

# Classroom Layout Helps Prime Student Attention

How a classroom is physically set up can make a big difference in how easily student attention can be primed

## Questions to consider for teaching:

- From the position where you teach can you easily see all your students at once?
- Do you have a 'gathering area' to ensure that you can see all your students when you deliver important information?
- Do you have a table where you can teach small groups? Are you positioned to see the whole class, even when you work with a few?

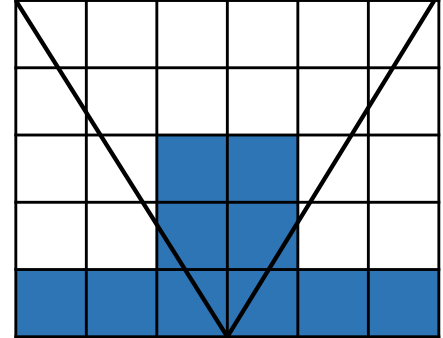
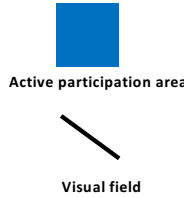
## Questions to consider for students:

- When a student is sitting at their desk, raise their head, is the teacher standing in their peripheral visual field?
  - Does the student need to turn their head at an angle or turn their body to be able to see the teacher well?
  - Are there obstacles in front that make it difficult for a student to see their teacher fully?
- Are students placed in locations that meet each of their needs? Particularly students with special needs (ex. low distraction – away from the doorway and windows)
- Is the background visually busy or overstimulating?
- Does each student have an individual workspace that meets their needs?
- If a student requires an alternate workstation to do their work successfully, do they have a place where they can join the group and be close/active participants when lessons are taught and during group discussions?



## Spatial Layout

"Students who are less likely to become engaged should be placed in the active participation area, where they are more likely to become involved."



## U-formation : some benefits

- You can see all of your students and they can all see YOU!
- It's easy to maneuver around – increases physical proximity and primes for closer attachments
- Clearly identifies this area of the room as a WORK ZONE. Sets the stage for teaching good WORK HABITS

Note: Please ensure that there are open spaces in which you can walk through



## A classroom with alternate seating/alternate workstations: some benefits

- A gathering area helps bring students close together when teaching or having group discussions
- Students can shift to different locations based on their needs
- It's easy to maneuver around – increases physical proximity and primes for closer attachments
- Provides flexibility when targeted teaching support is needed or when support staff work with students with special needs