



SPECIAL EDITION

Education
Top Trends
New Products





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ABOUT TANGRAM

Tangram is an innovator in the design and execution of highly creative interior environments and workspaces. As a trusted partner, we collaborate with clients to create and manage spaces that elevate brand, culture, and performance through the thoughtful integration of technology, furniture, floor coverings, and service solutions. By delivering a remarkable experience across every stage of the customer lifecycle, we create extraordinary and lasting value.

With a deep commitment to lifelong learning, Tangram supports environments that inspire growth at every stage—from early childhood education to higher education, workplace training, and community-based learning. Our approach is rooted in the belief that well-designed spaces empower people to learn, evolve, and thrive throughout their lives.

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A NOTE FROM OUR MARKET EXPERTS

Learning environments are no longer passive backdrops—they're active participants in education. Across today's conversations in school design, one theme keeps rising to the top: creating spaces that support movement, inclusion, wellness, and real-world learning. Increasingly, educators and district leaders are also focused on how these environments can help students build the skills they need to succeed beyond the classroom—preparing them for careers that are still evolving, and in many cases, don't yet exist.

Instead of chasing flashy, futuristic upgrades, the focus is shifting toward thoughtful evolution—furniture and environments that flex with changing teaching styles, adapt to diverse learners, connect more naturally to the outdoors, and support the development of critical thinking, collaboration, and adaptability. These spaces are designed not just for how students learn today, but for how they will apply those skills in an unpredictable future.

The following trends highlight how learning spaces are being reimaged for 2026 and beyond.



Mark Peters
Vice President, Education, Dallas



Tristin Kranenburg
Sales Director, Education, California





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01 Student Agency Takes Center Stage

Traditional “sit and listen” classrooms are giving way to environments that empower students with choice and autonomy. Learning spaces are increasingly designed to be reconfigurable and mobile, allowing students to move, collaborate, and adapt their surroundings to different activities. Educators are stepping into facilitative roles, supported by layouts that encourage interaction rather than hierarchy. This shift recognizes that engagement and ownership grow when students have control over how they learn.







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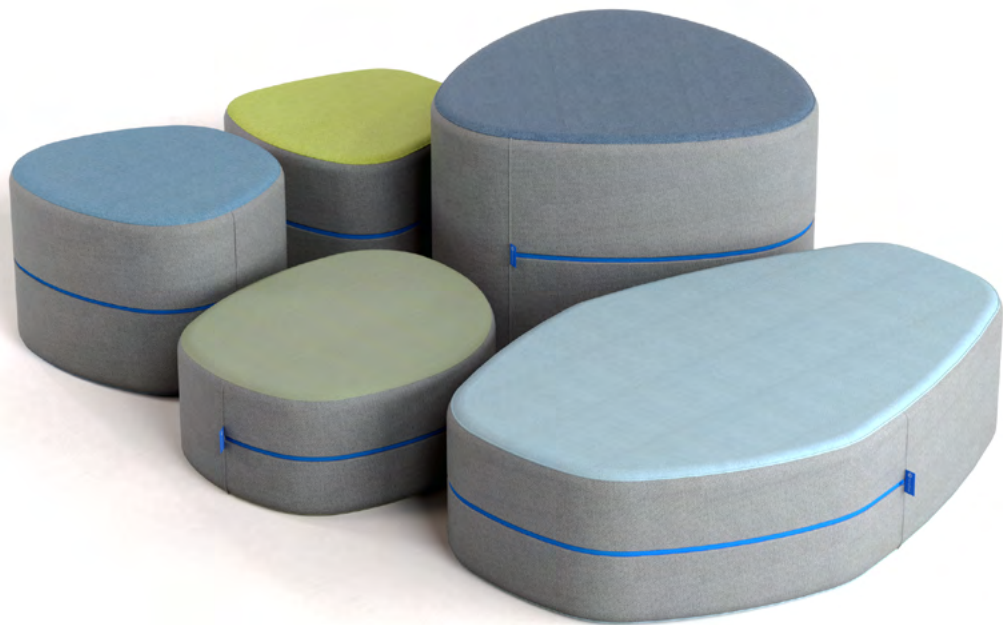
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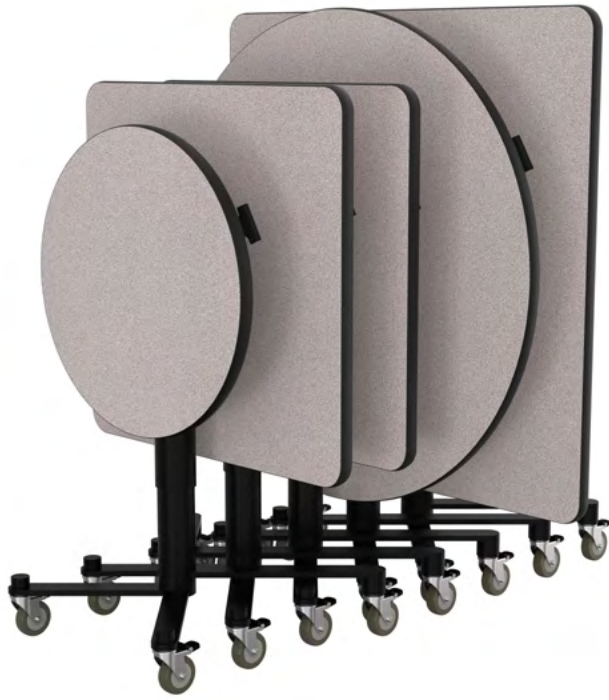
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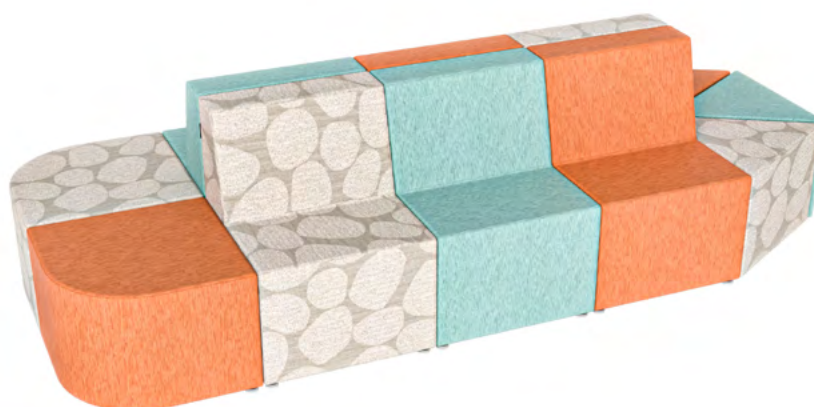
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02 Designing for Every Learner

Inclusive design is no longer optional—it's foundational. Schools are embracing universal design principles that support neurodiverse learners, varied physical needs, and multiple learning styles. Flexibility and accessibility are being built directly into spaces so that all students can participate fully without feeling singled out. The focus is on creating environments that are intuitive, comfortable, and welcoming for everyone.





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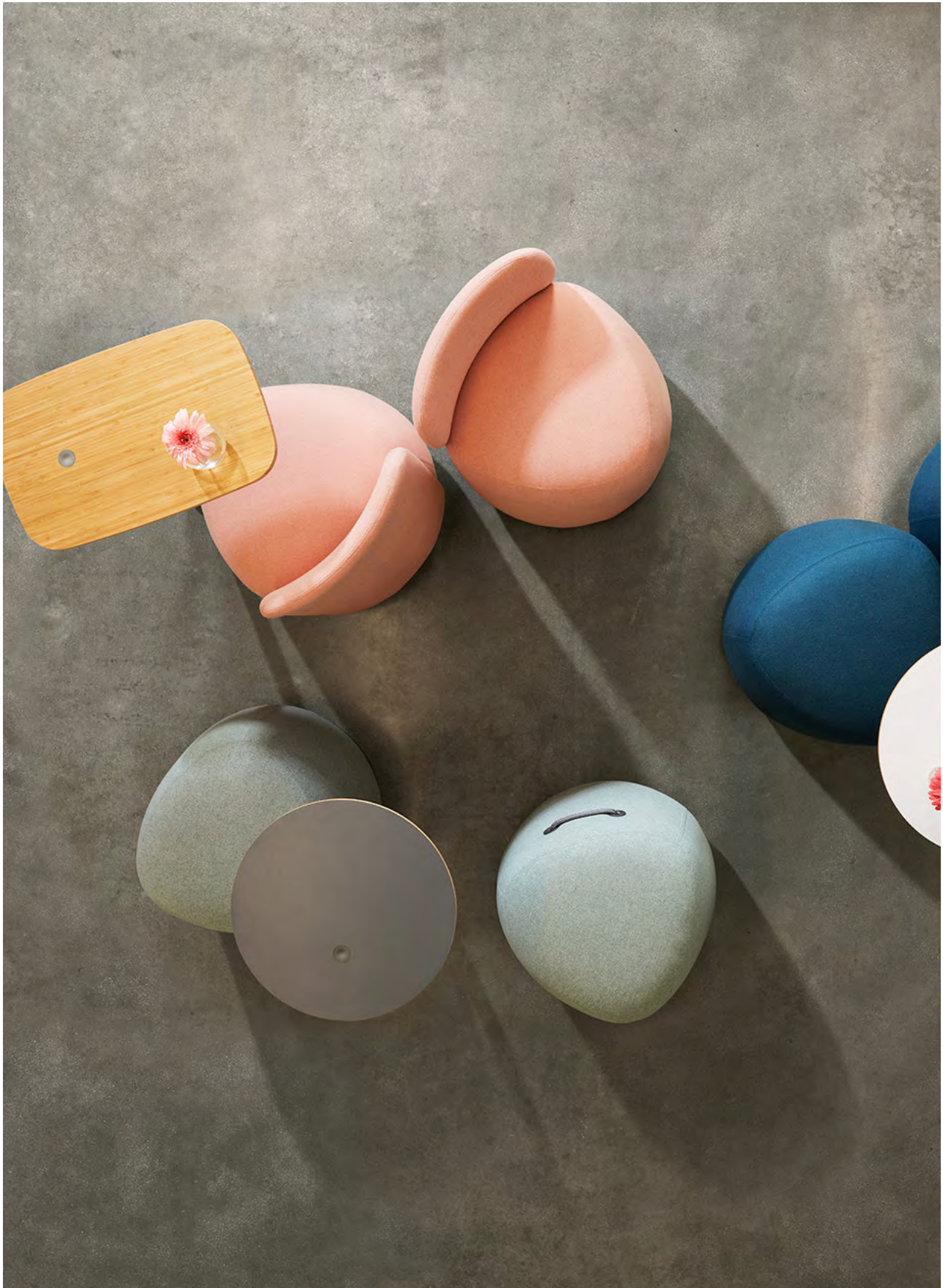
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03 Wellness as a Design Priority

Mental health and emotional well-being are now central considerations in learning space design. Schools are intentionally creating areas that support regulation, comfort, and moments of retreat throughout the day. Rather than treating wellness as a separate initiative, designers are embedding it into the physical environment—helping reduce stress, support focus, and foster a sense of safety and belonging for students and educators alike.





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04 Nature-Inspired Color and Material Palettes

Color trends in education are shifting toward calmer, more sophisticated palettes drawn from the natural world. Earth tones, soft greens, warm neutrals, and muted blues are replacing high-contrast primary colors. These choices are rooted in biophilic design principles, using color and texture to create environments that feel grounding, comfortable, and less cognitively demanding—especially important in high-stimulation learning settings.





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05 Future-Ready, Real-World Learning Environments

Learning spaces are increasingly designed to mirror the collaborative, adaptable nature of the real world. Career-focused, project-based, and hands-on learning environments are gaining momentum, with layouts that support teamwork, problem-solving, and evolving technology. These spaces are built to change over time, reinforcing the idea that adaptability is a core skill for students preparing for life beyond school.







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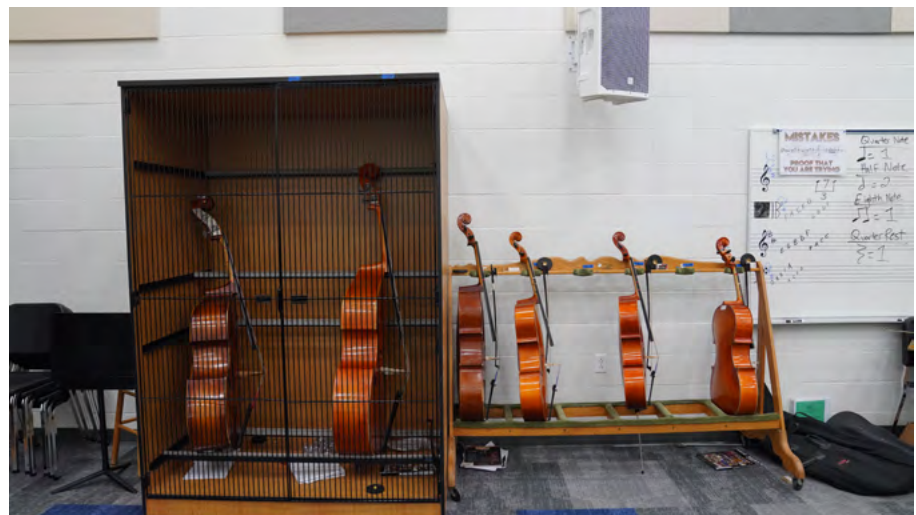


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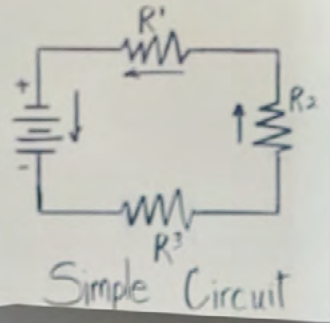
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