



School Desks Buying Guide



To help ensure the right school desk is selected for any classroom or learning space, it is important to have a clear set of expectations. These expectations should be based on the physical room elements, style of teaching, subject matter and grade level. Equipped with your spacing needs, our School Desk Buying Guide is designed to help educators discover all options available with notable features, plus sizing recommendations to provide the best desk fit.

Desktop & Tabletop Surfaces

	Material	Use	Placement	Wear
Melamine	A single layer of hard resin laminate that coats the core material	Intended for low-impact, low-wear furnishings like shelving, folding tables & office furniture	A popular choice for science fairs, assembly areas and administrative offices	Resistant to cracks and scratches
High-Pressure Laminate (HPL)	Many protective layers fuse to the core material under high temperature and pressure	Intended for furnishings in high traffic, high-use areas	Most commonly used in classrooms, media centers and cafeterias	High level of impact and scratch resistance
Hard Plastic	A composite is compressed under high heat and pressure to form one solid work surface	Intended for high-stress use in indoor/outdoor classrooms & outdoor play areas	Elevated durability option for classrooms, makerspaces and labs	Core material is waterproof and extremely long-lasting

School Outfitters Tips



Keep in mind the total room size when selecting desks. Factor in the footprint of the desk plus 10 - 12 inches for students to sit comfortably, and any aisle space needed to move about the room.



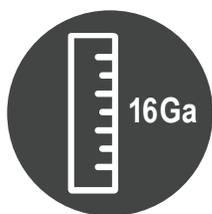
Anticipate growth spurts by year's end and opt for a larger desk size to accommodate.



Desktops are available in many shapes and sizes. Determine if the materials and technology used by students throughout the day will fit the desk's work surface.



Grades without lockers or students in early elementary can benefit from open front desks with storage.



Desks have steel frames measured by gauge. The lower the gauge, the stronger the steel.



Desks with self-leveling glides will ensure an even work surface and prevent wobbling. Desks with locking casters give educators and students the flexibility to rearrange learning spaces quickly and easily.

School Desk Styles



School Desk with Storage

Desks with storage keep work surfaces free of personal belongings and allow students easy access to extra supplies. They also help minimize locker visits between classes. Plastic book boxes come in many colors and help reduce noise when students access materials inside. Metal book boxes are the most durable. Wire book boxes give teachers visual access to the contents inside. School desks with storage are available with adjustable heights for use in multiple grade levels.

[Shop School Desks with Storage](#)



Open Front Desk

Most open front desks have adjustable legs so a single style can be used in multiple grade levels. Desks with book boxes allow students to store extra materials they need for class, while desks without book boxes allow for extra leg room and a clean, modern look.

[Shop Open Front Desks](#)



Multi-Student Desk

Multi-student desks give students extra space to spread their work out and work one-on-one with another student. Some can be arranged to accommodate more than two students if placed side by side. For added flexibility, choose a style that has an adjustable height or casters.

[Shop Multi-Student Desks](#)



Collaborative Desk



Collaborative desks are designed for both independent and shared work. Shapes like boomerang and trapezoid make it easy for students to fit their desks together to create small groups. Special features like casters and whiteboard tops allow for flexible classroom arrangements for group work.

[Shop Collaborative Desks](#)



Whiteboard Desk

Most whiteboard desks are designed for both individual student use and for group collaboration. They encourage note taking and idea sharing without extra paper or posterboards. Students can use dry erase markers on their desktop to draw, problem solve and jot down questions. Desk shapes like bow tie, cog and triangle make fitting multiple desks into one collaborative workspace a snap.

[Shop Whiteboard Desks](#)



Tablet Arm Desk

Tablet arm desks are chairs with an attached desktop. Some arms are fixed while others are movable. Tablet arm desks with casters promote active learning. The student can pivot easily from lecture learning to interactive group work. Selecting a style with storage under the seat helps students keep schoolbooks and material out of the aisles.

[Shop Tablet Arm Desks](#)



Combo Desk

Combo desks are designed with a steel frame that connects the desk to the seat. Book baskets are often included for students to store books and personal belongings.

[Shop Combo Desks](#)



Desk & Chair Set

To help make the selection easier, desks and chairs can be purchased as a set. This option is available with a variety of desk styles and school chairs, all while ensuring a perfect match.

[Shop Desk & Chair Sets](#)



Standing Desk

Standing desks can increase focus and engagement for many students. Sit-to-stand desks give students the flexibility to sit or stand while in class.

[Shop Standing Desks](#)



ADA Desk

ADA Desks meet the requirements set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act and are wheelchair accessible. The design can include a fixed or an adjustable height. The height can be easily adjusted with a knob, hand crank or even a motor.

[Shop ADA Desks](#)

Certifications



GREENGUARD Certified

Products that are GREENGUARD Certified meet the stringent standards for low chemical emissions set by the Greenguard Environmental Institute (GEI), an industry independent organization that aims to improve indoor air quality. Products that are GREENGUARD Certified reduce people's exposure to chemicals and other pollutants, improving overall health. GREENGUARD Certification is GEI's first certification offering.



GREENGUARD Gold Certified

GREENGUARD Gold Certification is GEI's second tier of certification. Products that are GREENGUARD Gold Certified meet an even lower level of chemical emissions plus health-based criteria for additional chemicals. GREENGUARD Gold products meet the indoor air quality needs of sensitive environments like schools, daycares and health care facilities.



BIFMA Certified

The Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer's Association, or BIFMA, certification is a voluntary standard that a product has met stringent third-party sustainability requirements. This certification ensures the product is durable, has longevity and promotes a healthy work environment.