

## Subject: Computer Desks for Education

### Computer desks for education differ from those designed for home or office.

In the home, a computer desk might resemble a nice hutch, so it blends with the design scheme of the rest of the home furnishings. Ergonomics are usually secondary to the need to hide the computer when not in use. In the office, the computer desk is treated as an ergonomic cockpit. The design assumption is that the user will stay seated for many hours in a productive, engaged, state, and the physical stamina to do this is supported by idealized, relaxed body posture.

**Showroom / Studio**  
514-F Progress Drive  
Linthicum, MD 21090

**Video IP:**  
24.35.10.114

T 800 770 7042  
M 410 916 4378  
F 877 620 7411

[jkessell@smartdesks.com](mailto:jkessell@smartdesks.com)  
[sales@smartdesks.com](mailto:sales@smartdesks.com)  
[www.smartdesks.com](http://www.smartdesks.com)

### The computer classroom desk meets these criteria:

- **Multi-Use.** Computer Desks must support computer activity, then convert to support other teaching methods and activities that do not involve computers. [flipIT® Computer Desks](#) and [Laptop Desks](#) meet this point by rotating the screen or laptop to a position under the desktop. The [FP Series Computer Desk](#) does the by simply providing enough desktop space for the LCD and text materials to be used simultaneously or alternately. [The DT Series Computer Desk](#) might use a monitor arm to accomplish this, as well. The [MV Series Computer Desk](#) uses a glass window to view the LCD. (Caveat: overhead lighting and glass tops don't work together well—too much glare).
- **Short periods of use.** Class time might be an hour or less. Storage considerations are for temporary organization. Computer seating should be durable, but without the multiple ergonomic adjustments needed for office use.
- **Ergonomics averaged.** The space requirements of the average human are considered. The outliers are accommodated by seating adjustment, usually. ADA Computer Desks are the exception, enabling those with physical challenges to be accommodated with desktop height adjustment. Usually, tables (tops with adjustable height legs) are used instead of desks (tops with solid sides).
- **Limited footprint.** Each user space must be the smallest possible, so each student is accommodated for workable function for a short period of time. Enough space should be granted for use with computers and text materials, with limited space for temporary storage of personal items brought to class.
- **Wire and cable management.** SMARTdesks® designs all computer desks with integrated wire management ways. Large grommets conduct wiring from desk to desk from side to side. Large J channel serves power and data to the CPUs or laptops. Power outlets and surge suppressors are installed on the modesty panels. CPUs are suspended off the floor for easy cleaning, protecting equipment from brooms, mops and sweepers.
- **Changing arrangement.** Computer desks and tables can have locking casters for mobility. Modular wiring is an option if frequent disconnects are anticipated. FFIT Computer Floors allow power and data outlets to be changed simply by moving the outlets to their desired locations and burying the cable back into the floor.



- **Collaboration.** There is a paradigm shift from the instructor being “sage on the stage” to the “guide on the side.” Collaboration groups, usually in twos and threes, get together and discover what they need to gain insight and understanding, leading to consensus to achieve a shared goal. Collaboration Computer Furniture is designed to support human interaction, reinforcing body language cues for positive communication flow. [SMARTdesks Collab™](#) and [Pi®](#) and [Exchange™ Collaboration Furniture](#) were specifically designed for this purpose.

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If you search for “Computer Desks” on Google, you will see a combination of home and office solutions, since this is the most general market for people looking for computer desks for their personal use. For computer desks that meet the design criteria for education, search on “computer classroom desks” and you’ll see us and our competitors right at the top. SMARTdesks® has distinguished itself over the years by offering innovation, responsiveness to the needs of educators, and long lasting value. SMARTdesks products are made in the USA using Certified [Green Manufacturing Methods](#). We always stay on top of the needs of education, and we are thankful that we continue to make our products without compromise in performance. Our value is evident after many years of heavy volume, institutional use.

**One more Green thought: [Newtops](#)**

Our Newtops program is a green concept that allows you to keep what is working about your computer desks and upgrade with a responsible, lower impact on the environment. Keep your computer desk bases or table legs, and SMARTdesks can manufacture replacement tops that feature the options you need for multi-use, newer technology, laptops and mobile devices. Get the full story online: search for “[newtops computer classroom](#)” or just click this link: <http://www.smartdesks.com/newtops-replacement-desk-tops.asp> and get the questionnaire that gets this process going. A great way to extend your facilities upgrade budget without filling up dumpsters.

Sincerely yours,

John Kessell  
 VP Marketing / Creative Director



[www.smartdesks.com](http://www.smartdesks.com)



[sales@smartdesks.com](mailto:sales@smartdesks.com)



[jkessell@smartdesks.com](mailto:jkessell@smartdesks.com)



1-800-770-7042

(scan these codes with your smart phone)