

School Name	International Prep Academy
Location	Champaign, IL
Architect	BLDD Architects, Inc.
Owner	Champaign Unit 4 School District
Superintendent	Dr. Shelia Boozer
Engineering Firm	MEP - GHR Engineers and Associates, Inc.
Construction Manager	Midwest Construction Professionals with Broeren Russo Builders, Inc.
Completion Date	2022
School Type	Elementary - immersive, dual-language instruction
Grades Housed	K-5
Site Size	9.45 acres
Building Area	76,540 sf
Student Capacity	600 students
Building Area/Student	127.6 gsf/student
Construction Cost	\$20 million

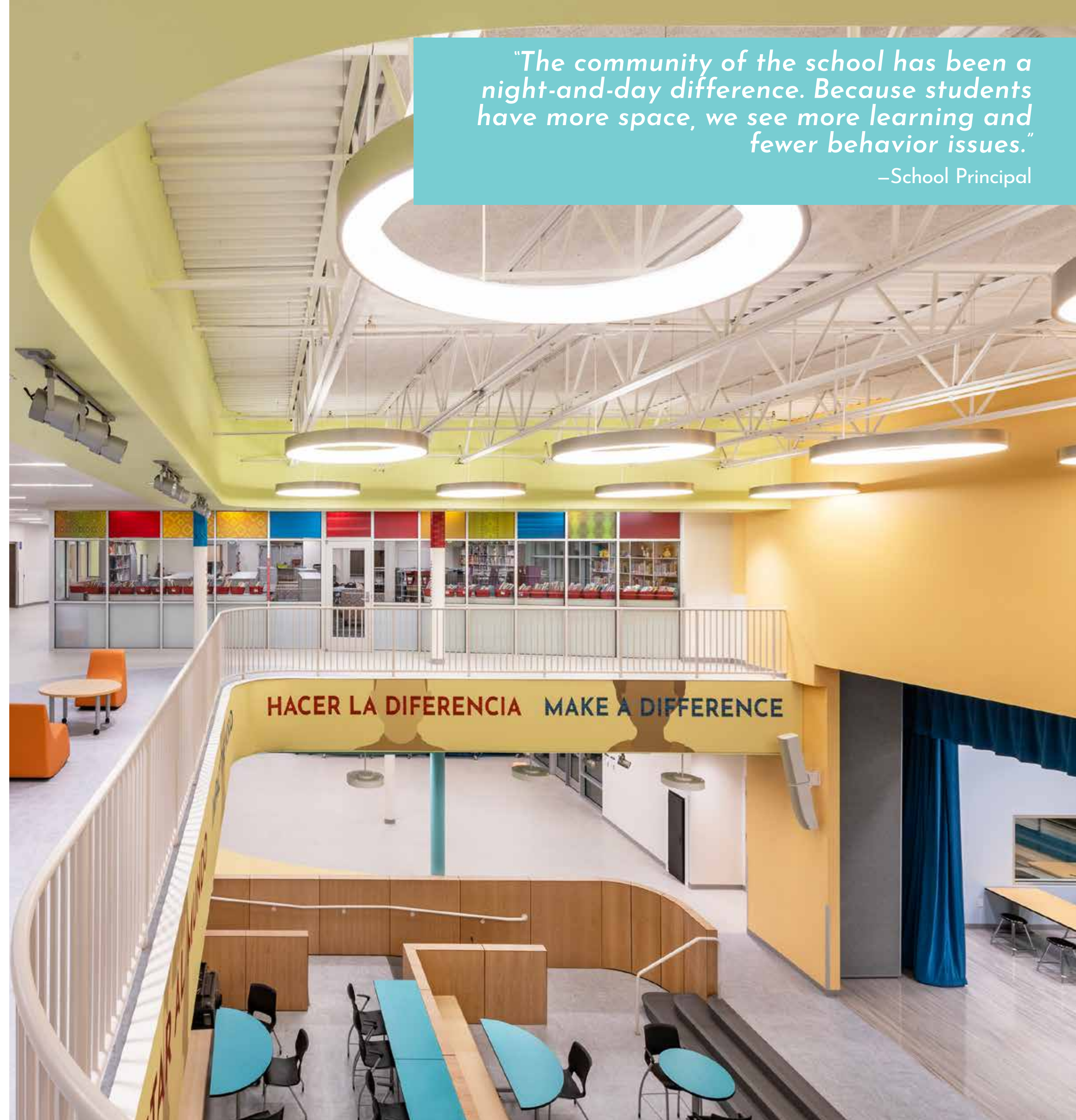
**PROJECT DATA**

*"The community of the school has been a night-and-day difference. Because students have more space, we see more learning and fewer behavior issues."*

–School Principal



Champaign Unit 4 School District, Champaign, IL



# WOVEN TOGETHER

## BREAKING BILINGUAL BARRIERS

## International Prep Academy

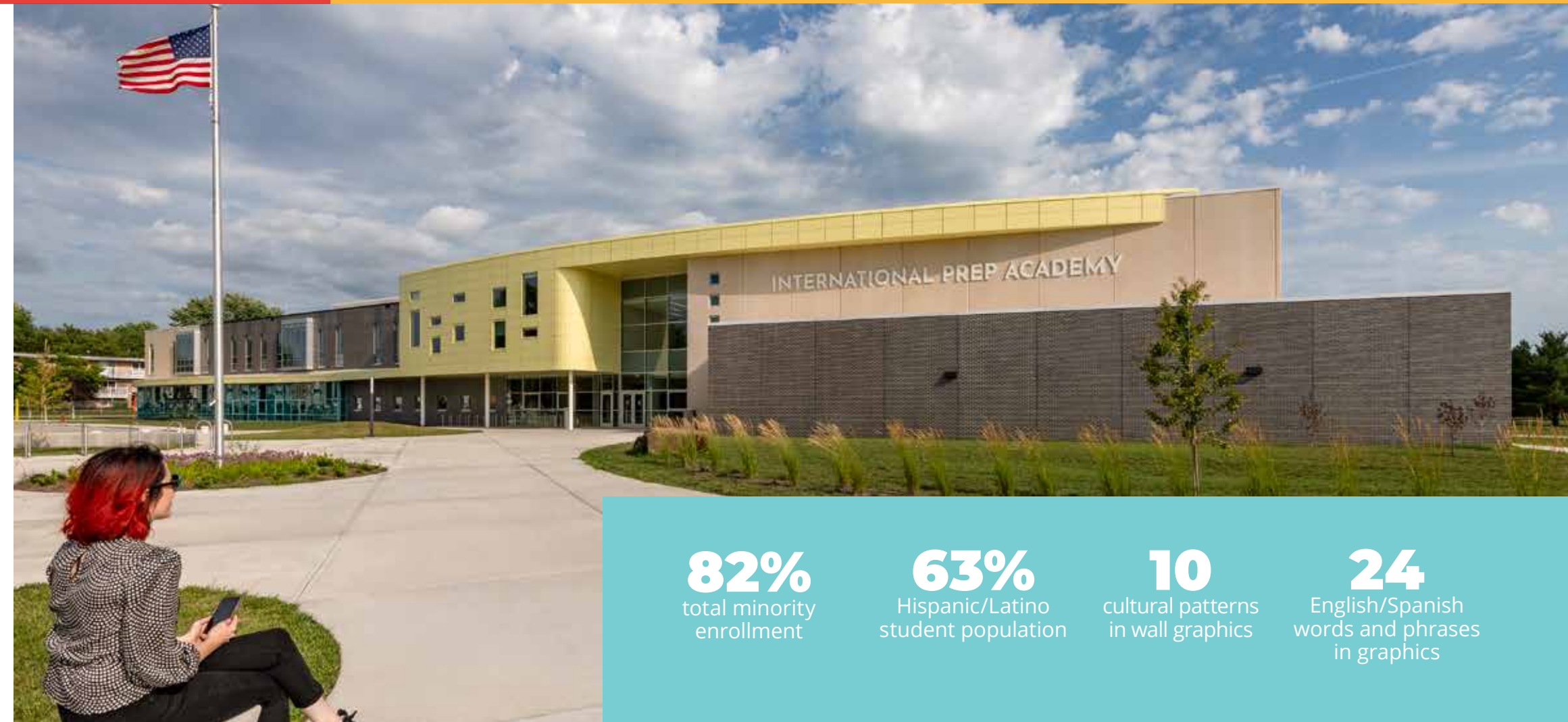
**THE CHALLENGE -**

- Growing Latin American student population
- Community demand for K-8 programming
- Funding concerns and sudden price increases
- Site constraints

**THE SOLUTION -** Phasing of the project

- **Phase I:** A new K-5 immersive, dual-language school behind the existing school, while using the old school for grades 6-8
- **Future Phase 2:** Addition of 6-8 wing to new building and demolition of the existing facility

**THE OUTCOME -** An immersive space where no student feels alone. Each space supports students teaching other students, resources for educators and unifying elements not just for students but for parents and the community, **weaving together cultures and languages.**



**82%**  
total minority enrollment

**63%**  
Hispanic/Latino student population

**10**  
cultural patterns in wall graphics

**24**  
English/Spanish words and phrases in graphics

## FIRST FLOOR COMMONS

The commons at the center of the facility provides a welcoming and safe environment for all community members. Tiered seating and a multi-colored operable wall allow for flexibility in the space. The commons provides space for a cafeteria throughout the day, with easy access to the stage for performances and community events.

## BREAKING BARRIERS

**BREAKING BARRIERS** - This facility is the large district's **only whole-building dual-language program**, providing Spanish and English instruction to a diverse population with the goal of creating bilingual, bi-literate, and multicultural students.



FIRST FLOOR

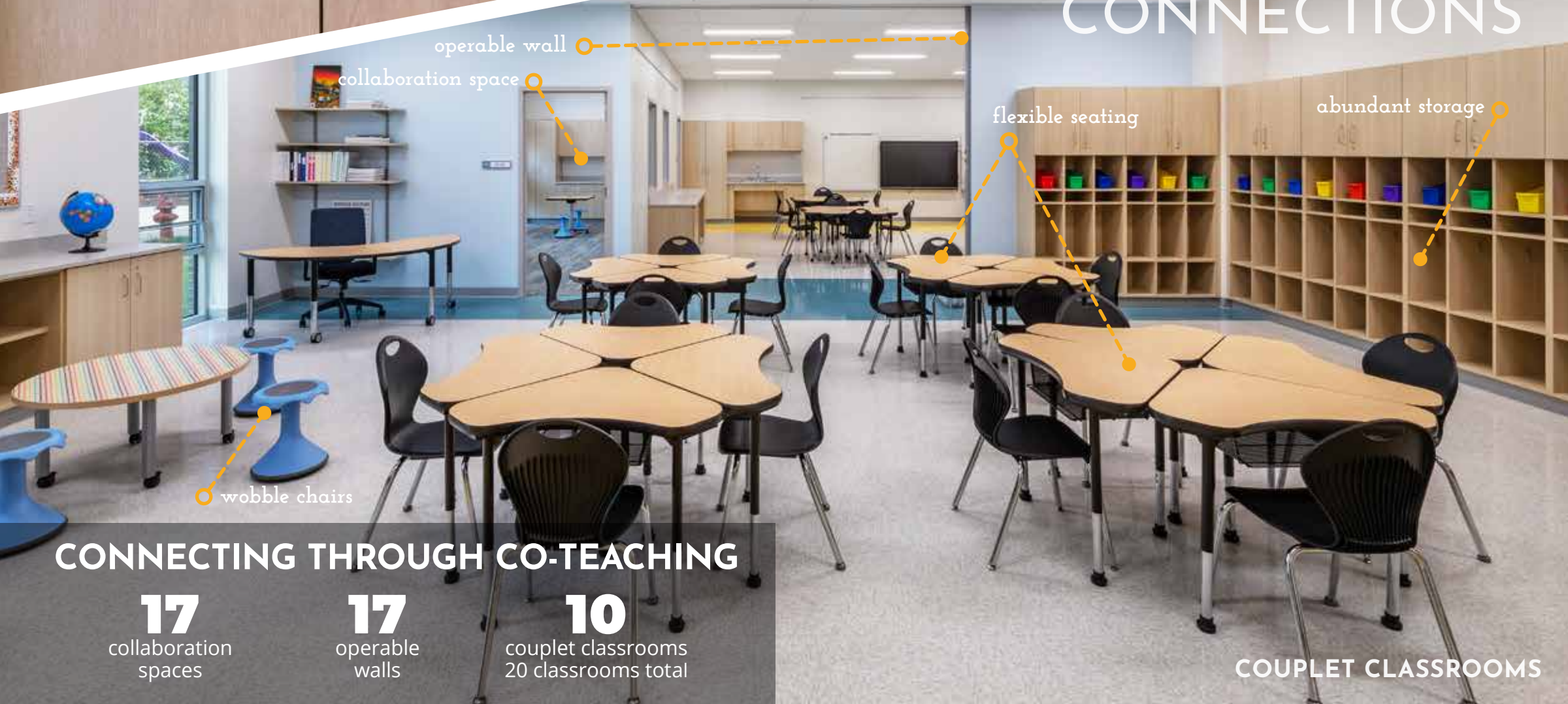


## EMBRACING THE DUAL LANGUAGE!

Every wall graphic around the facility is translated into both English and Spanish, making ALL students, faculty, and community visitors feel Welcomed or Bienvenido!

## CREATING CONNECTIONS

**CREATING CONNECTIONS** - Meeting educational needs for students who often feel isolated meant creating a space for students of different cultures to find their place and feel comfortable as well as safe. Small sitting areas provide home-like spaces while large commons and flexibility provide for future-focused educational needs.



SECOND FLOOR



## CONNECTING THROUGH CO-TEACHING

17

collaboration spaces

17

operable walls

10

couplet classrooms  
20 classrooms total

COUPLET CLASSROOMS



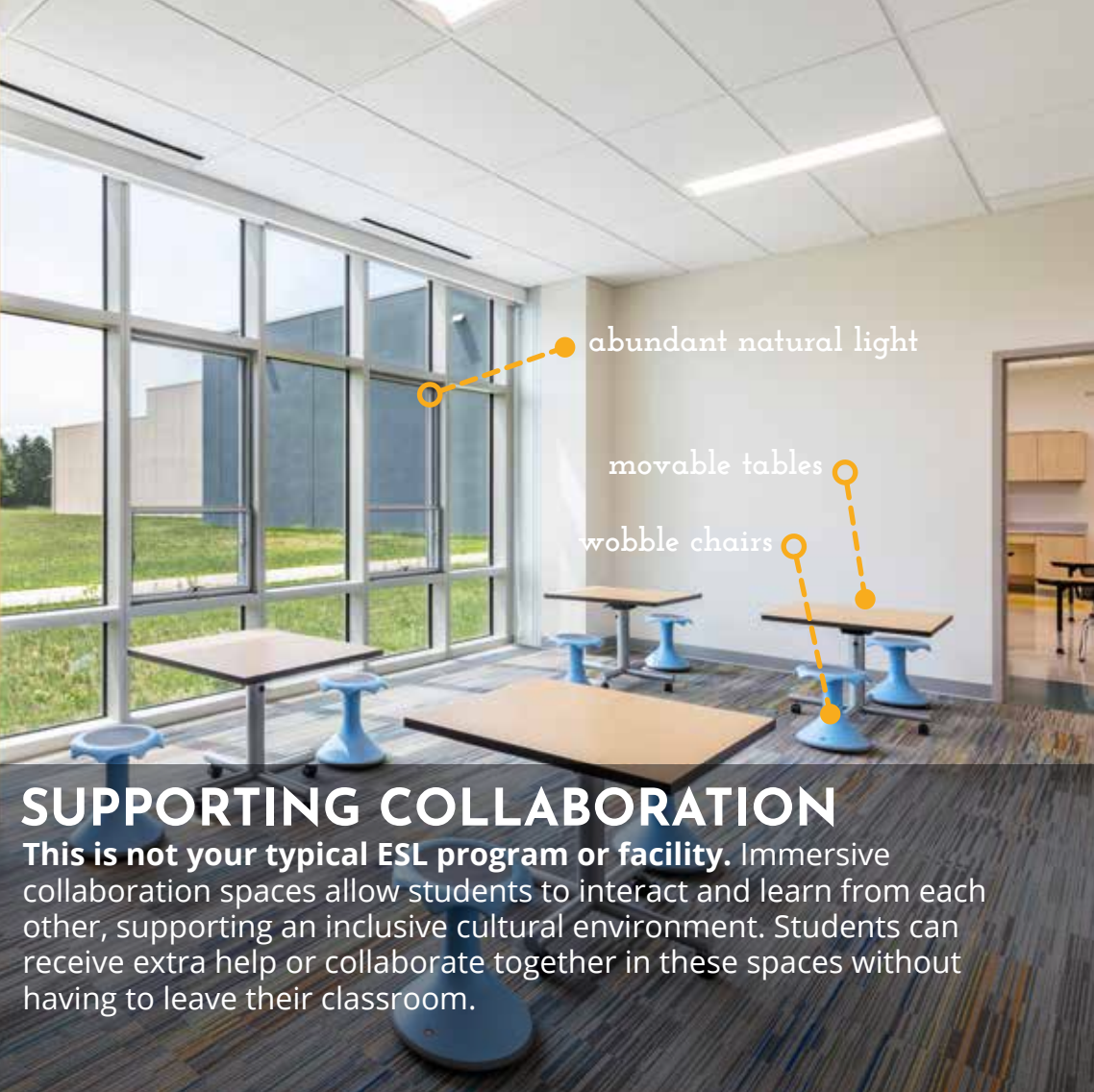
300+

books donated to the district in both languages

15,000

volume space for both English and Spanish

## COLLABORATION SPACE



## SUPPORTING COLLABORATION

**This is not your typical ESL program or facility.** Immersive collaboration spaces allow students to interact and learn from each other, supporting an inclusive cultural environment. Students can receive extra help or collaborate together in these spaces without having to leave their classroom.

## WOVEN TOGETHER TEJIDOS JUNTOS

### EMBRACING THE CONNECTIONS -

At this facility, both native English speakers and non-English speaking students are receiving half of their education in a foreign language. In order for them to successfully learn, the district needed a facility that promotes and is designed for co-teaching of dual-language learning, **weaving together cultures to create an engaging learning environment.**