



COMBINED-LEVEL SCHOOL

## Mat-Su Day School Wasilla, AK



### New Construction/Addition Entire school/campus building

#### NAC Architecture

2025 1st Ave., Ste. 300  
Seattle, WA 98121  
www.nacarchitecture.com  
Kevin Flanagan, AIA, Principal  
206/441-4522

#### Wolf Architecture

Palmer, AK  
Gary Wolf, AIA  
www.wolfarchitecture.com

#### DESIGN TEAM

HDR, Inc, Civil Engineer  
SDG, LLC, Landscape Architect  
PND Engineers, Structural Engineer  
Stafford Design Group, Food Service Consultant  
RSA Engineering, Mechanical/Electrical Engineers

#### OWNER/CLIENT

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District  
Wasilla, AK  
Gene Stone  
907/746-9200

#### KEY STATS

Grades Served: K-12  
Capacity: 100 students  
Size of Site: 15 acres  
Building Area: 20,924 gsf  
Space per Student: 139 sq. ft.  
Cost per Student: \$82,840  
Square Foot Cost: \$593.86  
Project Cost: \$12,426,000  
Completion Date: August 2014

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The Mat-Su Day School provides education and support for students with emotional and behavioral challenges who were not successful in their home schools. These are students who have traditionally been devalued, labeled, and targeted for placement at institutions. During design an educator said, "Our goal is that no student should graduate from here." The intent is for them to return to their home school once behavior control is demonstrated.

At the Mat-Su Day School, the learning environments were designed for "spatial sovereignty." Educators observed that students lost focus when personal space was cramped or not clearly defined. At the Mat-Su Day School, classrooms

are spacious. Teacher aides and specialists can work with students at their desks. Outside of the classrooms, the threshold between the academic and shared program spaces is clearly delineated. These shared spaces comprise a media room, reading room, multipurpose room, and achievement room. Together, they add flexibility to the core academic spaces.

On the exterior, the calm masses of the academic wings contrast with the energetic shared program spaces. These two building characters balance the educators' wish that the school feel dignified and sheltering for students, while conveying welcome and transparency to the community.

