



District 211 Higgins Education Center Hoffman Estates, IL

The District 211 Higgins Education Center was recently renovated to centralize existing educational programs serving students with special needs. The design of this multi-use facility presented a number of challenges. Challenge one: Convert a tired, 1970s, two-story office building into an innovative, light-filled, educational environment. Challenge two: Plan for four distinct programs within the same footprint, maintaining separate learning zones while sharing core building services. The center serves three distinct populations: students with cognitive disabilities, students with emotional disabilities and students with autism spectrum/other social communication disorders. The facility also houses the district's community school program, a new after-school initiative providing social services and support to assist families with wellness, education and language.

Our design solution placed flexible learning spaces along the exterior walls, taking advantage of existing floor-to-ceiling glass and views. These spaces also support educators working with multiple group sizes at varying levels and



Remodel/Adaptive Reuse/ Restoration

Entire school/campus building

ARCON Associates, Inc.

2050 South Finley Road, Ste. 40 - Lombard, IL 60148
www.arconassoc.com
Richard P. Cozzi, AIA, REFP - 630/495-1900

DESIGN TEAM

ARCON Associates, Inc., Architect
Nicholas & Associates, Inc., Construction Manager
Manhard Consulting, Ltd., Civil Engineer
20/10 Engineering Group, LLC, Structural Engineer
Armsco Engineering, Inc., MPE Engineer
Alpha Design, Inc., Food Service

OWNER/CLIENT

Township High School District 211
Hoffman Estates, IL
Dr. Daniel E. Cates, Superintendent
847/755-6600

KEY STATS

Grades Served: 9-12; Post-High School/Adult
Education
Capacity: 160
Size of Site: 1.4 acres
Building Area: 23,395 sq. ft.
Space per Student: 146 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$33,358
Square Foot Cost: \$228
Construction Cost: \$5,337,259
Project Cost: \$5,927,229
Completion Date: August 2015

PHOTOGRAPHY: ROBERT MCKENDRICK PHOTOGRAPHY

content areas by catering to the specific educational needs of the students.

The master planning process, teaching styles and specialized learning environment needs helped shape this renovation, rather than letting the existing building drive the design. The district quotes, "Being in this facility allows us to be immediately responsive and address our students' needs."

