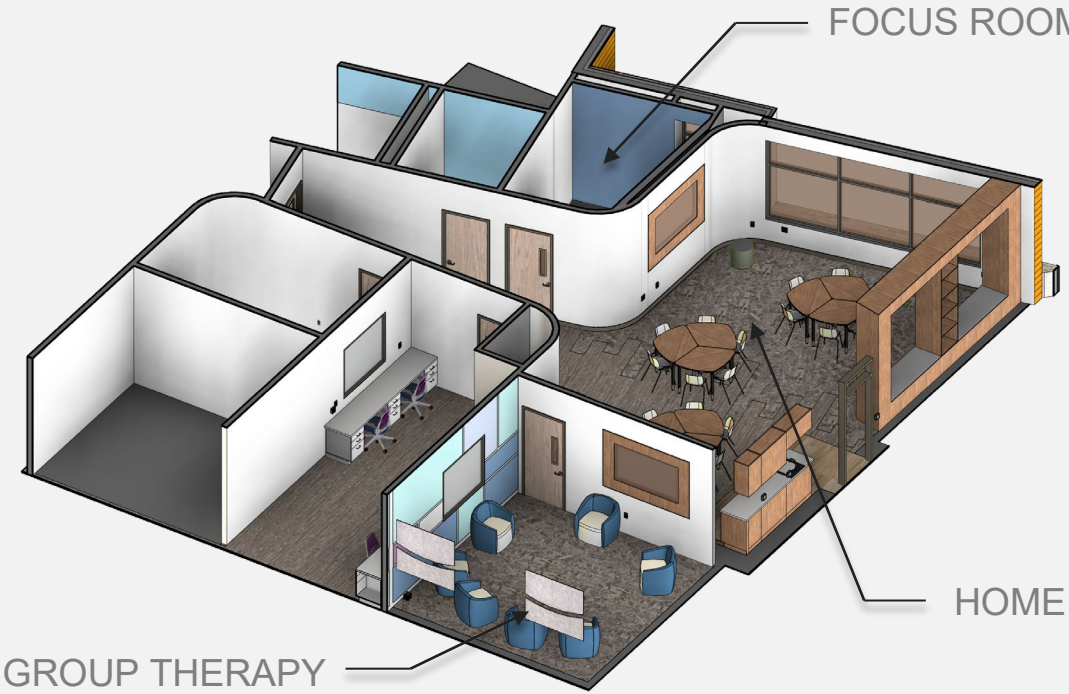

RECESSED SCREEN ENCLOSURE
PROTECTED BY CLEAR ACRYLIC
SEATING
NOOK WITH
BOOKSHELVES
LOCKABLE CABINETS WITH
RECESSED CABINET PULLS
MOVABLE STUDENT
SEATING
ACCESS TO STAFF
WORKROOM

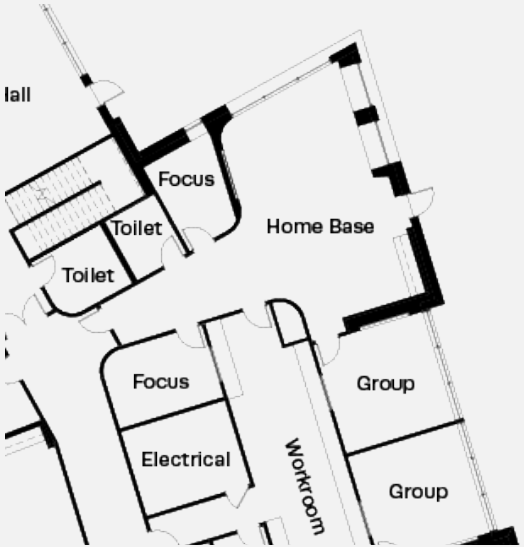
Breaking Negative Thought Spiral



Designing for Autonomy

- A sense of control, ability to choose your surroundings



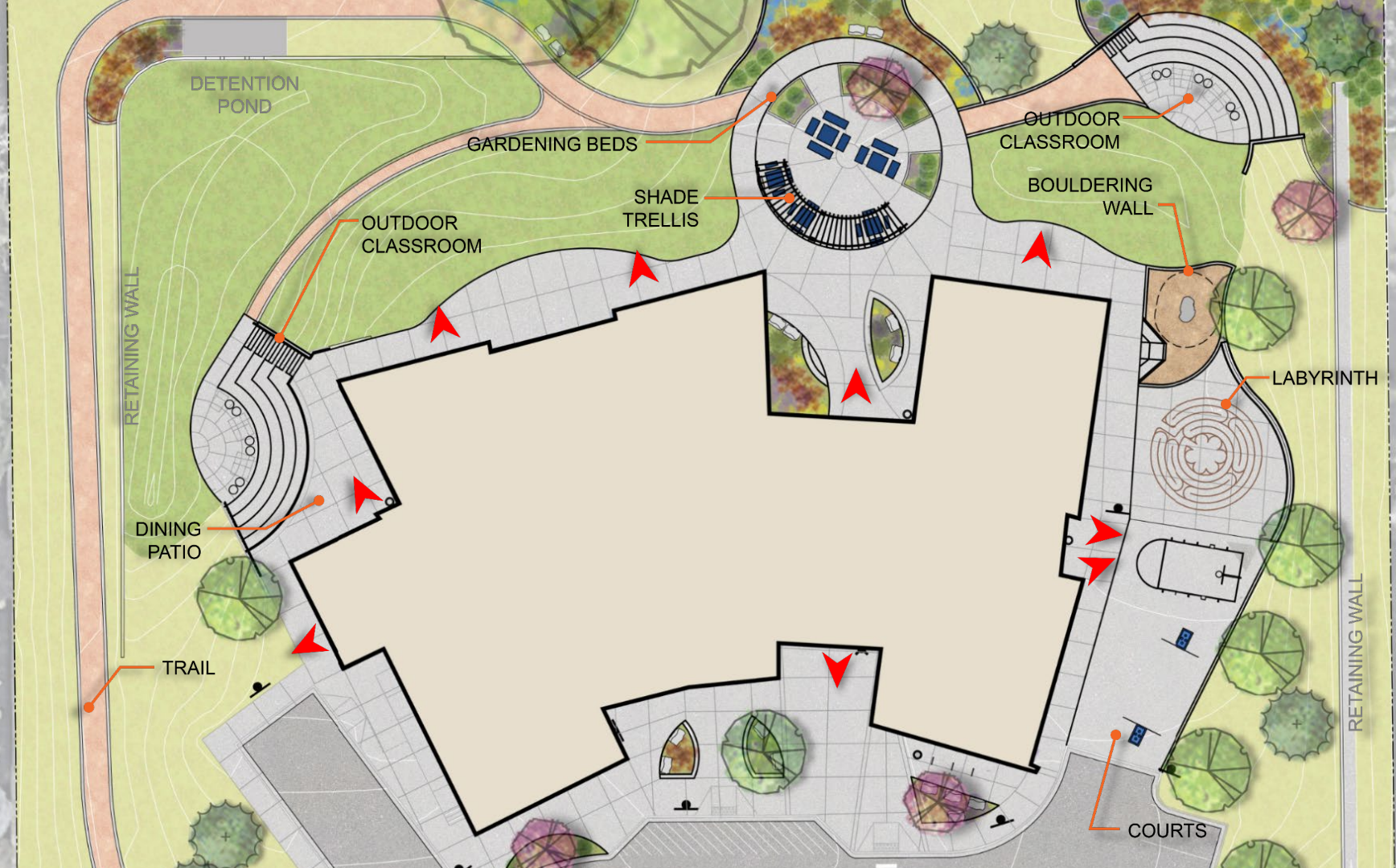


Scale and surroundings

- Opportunities for alone time outside of pods
- Counseling in non-clinical settings

Access to the outside

- Each pod has direct access
- Additional points throughout the building


DETENTION POND
GARDENING BEDS
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
SHADE TRELLIS
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
BOULDERING WALL
RETAINING WALL
LABYRINTH
DINING PATIO
TRAIL
RETAINING WALL
COURTS

Evidence Based Design

Anxiety reducing elements

Materials: A Sense of Belonging

A sense of welcome

What we hope you got out of this

- There ARE creative solutions to this problem!
- There is no template out there.
- Any space can help break a negative thought pattern.

Contact Information

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