

HOW FLOORING PLAYS A ROLE  
IN SCHOOL HEALTH + SAFETY

redesigning  
where we learn

 EF Contract®

# adapting to a new way of learning

As school districts pivot from virtual to in-class learning, teachers and administration are faced with a daunting task: to effectively educate students and keep them safe at the same time. Interiors must be reimagined to make sure each space is as conducive to learning and safety as possible.

Flooring can play a role in effective school strategies. For this to happen, at least three measures must be taken into account:

1. Manage social distancing and circulation
2. Minimize airborne transmission
3. Infection prevention and sanitation

This guide has been developed to help you determine how careful selection and maintenance of flooring can be leveraged for safer schools.

#### SHOWN AT LEFT:

**Dart Spring**, KINETEX

**Game On Hat-Trick**, MODULAR

# manage social distancing and circulation

## DESIGNING SAFE SPACES

Most children struggle with understanding scale. The right flooring can help provide visual cues to denote six-foot boundaries and circulation patterns. Various formats, colors, and patterns can be combined in unique ways to help encourage social distancing among students in a way they can better understand.

For your inspiration, we've provided some floor plan and installation ideas that can contribute to safer schools.

### SHOWN AT RIGHT:

**Dart Whiz**, KINETEX

**The Brights** Lime Lite, MODULAR

**Simple Weave** Blue Treadle, MODULAR

**Vestige** Aquamarine, KINETEX

**Fluid** Compound, MODULAR

**Dart** Hurry, KINETEX

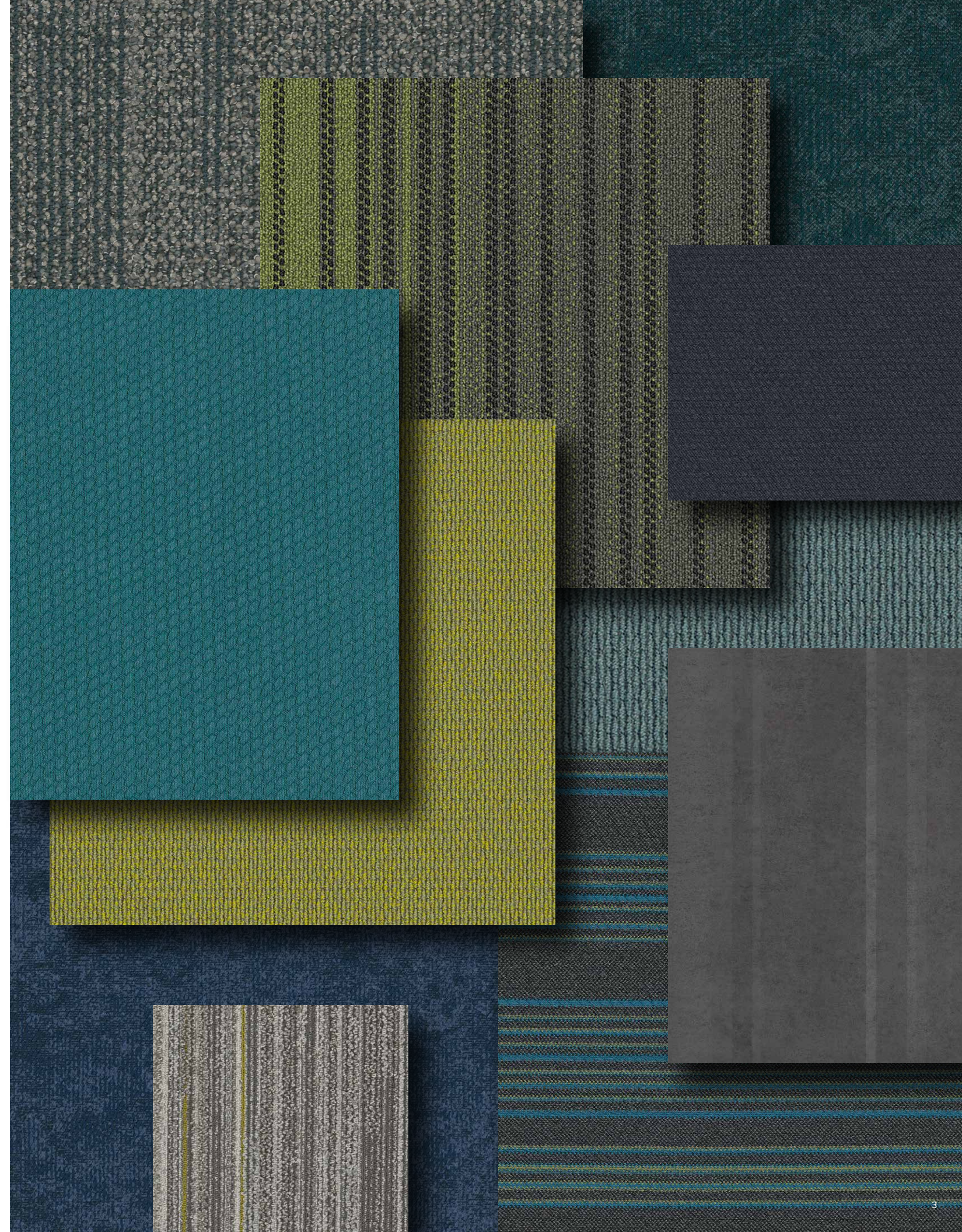
**The Brights** Mermaid, MODULAR

**All That Jazz** Something Cool, LVT

**Spree** Fling, KINETEX

**Vestige** Aniline, KINETEX

**Line Accent** Pipe Accent, MODULAR



# instructional spaces



# instructional spaces

Flooring with bold color blocks can help define six-foot boundaries while specific pattern stylings can help establish visual cues for circulation paths, adding fun and functionality to your instructional spaces.

## A. LINEAR CLASSROOM

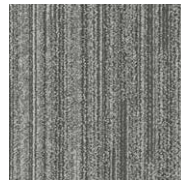
Color, format, and pattern designate 6' zones.



**Contact Sport**  
G.O.A.T.  
MODULAR



**The Brights**  
Red Zing  
MODULAR



**Line**  
Pipe  
MODULAR

## B. WAVES CLASSROOM

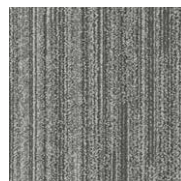
Pattern divides room by 6' waves.



**Dart**  
Sprint  
KINETEX

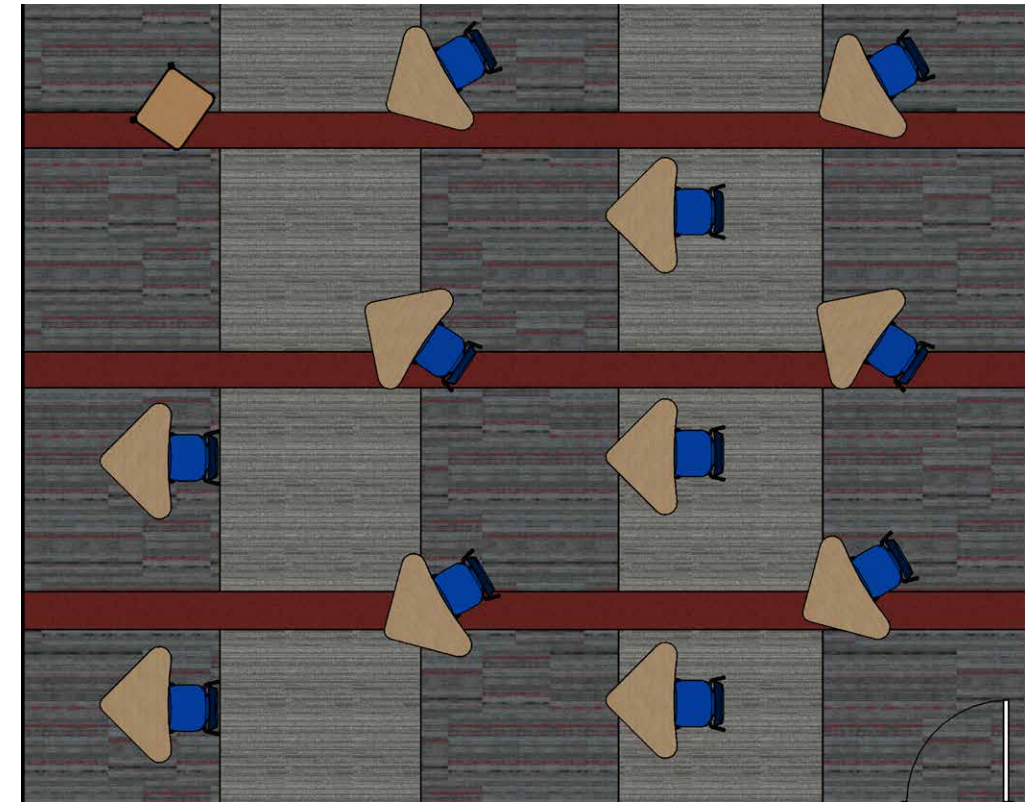


**Dart**  
Whiz  
KINETEX

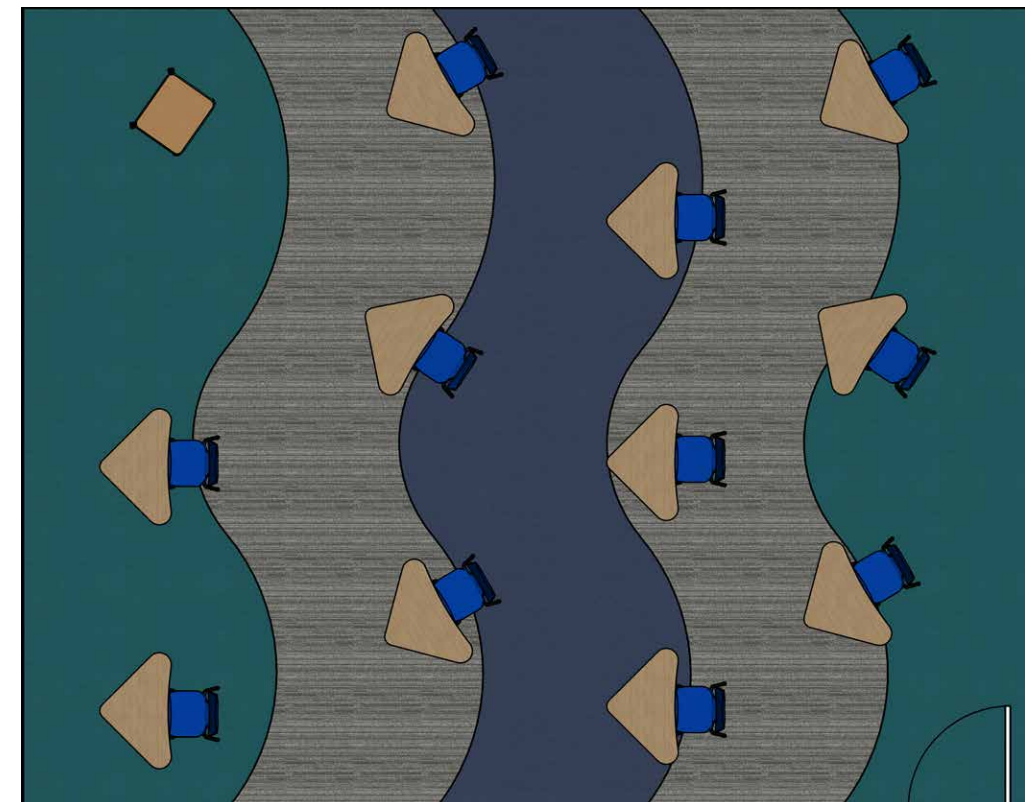


**Line**  
Pipe  
MODULAR

## A. LINEAR CLASSROOM



## B. WAVES CLASSROOM

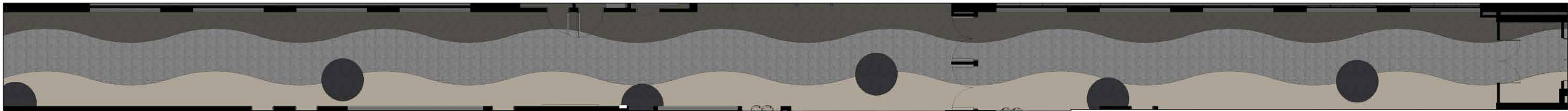


# corridors

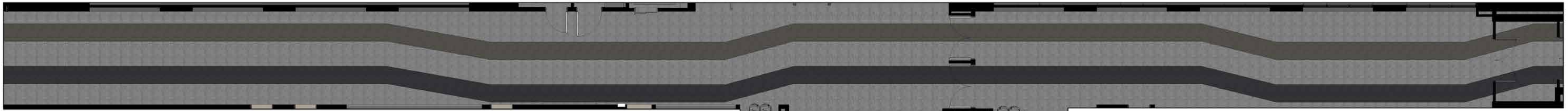


# corridors

Walking in a single-file line has never been so important. Convert your corridor spaces into healthy pathways by choosing brightly-colored flooring with straight lines, arrows, and other elongated patterns to encourage unidirectional walking and safe boundaries.



**A. WAVES CORRIDOR**  
A 6' central wave divides the corridor to encourage distancing.



**B. LINEAR CORRIDOR**  
"Lanes" are created 6' apart for directional cues.



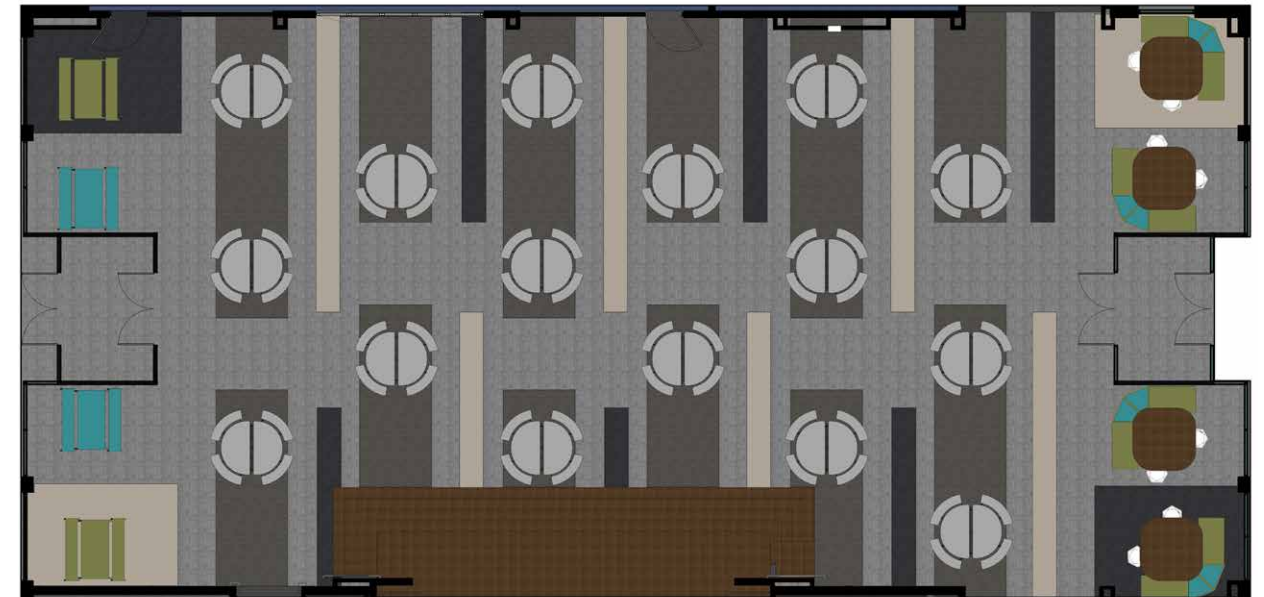
# cafeterias and multi-use spaces



# cafeterias and multi-use spaces

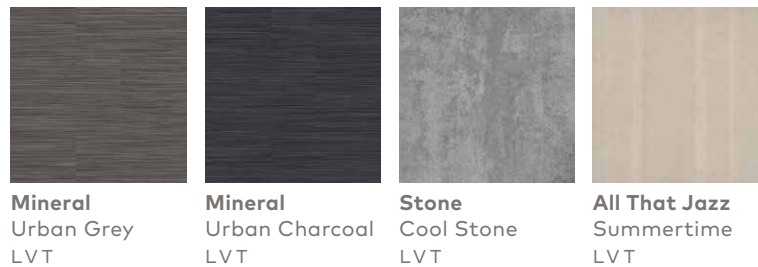
In this new world of learning, cafeterias may be transformed from a destination for close-knit crowds and food consumption to a place of isolated, small-group learning and instruction. Consider flooring with bold, geometric patterns to allow for strategic furniture placement that encourages social distancing and circulation.

A. LINEAR CAFETERIA/ MULTI-USE SPACE



A. LINEAR CAFETERIA/ MULTI-USE SPACE

6' colorful stripes provide visual dividers.

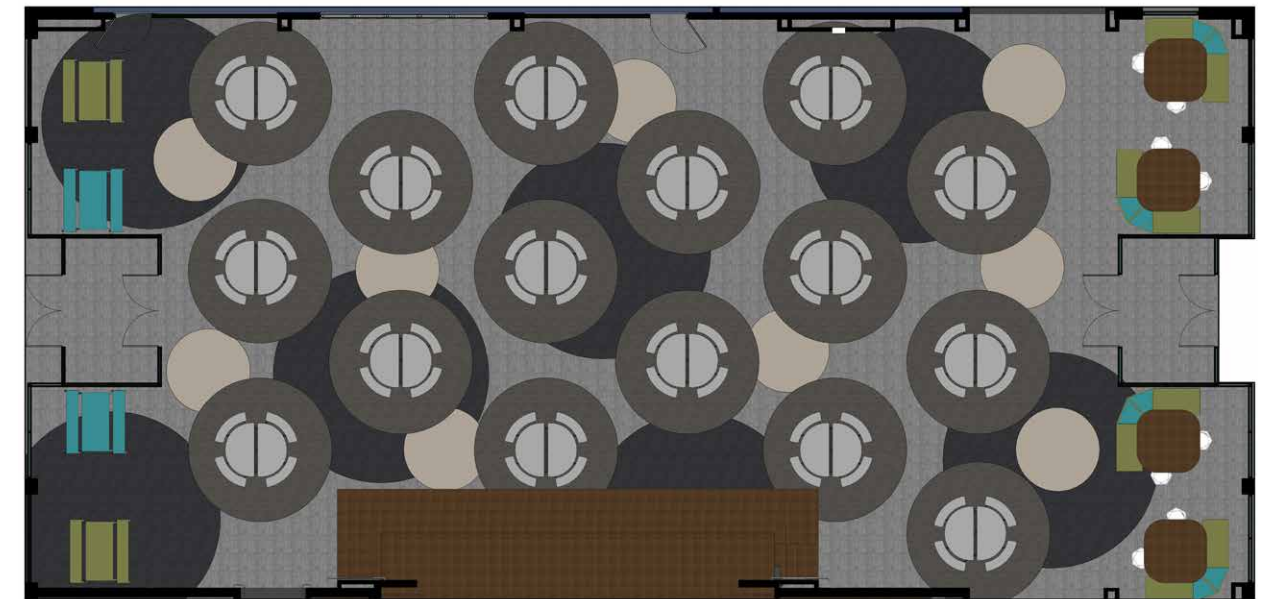


B. DOTS CAFETERIA/ MULTI-USE SPACE

2' circles surround tables to encourage proper distancing.



B. DOTS CAFETERIA/ MULTI-USE SPACE



# media centers

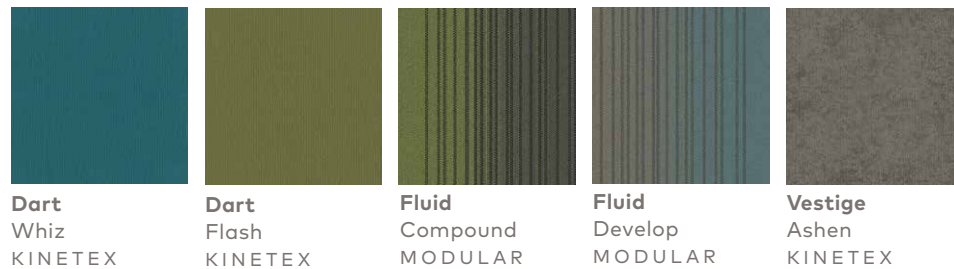


# media centers

Media centers are typically known as quiet spaces. But with reduced class sizes and increased virtual learning, they may become mini production studios where teachers create digital content for students learning from home. Flooring that absorbs acoustics will be important for sound quality. Additionally, the right flooring choice will help delineate workspaces for social distancing as the need for more instructional space arises.

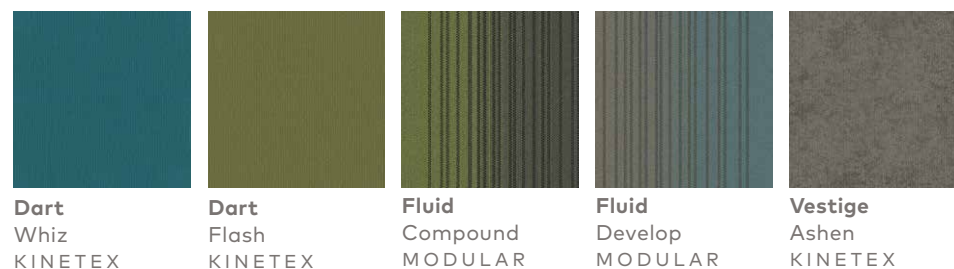
## A. LINEAR MEDIA CENTER

Color, format, and pattern designate 6' zones.

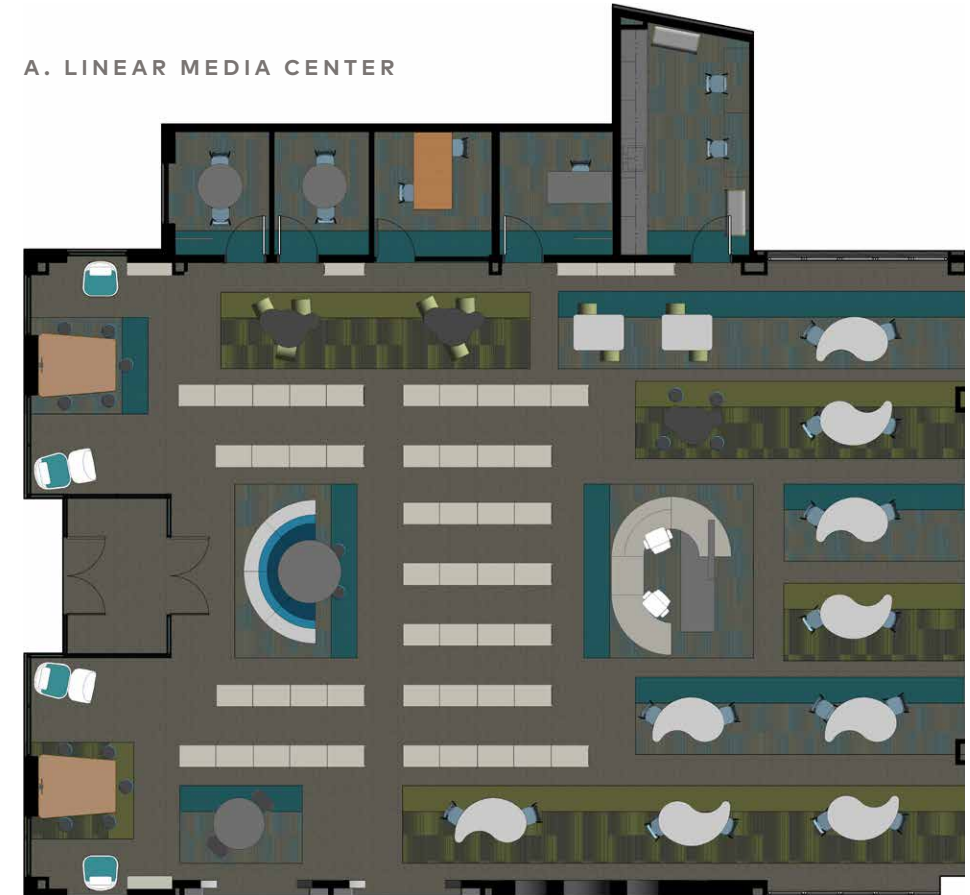


## B. DOTS MEDIA CENTER

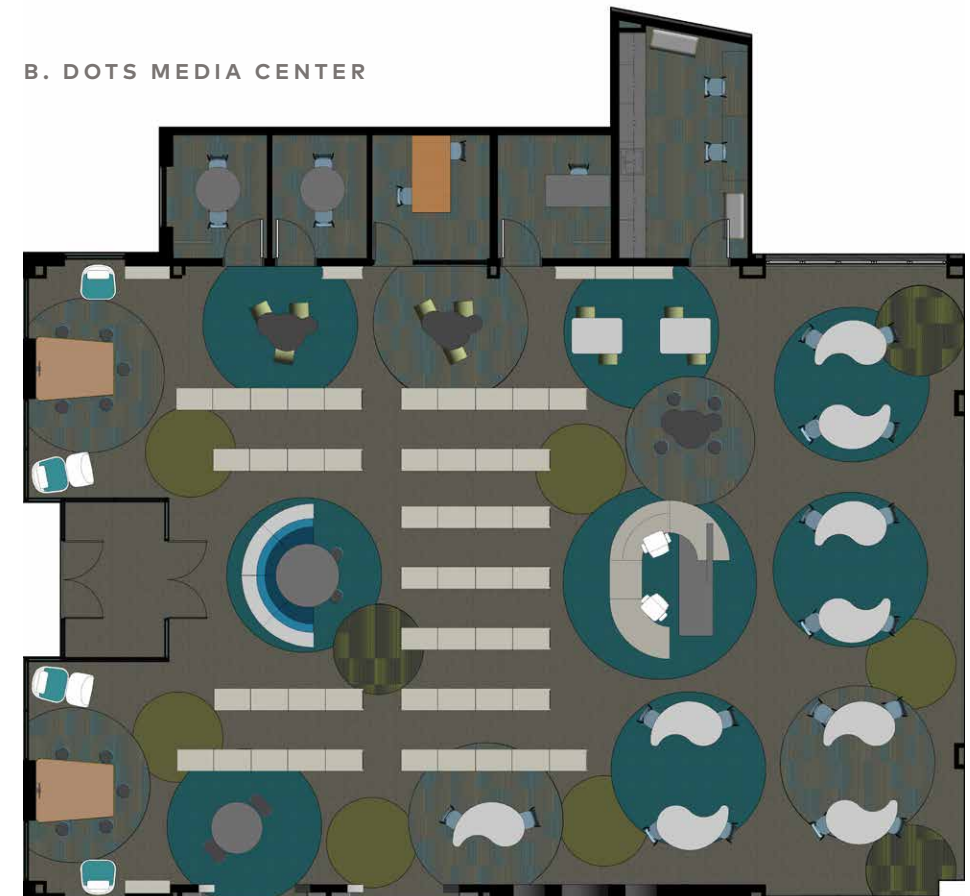
Pattern divides room by 6' waves.



## A. LINEAR MEDIA CENTER



## B. DOTS MEDIA CENTER





# entryway systems







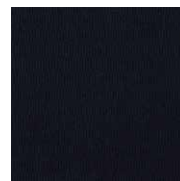

# entryway systems

With many schools limiting the number of entrances into buildings to control traffic and ensure proper safety procedures, rethinking the way you utilize entryway systems will be important in reducing contaminants that enter your facilities.

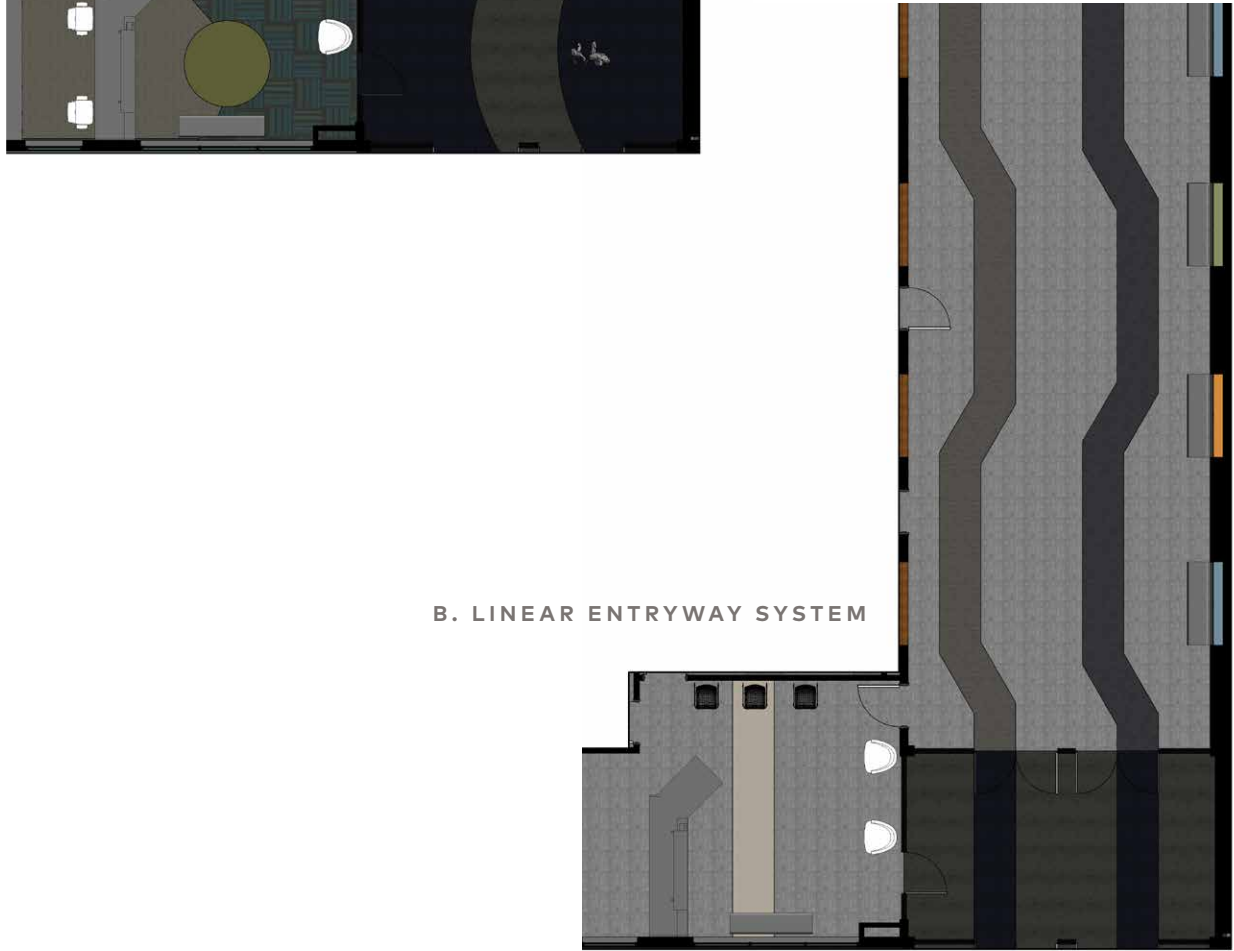
**A. WAVES ENTRYWAY SYSTEM**  
Color, format, and pattern designate 6' zones.

						
<b>Dart</b> Whiz KINETEX	<b>Dart</b> Flash KINETEX	<b>Spree</b> Fling KINETEX	<b>Spree</b> Lark KINETEX	<b>Vestige</b> Ashen KINETEX	<b>Access</b> Thoroughfare WALK-OFF TILE	<b>Access</b> Ingress WALK-OFF TILE

**B. LINEAR ENTRYWAY SYSTEM**  
Pattern divides room by 6' waves.

					
<b>Mineral</b> Urban Grey LVT	<b>Mineral</b> Urban Charcoal LVT	<b>Stone</b> Cool Stone LVT	<b>All That Jazz</b> Summertime LVT	<b>Access</b> Thoroughfare WALK-OFF TILE	<b>Access</b> Ingress WALK-OFF TILE

A. WAVES ENTRYWAY SYSTEM

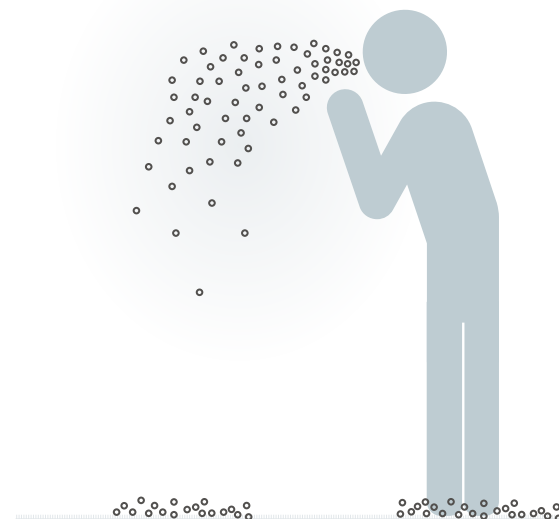


B. LINEAR ENTRYWAY SYSTEM

# minimize airborne transmission

While unique flooring combinations and layouts can encourage social distancing and circulation, managing airborne transmission through thoughtful product selection can also play a major role in return to school strategies. We will cover here how contaminants enter schools and which product types sequester pathogens and are sanitized easier.

When students and staff enter school, they bring with them potentially harmful pathogens. Coughing and sneezing releases them, which then settle onto the floor, only to be tracked into the building by crowds of students walking, shuffling and running with excitement. Entryway systems can play a key role in preventing these contaminants from entering schools, depending on the right flooring. Rather than a smooth, hard surface, choose a carpet or Kinetex that scrubs bacteria off of your students' and staff's shoes as soon as they cross your building's thresholds.



## entryway systems

### PATHOGENS NOT WELCOME

Entryway systems are designed to remove soil and contaminants from footwear and can remove up to 80% of them within the first 5-6 steps. To be effective they should begin outside of the building and extend 6-12 feet inside the structure.



### TO COMBAT CONTAMINANTS, CHOOSE FLOORING WISELY

The smoothness of hard surface flooring removes fewer contaminants, allowing them to be redistributed into the air, while textile surfaced flooring—such as carpet and Kinetex®—scrub contaminants off of footwear, isolating them until they can be removed by cleaning.

## flooring selection

CARPET/MODULAR CARPET/KINETEX®



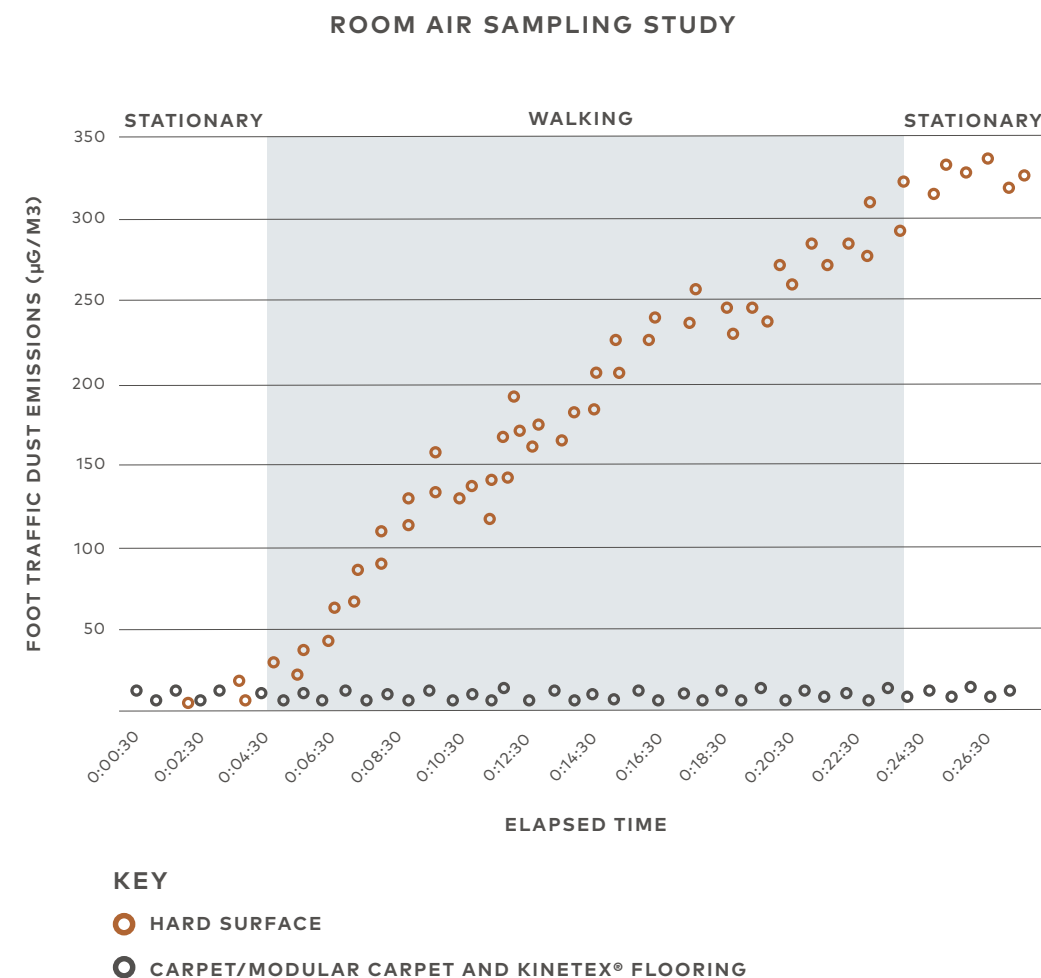
VS.

HARD SURFACE



# soft surface flooring reduces redistribution

Foot traffic redistributes contaminants into the breathing zone by foot traffic. However, soft surface flooring—such as modular carpet and Kinetex®—have been proven to prevent redistribution.

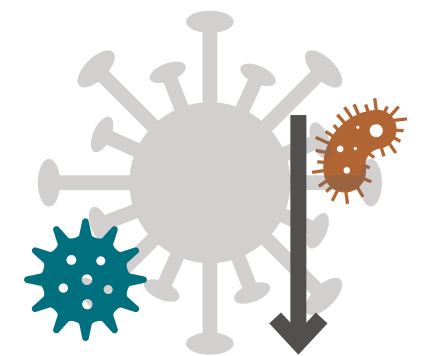


# infection prevention and sanitization

The CDC classifies flooring as a “minimal contact” surface, making it less likely to spread bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens. However, it’s important to understand best practices for cleaning and sanitizing flooring, and the differences between both. Cleaners simply remove dirt and other impurities, while sanitizers reduce bacteria, viruses, and fungi by at least 99.9%.

So, which flooring types are easier to sanitize and why? And what are the proper procedures to reduce the potentially harmful particles embedded within them?

**SANITIZERS**  
REDUCE BACTERIA, VIRUSES,  
AND FUNGI BY AT LEAST

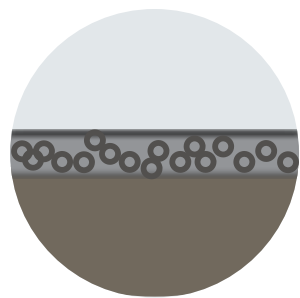


**99.9%**

# what flooring type is easiest to sanitize?

## SOFT SURFACE FLOORING IS EASIER TO SANITIZE

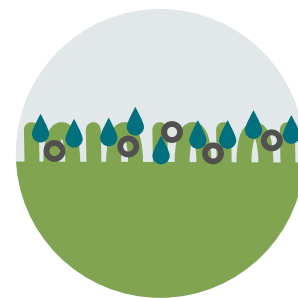
Carpet and Kinetex® have a longer drying time after cleaning, increasing the effectiveness of disinfectants, leaving fewer contaminated particles. Hard surfaces, however, have a shorter drying time that doesn't allow these contaminants to be killed while cleaning, sealing in dirt and particles with a contaminated biofilm.



### HARD SURFACES

Particulates form Biofilm. Shorter dry time does not allow as many pathogens to be killed in cleaning process.

VS.



### CARPET/MODULAR CARPET/KINETEX®

Fewer residual contaminated particles after cleaning. Longer drying time increases the effectiveness of disinfectants.

# how to sanitize carpet and kinetex

## IN THREE EASY STEPS

We recommend sanitizing carpet and Kinetex® with Vital Oxide sanitizer, which is an EPA- registered disinfectant. The EPA also recommends a 50/50 mix of 3% hydrogen peroxide and tap water, which is effective against COVID-19. Apply this solution to the flooring surface with a sprayer. Allow it to dry for 60 minutes to ensure effectiveness. Remember, both carpet and Kinetex® stay damp longer than this recommended time, giving it more than ample time to kill contaminants.



# how to sanitize lvt

## IN TWO EASY STEPS

When sanitizing our luxury vinyl products (LVT), use Vital Oxide or 3% Hydrogen Peroxide diluted 50/50 with water. Replace the sanitizer mix every 1,500 square feet.

1

Use an EPA-approved sanitizer like Vital Oxide or 3% Hydrogen Peroxide diluted 50/50 with water.

VITAL OXIDE

OR

3% HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

2

Use a mop to distribute sanitizing mix over the LVT surface.



# choose the right flooring for your school

## A CONSULTATIVE APPROACH

Choosing the right flooring depends on your needs. Are you looking for a floor that withstands heavy foot traffic or an option to reduce noise? Is your priority easy maintenance or stain resistance? Refer to the chart and descriptions below to help you decide which option is right for your school - carpet, Kinetex®, or LVT. And don't forget to consult your local EF Contract representative to assist in your product selections.

CATEGORY	MODULAR	BROADLOOM	KINETEX®	LVT
noise reduction	● ●	● ●	● ● ● ●	●
comfort underfoot	● ●	● ● ●	● ● ● ●	●
slip/fall safety	● ●	● ●	● ● ● ●	●
stain resistance	● ●	●	● ●	● ● ●
indoor air quality	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ● ●	● ●
ease of cleaning	● ● ●	● ●	● ● ● ●	● ● ●
modular furniture	● ● ●	●	● ● ● ●	● ● ●
displacement/indentation	● ●	●	● ●	● ●
surface durability	● ●	● ●	● ● ● ●	● ● ●
subfloor moisture	● ●	●	● ● ● ●	● ●

GOOD = ●    BETTER = ● ●    BEST = ● ● ●

