Full STEAM Ahead

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS
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Who We Are

Florida State University Schools

A State of Florida Public Charter Development Research School (DRS)

“Collaborative research and reasoned inquiry enables us to advance knowledge and contribute to best practices in education. [We focus] on the triad of curriculum development, research of learners and learning systems, and teacher professional development in an environment of collaborative partnerships with FSU and other stakeholders while addressing challenges to education in the State of Florida and the nation.”

As a DRS, our student body matches the demographic makeup of the state of Florida, providing researchers a population that can inform policies and programs throughout the state, and guaranteeing that children from every financial, cultural and racial background learn from the best teachers and practices available. These research efforts include:

- Development and testing of educational models
- Sharing best practices with educators and providing executive coaching to low-performing school districts
- Supporting achievement for all of Florida’s students
- Preparing students with 21st century skills needed for industry, college and career readiness
- Researching learners and learning systems
- Providing no-cost teacher professional development to the Florida Department of Education, local service agencies, and school districts across the state
- Addressing challenges to education in the State of Florida and the nation
Though considered a small school district by the Florida Department of Education, FSUS makes big gains in student achievement, teacher training and educational research. An “A” school for 15 years running, we provide college, career and industry-ready curriculum to our 1,700 students.

Students of Florida State University Schools excel in the classroom, on the playing field, and in national competitions in the arts and sciences. FSUS outrank all high schools in Tallahassee, the Big Bend, and all Florida lab schools combined. Students pursue college preparatory work and career technology certifications in fields as diverse as Culinary Arts, Health Sciences, First Responders, Certified Nursing Assistants, Digital Art and Media.
What We Need

FSUS Campus Facility Needs

*U.S. News & World Report* consistently ranks Florida State University as one of the most efficient universities in the country, recognizing our ability to offer great research and education with limited budgets. This designation extends to Florida State University Schools, where a campus of 1,700 students strains facilities built to house 1,200.

**Flexible Classroom Space**

- **Floating Teachers:** 12 teachers operate without dedicated classroom space, floating between other teacher’s rooms.
- **Expanding Physics and Science Courses:** Physics-based robotics courses partner with FSU’s Physics program, but no classroom space is available to offer additional courses, so enrollment is restricted. Physics teachers must “float” between classes.
- **Microsoft Training:** Limited computer lab space and available software means crucial Microsoft training is held in classrooms with little technology available.
- **Rigorous Electives:** To provide equity in access, our teachers hope to provide our diverse student population with more challenging electives sought by colleges, universities and industries, but space is unavailable.
- **Medical Sciences:** Courses that train students for careers in the health care industry are crammed into small learning spaces located in Health Clinic with little available technology.
- **Small Group Learning Rooms:** These are needed for use with versatile technology and fully integrated technology with set-ups compatible with all STEAM subjects.
• **Maker-Space:** Provides training and encouragement in coding, math, science and engineering coursework. We have requests to host/train other students and educators, but must decline because the current Maker-Space is located in a Library storage room.

• **Engineering Society:** A partnership with the FSU/FAMU College of Engineering, this program extracurricular activity encourages young engineers, but has no dedicated space to build, experiment, and expand.

• **Student Programming:** We lack space for robotics, engineering, and expansion of digital/media programming. FSUS has trained faculty who could expand offerings to students and educators if flexible learning space that was adequately equipped was available.

• **Digital Media Production:** Students are working with FSU’s National High Magnetic Field Lab and M.I.T.’s Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute to create a National Geographic-styled documentary on oil spills, but the current production studio is housed in the back storage room of one classroom.

• **Arts Programs:** The award winning art program serving 13 grades cannot expand. Art supplies and student work overflow the classrooms and occupy the “storefront art gallery” space intended for use as an art gallery.
**Auditorium**

- **Assembly:** The only facility for mass communication is the school’s 300 seat “cafetorium.” The lunchroom has the only stage on campus, requiring assemblies to be scheduled between lunches. The result is that lunches must begin at 10:15 and run past 1:15.

- **Performance:** All student performances, celebrations, concerts, plays or award ceremonies must currently be held in the cafetorium.

- **Elementary Science Night:** The cafetorium is the only option when hosting more than 200 students and their families. For an event intended to generate excitement from young science-oriented students, there is little room to explore the projects on display.

- **Astronaut Challenge:** Our award-winning, internationally recognized space and aeronautics programs, designed at FSUS to engage students in science and engineering, can host neither competitions nor training.

- **Argument Driven Inquiry:** Textbooks developed at FSUS provide a proven method of teaching the sciences with a strong impact on student achievement, but professional development for other state teachers cannot occur on site without space for conference and instruction.
What Will Help

FSUS STEAM Building

The new Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) building will give FSUS room to alleviate overcrowding, improve facilities in crucial STEAM fields, and allow better communication through a new 750-seat school auditorium.

The STEAM building will anchor the southwest corner of campus and provide a central gathering place for FSUS students, University researchers, and the surrounding community. We have the space and the plans, we lack only the resources to begin construction. By adding the planned Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics building, Florida State University Schools has the opportunity to continue our charter mission and better serve Tallahassee and the State of Florida.
For the Greater Good

Serve Our Mission

More than 300 researchers, interns and visiting scholars visit campus each month to learn about the innovative programs in place at Florida State University Schools. FSUS has established partnerships with:

- M.I.T.’s Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
- Florida A&M University
- Tallahassee Community College
- Keiser University
- FSU National High Magnetic Field Lab
- NASA Space Science
- National Science Foundation (CSIMMS Grant)
- Sports Science Foundation FSU
- FSU College of Education
- FSU Physics
- North East Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC)

Florida State University Schools excels in teaching our students, but our lack of facilities dramatically reduces our ability to function properly as a state designated Development Research School. We exist not only to provide the preeminent educational experience in Tallahassee, but to provide teachers, researchers, and state legislators a laboratory to find out more about learning and the learning systems that work for our state.
For more information about how you can help support Florida State University Schools, please contact:

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