**ABSTRACT**

Research conducted, including an online survey and literature review, considers the effect of the interior design of a school on the wellbeing and success of students, faculty, and staff. This research helps answer two questions:

1. What role does the interior environment play on students’ learning and success in the classroom?
2. What safety and security measures need to be integrated in the design of a school to protect all occupants while still being a welcoming and comfortable environment?

Results show that students want flexible furniture, classrooms that incorporate color, a welcoming and open entrance, and are open to having an inclusive restroom within the school. Results also show that staff want a place where they can retreat to to take a break.

**RESULTS**

*Acceptance of Inclusive restrooms within North Dakota*

<table>
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<th>Rural ND Community</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<td>38.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
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<td>53.84%</td>
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<tr>
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**DISCUSSION**

The purpose of the research conducted through a survey and literature review was to determine the effect of the interior design of a school on the wellbeing and success of students, faculty and staff. The findings of this research conclude that having areas near entrances that are bright and open and allows for a mix of natural and artificial light is highly favorable. In addition, it was proven that having less security measures such as metal detectors was preferred. To accommodate the wide range of users within a school, it was concluded that the use of flexible furniture allows students to be more comfortable, enhances collaboration amongst students, and improves student success.

**METHODOLOGY**

In order to understand how the interior environment impacts student, staff, and faculty engagement and success in a K-12 school, our team created a mixed method online survey that was sent out to staff and faculty at six rural schools throughout the state of North Dakota. The survey consisted of two parts:

1. Student Success
2. Staff and Faculty Success

Questions focused on interior elements, safety measures, flexible furniture configurations, and storage. Survey questions were formatted to include Likert scale, ranking, short answer, rating, and multiple choice.

**PARTICIPANTS**

Faculty and staff from six rural North Dakota school districts received the online survey. The survey resulted in 51 total responses.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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We are thankful to the institutions that supported our research including Central Cass School District, Kindred, Mapleton, Northern Cass School District, Richland School District, and Rugby.

**REFERENCES**


