



Essex Agricultural and Technical High School Danvers, MA

Sited on the former Essex Agricultural School land in Danvers, this project combined two small vocational schools and programs from a third into one comprehensive campus. The new school serves agricultural/career-



tech needs of 1,440 students from more than 17 communities. The school is organized east/west into four career-themed academies, each with dedicated entry, administration and support services. A central wing extends north/south containing shared activity and community interactive spaces. Vertically, the school is organized with high-bay shops burmed into the hillside with two floors of academics/labs above. Entries are located on the mid-floor, at grade in front facing south and the approach.

Designed for hyper-flexibility and collaboration, science labs are dispersed within classroom clusters and academics are mixed with career-tech spaces. Clusters are organized around shared flexible-learning spaces to promote project-based, small group and one-on-one activities. Each



cluster has planning space for adjacent rooms, functioning as collaborative centers but also better connecting staff and students. Classrooms have dispersed teaching walls, operable partitions and good visibility/connections between. Labs are designed with fixed perimeters/services and movable furnishings to maximize flexibility. Likewise, shop areas have relatively open plans, utilizing demountable partitions and overhead feeds within and plywood wainscots for plug-and-play adaptability. The Distributed Dining concept creates scaled social opportunities, while providing extended lobby space between every two academies. Each, equipped for presentation, exhibition and flexible use throughout the day.

Designing for educational effectiveness, quality daylight, acoustic, thermal and air quality were prioritized, as was utilizing the school as teaching tool and canvas for student constructs. Examples include:

- Orientation Shaped the Building
- Highly Insulated, Rain Screen Envelope for Performance
- Chilled-Beam System for Comfort and Acoustic Control
- Fully Integrated/Wireless Environment (less lockers, more glass)
- Interactive Energy and Water Use Monitoring
- Mechanical Rooms, Data Closets and Career Programs on Display
- Retaining Walls Unskinned for Student Buildout/Demolition

New Construction/Addition

Career-tech/voc-ed

Perkins Eastman/DPC

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DESIGN TEAM

Robert Bell, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, ALEP, Principal-in-Charge

Daniel Colli, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Project Manager
Dawn Guarriello, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Project Architect

OWNER/CLIENT

Essex Agricultural and Technical High School
Danvers, MA

Brad Morgan, Principal
978/304-4700

KEY STATS

Grades Served: 9-12

Capacity: 1,440

Size of Site: 165 acres

Building Area: 413,241 sq. ft.

Space per Student: 287 sq. ft.

Cost per Student: \$93,402

Square Foot Cost: \$325

Project Cost: \$134,500,000

Completion Date: September 2014

Sustainability Rating Status: LEED Silver

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