

Education Specifications

Renovation and Security Upgrades for Classroom Wings 3, 4, and 6 – Grades 6/7/8

John Wallace Middle School, 76 Halleran Drive, Newington CT

The goal of this project is to completely renovate Classroom Wings 3, 4, and 6 (Grades 6, 7, and 8) while incorporating security upgrades at John Wallace Middle School in Newington with the following primary objectives:

1. Transform the layout of each wing that results in a center corridor, end to end in each wing. All classrooms in each wing will have full block wall construction with lockable, secure doors. Additional contemporary student security and safety features would also be included in the design to maximize student safety.
2. Elimination of the perimeter, exterior corridors on each side of Wings 3, 4, and 6. This change will allow for the expansion of square footage in each classroom as a result of the reduction in square footage in the corridors.
3. Provide a combination of full size classrooms with some supplemental break out spaces for small group use (tutorial support, intervention activities, etc.) The end result would be to provide a similar number of total academic spaces in these three wings to support the student population. Coupled with the square footage savings by moving to a central corridor, each full size classroom will range from about 725 to approximately 800 square feet (after construction) instead of the current 625 square feet in the open classroom concept.
4. Provide contemporary technology resources for both teachers and students. This will include wiring infrastructure to support a wireless wide area network along with projectors/monitors for displaying A/V subject area classroom content to students. There will also be adequate infrastructure wiring and power sources to support Chromebook use for 100% of the student population at John Wallace and any other technology tools needed to support the curriculum. The infrastructure attributes and capabilities will be consistent with what is present in the other schools in Newington.

It is expected that one wing of the school would be renovated at a time. As a result, each wing of the building should be considered its own phase. Phase I would be need to be completed before Phase II is able to start (other than work that can be done in multiple wings during the school's summer vacation). There are not a sufficient number of classrooms available at JW to take more than one wing of classrooms out of service at a time for construction activities. This should be considered a three phase project.

The current architectural design for the three classroom wings at John Wallace was modeled after the “California” concept of open classrooms. Each wing is approximately 9,400 square feet in size and currently has either 9 or 10 academic spaces in each wing with a corridor along both outside walls in the wing. Each classroom is approximately 625 square feet each (25' x 25'), with three soft walls and an open 4th side to the common corridor. Besides the limited square footage in each classroom, the noise level that crosses over from classroom to classroom creates a very disruptive and distracting backdrop for the teaching environment. None of the classrooms in these 3 wings have permanent doors or security measures typically associated with a classroom. These inherently insecure classroom conditions are because of the 3 wall, soft-wall design that dates from 1970. None of the classrooms in these wings have permanent walls or any level of security along with classroom level “lock down” capabilities.

The goal of the classroom wing renovations at John Wallace Middle School is to create a traditional classroom environment with permanent concrete walls, lockable doors, and other student safety security measures included in the design.

The scope of this project at the John Wallace Middle School is as follows:

- Demolish interior space and rebuild in a different classroom configuration. The scope of work would include general carpentry/construction, HVAC, electrical, roofing, plumbing, acoustical materials, sheet rock, flooring, and all other trades needed to restore a classroom environment.
- Student lockers.
- Correct/remediate any building code or HAZMAT code violations that are found.
- Reconstruction of permanent corridor/classroom walls with locking doors.
- Installation of security cameras, along with other security measures appropriate for a middle school, especially for windows and doors within each wing.
- Integration of new building control systems, security modules, and communication systems into existing building system.
- Installation of contemporary classroom fixtures and casework.
- Installation of appropriate technology and infrastructure resources to support contemporary classrooms.
- Purchase and installation of appropriate student and teacher furniture, fixtures, and equipment.