DEL VALLE
EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL & P-TECH

DEL VALLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT | DEL VALLE, TEXAS

2025 James D. MacConnell Award

Educating for Impact: Building P-TECH Programs with Real-World Tech and Manufacturing Connections

SCOPE OF WORK & BUDGET

The Del Valle ISD Early College High School and P-Tech Building is a newly constructed, two-story career and technology education facility designed to provide students with access to advanced, real-world learning experiences. The building includes a mix of traditional classrooms, flexible collaboration areas, and specialized lab spaces that support career pathways in high-demand industries such as manufacturing, robotics, and cybersecurity.

Purpose-built to align with both collegiate and workforce standards, the facility supports a rigorous, future-ready curriculum that blends academic instruction with hands-on technical training. The building's organization encourages interdisciplinary collaboration and adaptability, allowing the educational environment to evolve alongside emerging career fields and student interests. The school provides students with a professional, engaging setting to explore their passions and prepare for success in college and career.

Project Details

Project Name: Del Valle Early College High School & P-Tech

Location: 4715 Ross Road, Del Valley, Texas 78617

District Name: Del Valle Independent School District

Principal: Ms. Jenice Wright

Occupancy Date: August 2024

Grades Housed: 9-12

Capacity: 500 Students

Gross Area: 49,855 SF

Square Feet per Student: 100 SF/ Student

Project Type: New Construction

Building Construction Cost: $26,458,168

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bold and Future-Focused

The Del Valle ISD Early College High School and P-Tech Building represents a bold and future-focused investment in student opportunity, workforce readiness, and educational equity. Conceived as a cornerstone of the district's broader mission to close opportunity gaps and elevate academic outcomes, the facility was designed to provide students with real-world learning environments that foster collaboration, technological fluency, and career clarity.

Dynamic and Engaging Educational Setting

The project's core goals included creating a dynamic, engaging educational setting where students are empowered to take ownership of their learning. From the beginning, district and campus leaders emphasized the importance of a facility that supports a rigorous, college- and career-focused curriculum while offering the flexibility to evolve alongside future educational needs. These goals translated into a design that prioritizes adaptable learning spaces, integrated modern technology, and visible connections between programs, students, and the broader community.

Career Exploration

Collaboration was central to both the planning process and the learning experience envisioned for the building. Stakeholders from district leadership, faculty, students, and industry partners contributed to a shared vision for a facility that would bridge high school, higher education, and the workforce. The resulting building supports career exploration and provides clear, navigable pathways to college and industry credentials—equipping students with the tools, experiences, and confidence they need to succeed beyond graduation.

A Hub of Opportunity

The building's openness, flexible spatial organization, and strong integration with the existing high school campus reinforce its role as a vibrant hub of opportunity. It welcomes learners from all backgrounds and affirms the district's commitment to access, inclusion, and future-ready education.

In every way, the Del Valle ISD Early College High School and P-Tech Building stands as a model for how thoughtful design and community-centered planning can transform educational experiences and outcomes.

> **"This is the building of our future, and it prepares students for specific careers that are aligned with the needs of our community. It is designed to be a flexible and future-ready space, allowing learning for future career paths that we may not even know about yet,"**
>
> -DVISD Acting Superintendent Jonathan Harris

PROJECT GOALS

Real-World Learning Environments
The design replicates professional workspaces—whether it's advanced manufacturing labs, digital media studios, and cyber security labs—giving students hands-on experience that mirrors industry standards. This creates a more immersive and relevant educational experience.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration Spaces
We've included flexible, open collaboration zones where students from different career pathways can interact—encouraging cross-disciplinary problem solving and mirroring the integrated nature of modern work environments.

Modern Technology Integration
The building is equipped with current-generation tools, software, and infrastructure that support industry certifications and workforce readiness. This includes high-speed data access, specialized equipment, and modular power and safety systems tailored to specific trades.

Student Engagement and Ownership
By providing spaces that are vibrant, well-lit, and thoughtfully designed, the building fosters pride and professionalism. Students are more likely to engage in their work when they feel they're in a professional and respectful environment.

Career Exploration and Pathway Clarity
The layout supports exposure to multiple career tracks. Visual connections between labs, open glass corridors, and pathway signage help students understand their options and find a path that fits their interests and skills.

Community and Industry Connections
Dedicated areas for partnerships—such as industry-sponsored labs, guest speaker zones, and community training spaces—build bridges between school and local employers, giving students opportunities for internships, apprenticeships, and mentorship.

Support for Travel and Logistics
Recognizing that students often travel from their home campus, the design includes dedicated drop-off points, safe and efficient circulation, and spaces where traveling students can securely store materials or work between sessions.

Equity and Access
The building accommodates diverse learners by ensuring ADA compliance, quiet zones, language-accessible signage, and a range of learning modalities—visual, auditory, and kinesthetic—within lab and classroom spaces.

THE DEL VALLE COMMUNITY

About ECHS

Del Valle ISD partners with Austin Community College, Tesla, and Infineon to provide Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) young scholars with an educational opportunity to earn their high school diploma, Level 1 Certificate, and an Associate Degree in Applied Science simultaneously, while still in high school. With a Level 1 Certificate, students can join the workforce immediately after graduating from high school, or they have the option to attend a four-year college or university to continue a degree towards their program of study.

The opportunities for students are endless with Del Valle Pathways in Technology Early College High! The P-TECH offers two programs of study, Advanced Manufacturing and Cybersecurity. This unique high school experience focuses on work-based learning experiences and interactions with industry professionals. Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) students can participate in extracurricular activities during their freshman and sophomore years. However, the college course load increases during the junior and senior years, requiring careful consideration and planning to continue participating in both.

Del Valle Independent School District (DVISD): Mission and Vision

DVISD serves a broad area in southeast Travis County, encompassing communities such as Austin, Garfield, Creedmoor, Mustang Ridge, Elroy, Pilot Knob, Webberville, and Hornsby Bend. The district is committed to fostering an inclusive and forward-thinking educational environment.

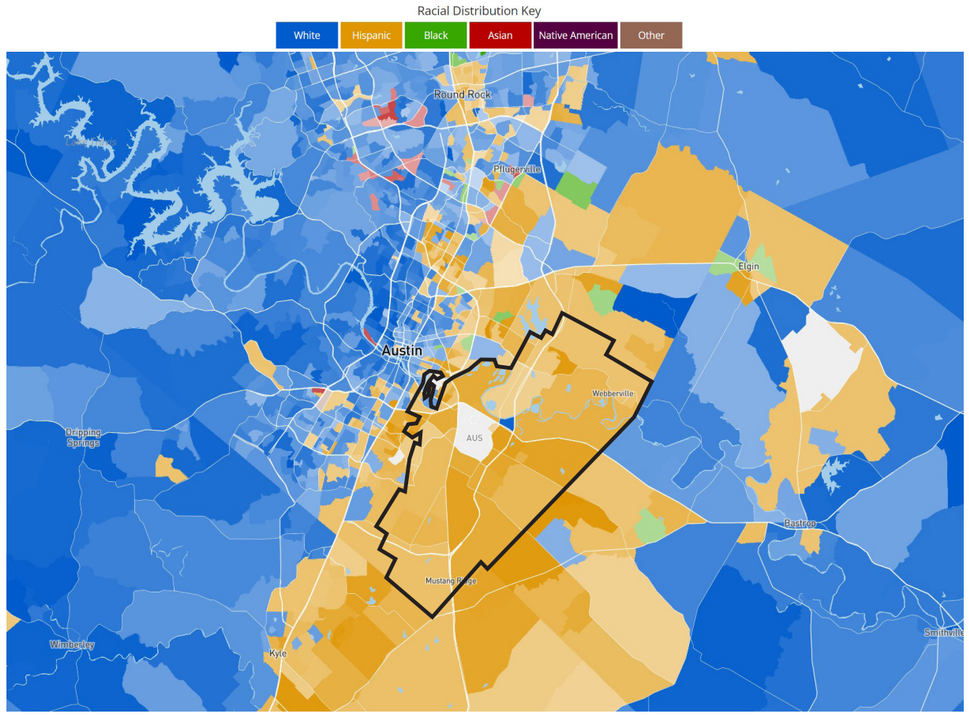
Vision: To empower our students to be critical thinkers and innovative world-class visionaries.

Mission: To create a bi-literate, culturally responsive enhanced academic foundation by providing a future-ready education with real-world opportunities.

These guiding principles underscore DVISD's dedication to equipping students with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in a global society.

DEL VALLE EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

"At this beautiful facility with wonderful staff, the students will be able to earn dual credits, and some students will also engage in work-based learning. The fact that they will be able to learn about manufacturing, and engineering, computer science and specialize in cybersecurity and advanced manufacturing, totally ready for jobs. How many graduates worry to death and spend sleepless nights worrying about where they will get a job? These students will be ready."
-Texas State Senator



Del Valle is an unincorporated community situated in southeastern Travis County, Texas, within the Greater Austin metropolitan area.

District officials hope the building will provide students in the early college path and in technical career tracks with a more suitable space and necessary equipment needed to prepare for in-demand jobs.

The median household income stands at around

$54,940

83.4%

of residents identify as Hispanic in the community

The median age is

28.5

years

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Del Valle, Texas

Historically rooted in agriculture, the area has transformed into a dynamic hub, notably housing the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport and the Circuit of The Americas. These developments have spurred economic growth and increased connectivity.

The community is predominantly Hispanic, with approximately 83.4% of residents identifying as such, followed by Black (8.9%) and White (4.6%) populations. The median household income stands at around $54,940, and the median age is 28.5 years, reflecting a youthful and diverse population. Del Valle's strategic location and evolving infrastructure make it a focal point for educational and economic initiatives.

Challenges Facing the Del Valle Community and Its Students

Despite its proximity to Austin's growing economy, Del Valle faces several systemic challenges that directly impact its students and families. Many residents contend with limited access to essential services such as healthcare, reliable public transportation, and affordable housing.

A significant portion of the student population qualifies for free or reduced lunch, highlighting the economic hardships many families experience. Language barriers, with a high number of English Language Learners, and a lower-than-average adult educational attainment level, further compound these difficulties. In addition, Del Valle's unincorporated status means the area lacks the same level of municipal investment and infrastructure development seen in neighboring cities. These realities can create obstacles to academic success, college preparedness, and career readiness.

The district's response—through initiatives like the Early College High School and P-Tech programs—demonstrates a proactive effort to close opportunity gaps and empower students with real-world skills and pathways to higher education.

VISIONING

Stakeholder Engagement in the Design Process

The success of the Del Valle ISD Early College High School and P-Tech Building was rooted in a deeply collaborative design process that prioritized the voices of those it would ultimately serve. From the earliest planning phases, the design team engaged a broad range of stakeholders including Del Valle ISD district leadership, campus administrators, faculty representatives, and key industry partners. These collaborative sessions provided invaluable insight into the academic, operational, and social needs of the campus and its students.

District and campus leaders emphasized the importance of creating a facility that could support a rigorous college- and career-focused curriculum while maintaining the flexibility to adapt to future educational demands. Industry partners shared real-world expectations and trends, ensuring that the design incorporated authentic learning environments that reflect professional and technical workspaces students will encounter beyond high school. Stakeholder input directly influenced the building's spatial organization, technological integration, and program adaptability.

The result is a future-ready educational facility that not only meets current academic goals but is also nimble enough to evolve with the community's needs. By aligning design strategies with stakeholder insights, the project delivers a dynamic learning environment that bridges the gap between secondary education and real-world application.

"By building facilities like this, we don't just tell our community that their children deserve the best; we show them that they deserve the best. This building will support students' dreams to enter careers now and in the future. This space truly represents the innovative education that DVISD strives to provide all students."

-DVISD Board of Trustees President

2025 James D. MacConnell Submission
Del Valle Early College High School & P-TECH

VISIONING

Visioning Process and Community Impact

The visioning process for the Del Valle ISD Early College High School and P-Tech Building was both aspirational and deeply grounded in the unique identity of the Del Valle community. At its core, the process sought to create a facility that would empower students—many of whom come from historically underserved backgrounds—with access to meaningful educational opportunities, career pathways, and a sense of belonging.

Through a series of visioning workshops, planning meetings, and listening sessions, the design team engaged a broad and diverse group of stakeholders. Participants included district leadership, teachers, students, families, and community members, as well as business and industry partners. This inclusive engagement process ensured that a wide range of perspectives—cultural, socioeconomic, professional, and educational—were represented in shaping the building's purpose and design.

A guiding priority of the visioning effort was the promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion. This meant designing a space that is welcoming, accessible, and culturally responsive. Flexible learning environments were conceived to support varied learning styles, language needs, and academic programs. The architecture intentionally breaks down barriers—both physical and symbolic—to create a sense of openness, transparency, and opportunity for all students. Dedicated spaces for collaboration, mentorship, and hands-on learning help ensure that every student sees a path forward, regardless of their background.

The value of this project to the community extends well beyond its physical footprint. It represents a long-term investment in the future of Del Valle—an anchor of opportunity that strengthens the educational ecosystem and fosters local talent. By aligning academic programming with regional workforce needs, the facility also serves as a bridge between the classroom and the broader economic landscape, enhancing the community's capacity for growth and resilience.

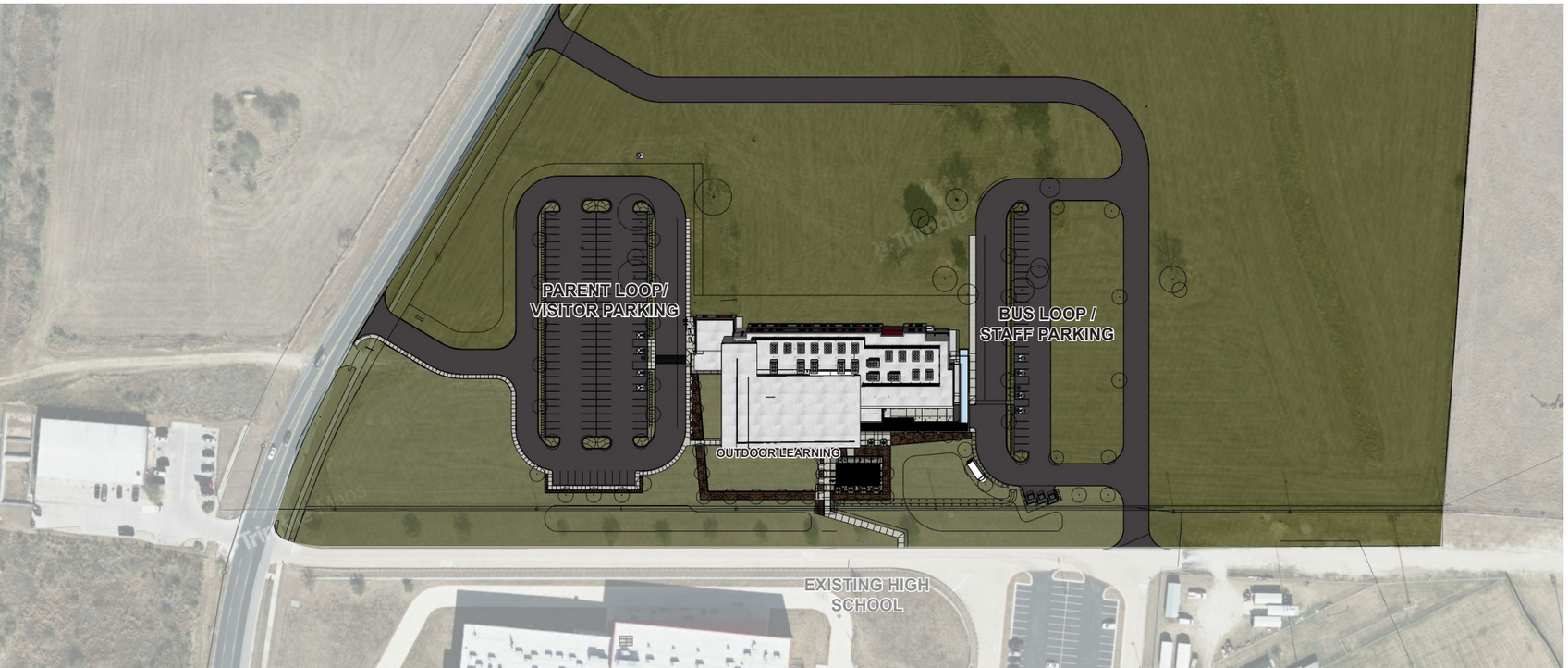
In uniting diverse voices through a collaborative, equity-centered design process, the project delivers not only a state-of-the-art educational facility but a symbol of hope and progress for generations to come.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Site and Context

The siting of the Del Valle ISD Early College High School and P-Tech Building was a strategic and thoughtful component of the overall design process. Located adjacent to the existing Del Valle High School, the new facility is positioned to extend and enhance the educational ecosystem already in place. Rather than standing apart as a separate entity, the building is seamlessly woven into the fabric of the campus, both physically and programmatically.

A key consideration in the site planning was the integration of student circulation between the existing high school and the new facility. Pathways were designed to create a natural, intuitive flow, allowing students to transition easily between buildings as they move through their daily schedules. This intentional connectivity supports a cohesive academic experience, particularly for students participating in dual-enrollment programs, career and technical education courses, and early college pathways.



Site and Community Connection

At the interface between the two campuses, a secure yet welcoming entry gate marks the transition point. This gateway not only provides a controlled access point to ensure student safety but also serves as a symbolic threshold—inviting high school students into a space that represents opportunity, advancement, and the next step in their educational journey. It reflects the inclusive spirit of the campus and reinforces the district's vision of access and equity in advanced learning.

This relationship between the new building and the existing high school campus strengthens the sense of unity across the site, fostering a shared identity while giving students access to specialized environments that support their academic and career goals.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Outdoor Learning and Landscape Integration

A key feature of the design is the direct connection between the central innovation lab and the outdoors, enabling students to move fluidly between interior and exterior learning settings. This spill-out space is used for large-scale projects, hands-on demonstrations, and dynamic lessons that benefit from fresh air and open space. It also creates a welcoming platform for industry partners to bring equipment, products, and real-world experiences directly to students—bridging the gap between school and the professional world.

The landscape itself reflects a commitment to environmental responsibility and long-term sustainability. The plant palette is composed of native and drought-tolerant species, chosen to thrive in the Central Texas climate while minimizing the need for irrigation and reducing ongoing maintenance. These low-water landscapes align with the district's sustainability goals and help to conserve resources while maintaining an attractive, educationally supportive setting.

A generous area of artificial turf provides a durable, all-weather surface for student gatherings, community events, outdoor classes, and career expos. This space can be programmed for a variety of uses, supporting both formal instruction and informal community building. By designing the site to accommodate events and partnerships, the campus reinforces its identity as a place of connection, opportunity, and public value.

ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN

PLAN KEY

1. ARTIFICIAL TURF LAWN, HEAT RESISTANT BY SYNLAWN (APPROX. AREA: 6,600 SQ. FT.)

2. EARTHEN BERM AND NATIVE PRARIE PLANTING (APPROX. 8,000 SQ. FT. OF PLANTING AREA)

3. CODE MIN. PLANTING (I.E. SHRUB HEDGES ETC.) (APPROX. 4,000 SQ. FT. OF PLANTING AREA)

4. COMPACTED GRAVEL PATHS (DECOMPOSED GRANITE 1/4" IN SIZE; APPROX. AREA: 4,200 SQ. FT.)

5. SAND BLAST FINISHED CONCRETE, TYPICAL (APPROX. AREA: 5,200 SQ. FT.)

6. CONCRETE SIDEWALK, TYPICAL (APPROX. AREA: 12,000 SQ. FT.)

7. CONCRETE BAND AS TURF BORDER, TYPICAL (APPROX. LENGTH: 130' LIN. FT.)

8. PICNIC TABLE SEATING AREA, TYP. (16 TOTAL)

9. CAST-IN-PLACE CONCRETE, LOW GARDEN WALL

10. LIMESTONE BUTTER BLOCKS, ~30"x60" W/ COMPACTED SUB-BASE

11. LARGE SHADE TREES, 100 GALLON

12. MEDIUM ORNAMENTAL TREES, 65 GALLON

13. STEEL EDGE BORDER, 3/16" THICKNESS

14. HYRO-MULCH SEED, BERMUDA (APPROX. 75,000 SQ. FT. OF AREA TO SEED)

15. EXISTING TREES TO REMAIN

16. SIGNAGE, 2'W x 6'L x 4'H

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Floor Plan and Learning Environment

The layout of the Del Valle ISD Early College High School and P-Tech Building is intentionally designed to support a fluid, student-centered educational experience rooted in collaboration, discovery, and real-world learning. Organized around a central spine of circulation, the layout encourages the continuous flow of learning between classrooms, labs, collaborative zones, and maker spaces.

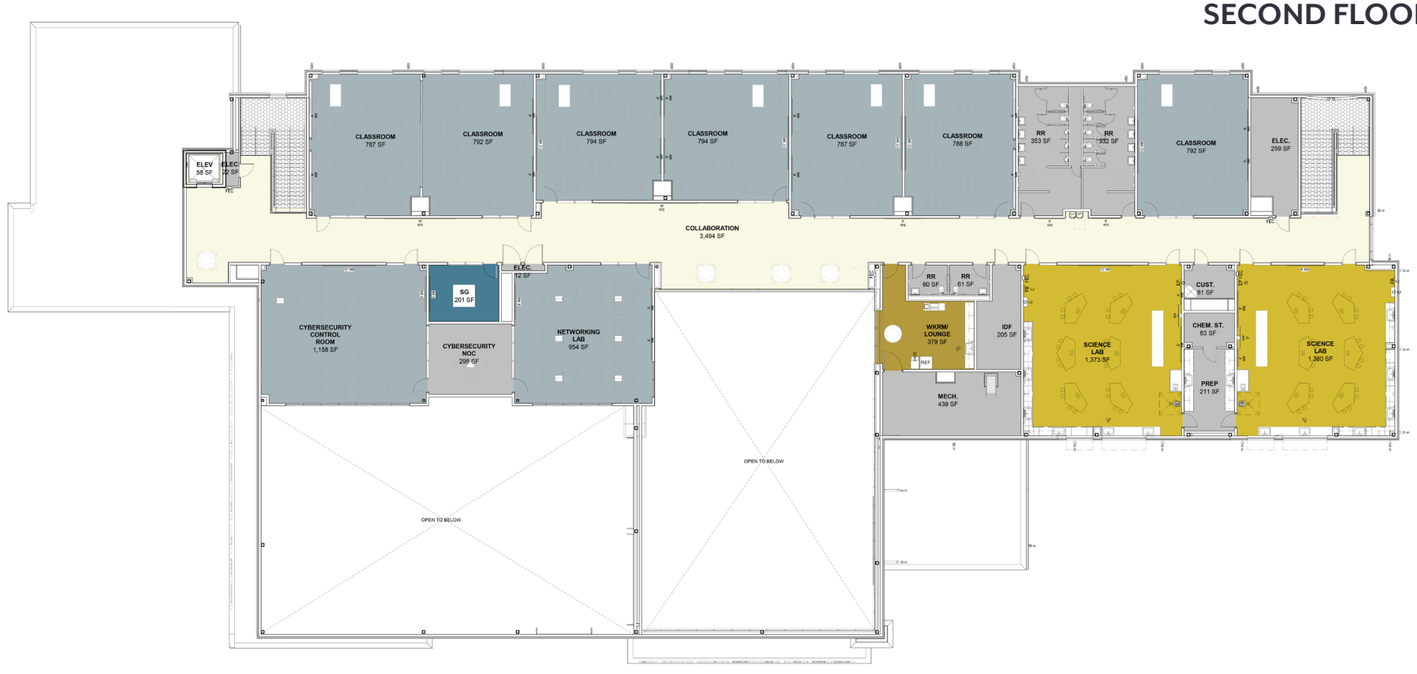
Extended learning areas line the primary corridors and are furnished with flexible seating, writable surfaces, and vibrant, student-friendly finishes. These spaces act as natural extensions of the classroom, providing opportunities for informal collaboration, breakout sessions, and peer-to-peer engagement. Full-height glass and interior transparency allow students and staff to maintain strong visual connections across programs, celebrating the activity and creativity taking place throughout the building.

Specialized instructional spaces—such as labs for robotics, manufacturing, health science, and cybersecurity—are strategically placed to encourage interdisciplinary learning and project-based work. These spaces are flanked by flexible classrooms and collaboration nodes that allow for both focused instruction and real-time, hands-on application.

The overall layout supports the curriculum by breaking down traditional academic silos and fostering an environment where learning is active, interconnected, and visible. The result is a highly engaging and adaptable setting that empowers students to explore, create, and take ownership of their educational journey.

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Inspiration, Innovation, and Impact

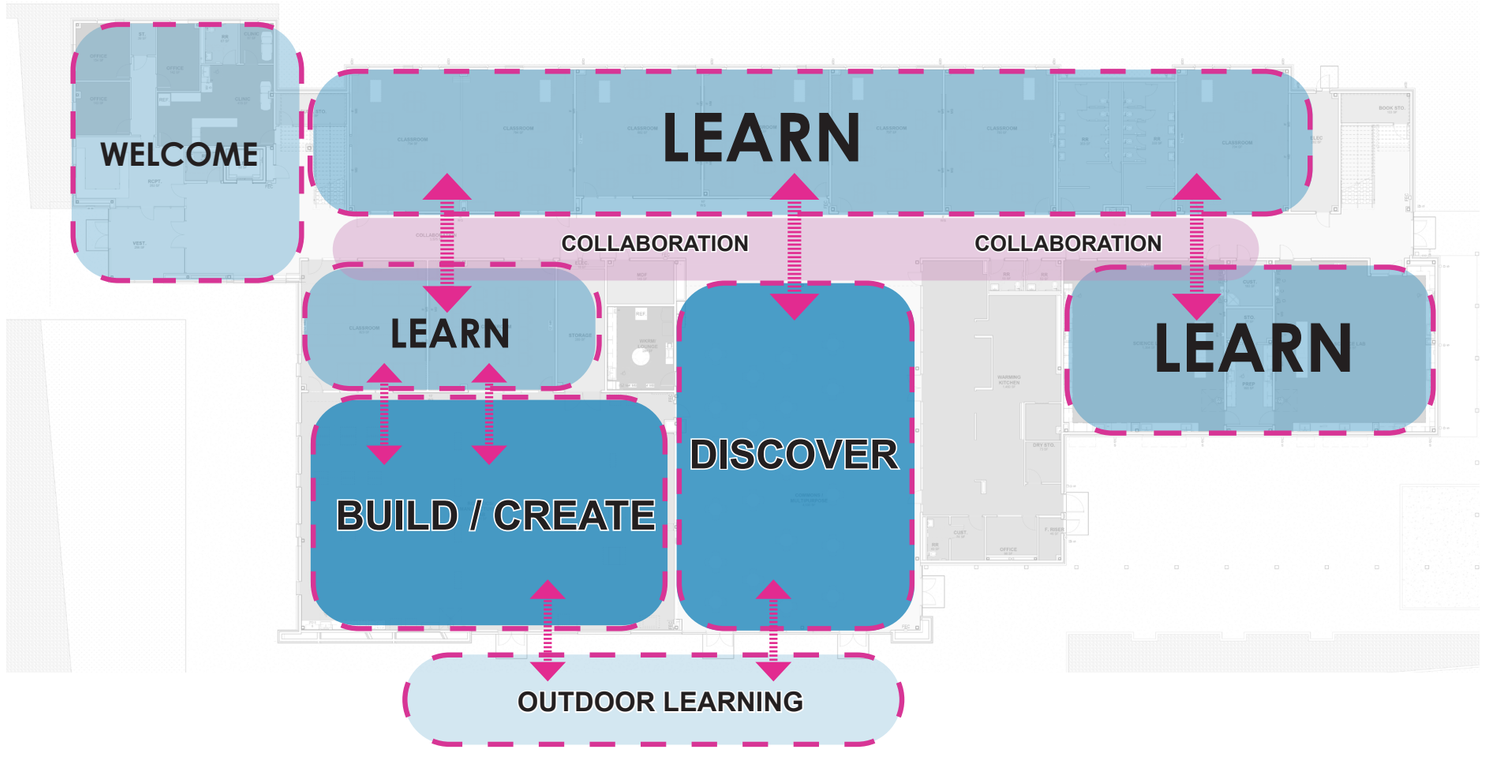
The Del Valle ISD Early College High School and P-Tech Building is more than a place of learning—it is a catalyst for inspiration, empowerment, and transformation. Every aspect of the building's design is rooted in the belief that a thoughtfully crafted physical environment can ignite curiosity, elevate student voice, and foster a culture of belonging and ambition.

Innovative Learning Environment

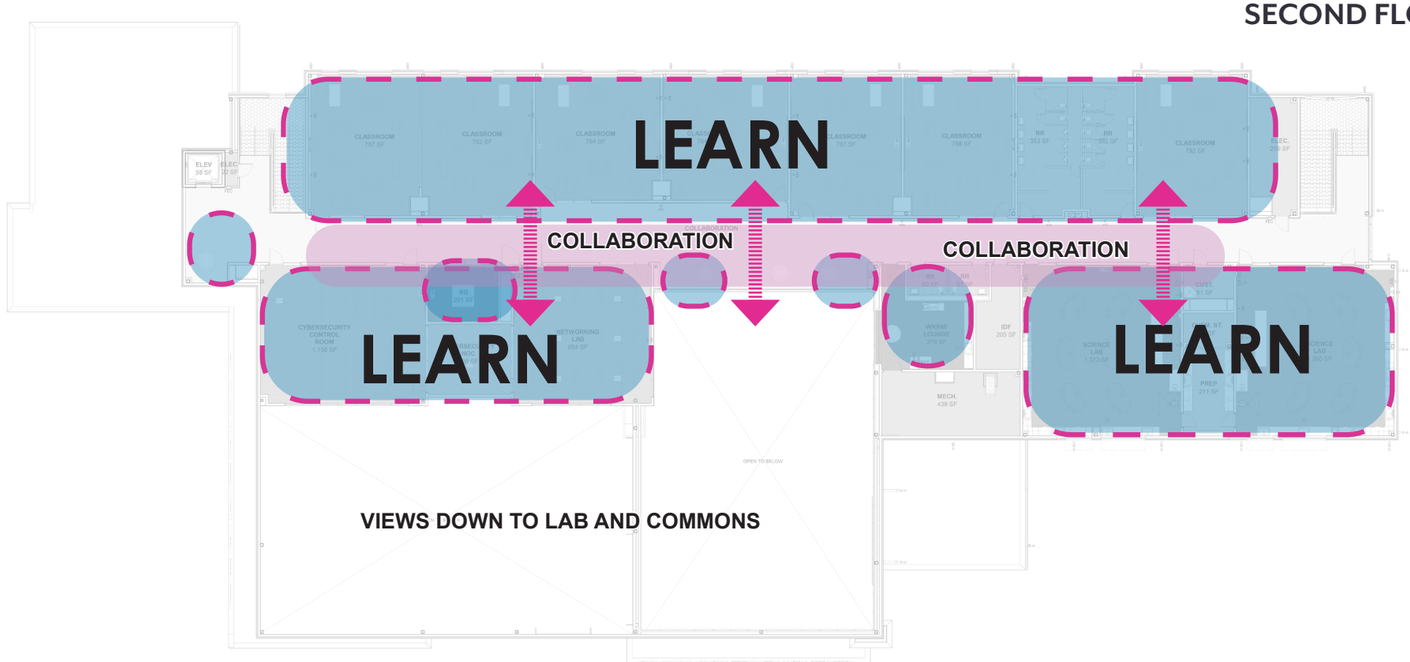
At the heart of the building's design is a commitment to reimagining how students learn. Flexible, transparent learning zones blur the lines between classrooms, labs, and collaboration spaces—allowing students to see, hear, and feel the energy of learning happening all around them. Innovation hubs, maker spaces, and technology-rich labs provide real-world relevance, aligning student experiences with career and college readiness. This future-forward environment gives students a sense of purpose and ownership, inspiring them to take charge of their learning journeys.

2025 James D. MacConnell Submission
Del Valle Early College High School & P-TECH

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



IMPACT

A Real-World Learning Environment That Motivates

From the moment students walk through the doors, they're immersed in a space that mirrors the energy of modern workplaces and collegiate environments. Open collaboration zones, high-tech labs, and glass-walled classrooms create a sense of transparency, movement, and purpose. The physical environment motivates students to engage deeply, collaborate freely, and pursue their goals with confidence.

Equity and Inclusion by Design

The building is a model of inclusive and equitable design. Spaces are flexible and adaptable to serve a wide range of learning needs and instructional styles. Visibility across programs breaks down silos and fosters a culture of shared ownership. Every student—regardless of background or ability—is supported and empowered to participate fully in their education.

Sustainable and Wellness-Centered

Natural daylight reaches all occupied spaces, promoting mental clarity and a positive atmosphere. Outdoor learning zones extend the classroom into the landscape, providing opportunities for movement, reflection, and connection with nature. The use of sustainable materials and efficient systems reduces the building's environmental footprint, aligning with broader district goals for stewardship and long-term resilience.

The Del Valle ISD Early College High School and P-Tech Building is a space designed to inspire students and uplift a community. More than a school, it is a statement of equity, a platform for innovation, and a daily reminder of what is possible when design puts learners first.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

A Building That Inspires Futures

This is more than just a school—it is a daily reminder to every student that they belong in spaces built for innovation, purpose, and progress. The design sends a powerful message: you are worthy of a future filled with opportunity. From its open, light-filled interiors to its cutting-edge labs and adaptable learning zones, the building elevates the educational experience to match the ambitions and potential of its students.

Every design choice was intentional—from the visibility between classrooms to the integration of industry-grade tools and spaces. These choices make learning feel relevant, empowering students to see themselves not only as learners, but as creators, collaborators, and future professionals. The school is not just preparing students for jobs; it's helping them imagine what's possible and giving them the tools to build it.

This building inspires because it reflects the future students aspire to. It fosters self-confidence, encourages ownership, and cultivates a mindset of possibility. For many students, walking into this space is the first time they see a learning environment that feels designed for them—not just academically, but personally. That experience is transformative.

The building is a beacon for the community, signaling a commitment to excellence, equity, and empowerment. It doesn't just support futures—it inspires them into motion.

This facility doesn't just house learning—it inspires it. It shows students they belong in spaces designed for innovation and ambition. It demonstrates that their futures matter. Through every design move, the building tells students: you are seen, you are capable, and your potential is limitless.

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

A Learning Environment That Supports the Vision

The design of the building reflects and enhances this educational mission. The layout is organized to support a variety of instructional models—from direct instruction to project-based learning, interdisciplinary exploration, small-group collaboration, and individual research. Classrooms are not isolated spaces but part of a network of interconnected zones that include extended learning areas, glass-walled breakout rooms, flexible labs, and open collaboration spaces.

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Adaptability and Flexibility

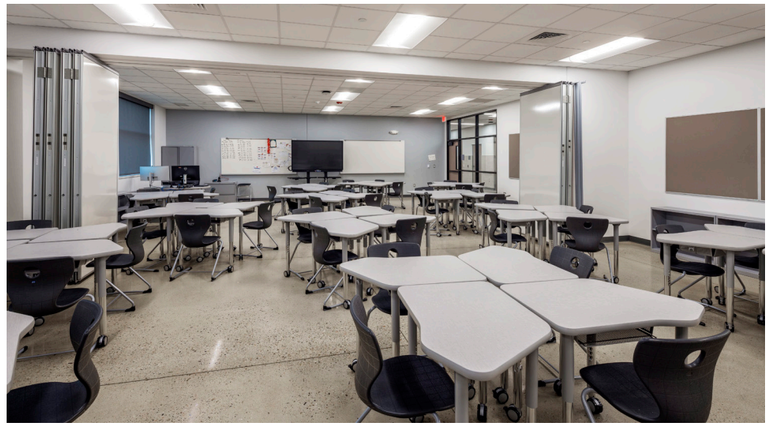
One of the defining characteristics of the educational environment is its adaptability. Operable walls, modular furniture, and open collaboration zones allow spaces to be reconfigured throughout the day to suit different instructional needs. As educational programs evolve or new industry pathways emerge, the building is designed to accommodate those changes with minimal disruption. This future-ready mindset ensures that the facility can remain relevant and effective for years to come.

2025 James D. MacConnell Submission
Del Valle Early College High School & P-TECH

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Supporting Diverse Teaching and Learning Styles

The variety of space types and configurations supports multiple learning modalities and pedagogical approaches. Students can engage in hands-on technical work in maker labs, discuss concepts in small breakout groups, work independently in quiet study zones, or present projects in large multi-purpose spaces. Teachers are empowered to move beyond traditional lectures and into facilitative, interactive, and personalized instruction.



2025 James D. MacConnell Submission
Del Valle Early College High School & P-TECH

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Innovative Features That Enhance Learning

Transparency throughout the building fosters a culture of visibility, accountability, and inspiration. Learning is on display, and students are constantly exposed to the work of their peers across disciplines. Integrated technology infrastructure supports high-speed connectivity, real-time collaboration, and access to digital tools aligned with industry standards. Outdoor learning spaces extend the curriculum into the natural environment, creating opportunities for movement, wellness, and informal learning experiences.

Together, the physical and instructional environments are tightly aligned to deliver on the school's bold educational vision: to provide equitable, engaging, and forward-thinking opportunities that prepare all students for success beyond high school.

2025 James D. MacConnell Submission
Del Valle Early College High School & P-TECH

RESULTS

Advancing District Priorities

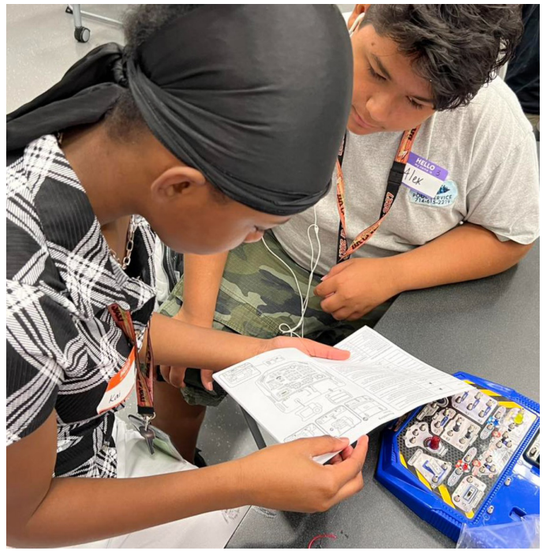
The project fulfills key district objectives around equity, access, and post-secondary readiness. The facility was designed to reduce opportunity gaps by ensuring all students—regardless of background—can access high-quality career and technical education in a setting that is both inclusive and inspiring. With its future-ready infrastructure and flexible programming capacity, the building provides a long-term solution that can evolve with emerging educational demands and workforce trends.

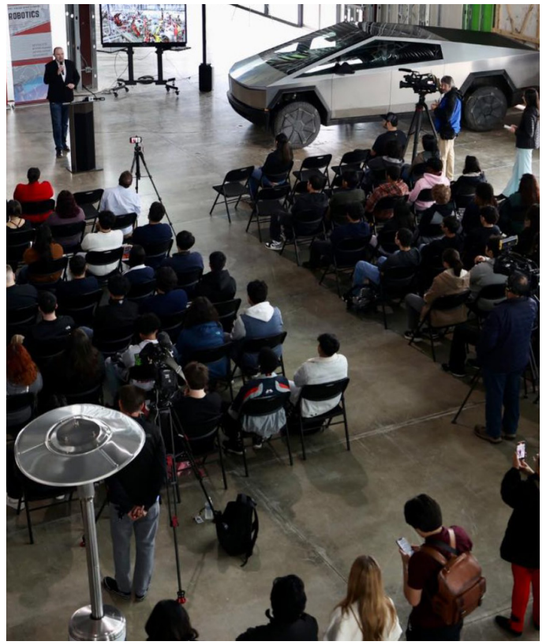
Fulfilling Community Aspirations

For the broader Del Valle community, this facility symbolizes progress, pride, and investment in the next generation. The project was developed through meaningful engagement with local leaders, educators, and industry partners—resulting in a school that reflects the needs, culture, and aspirations of the community it serves. It provides students with a direct pathway to local workforce opportunities while strengthening the community's economic resilience and educational capital.

Achieving Educational Goals

The building fully supports the district's commitment to preparing students for college, careers, and lifelong success. Its adaptable, interdisciplinary learning environments promote collaboration, innovation, and student agency—key pillars of the Early College High School and P-Tech curriculum. Students now have access to advanced technical labs, flexible classrooms, and real-world workspaces that mirror modern industry settings. These physical tools allow students to engage more deeply with their coursework, explore career pathways with clarity, and develop the problem-solving and critical thinking skills necessary for the future.





RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Connect Education to Opportunity

Fulfilling Community Aspirations

The Early College High School and P-Tech Building represents a transformative investment in the Del Valle community—an investment not only in a physical space, but in the **futures of its students and the prosperity of the region**. From the outset, the project was shaped through intentional collaboration with district leadership, educators, families, and industry partners to reflect the values, needs, and aspirations of the community it serves.

At its core, the building is designed to **connect education to opportunity**. Through specialized programs in cybersecurity, technology, advanced manufacturing, and more, students can now engage in focused career pathways that lead to **industry-recognized certifications and dual-credit college courses**—setting them up for success beyond high school. Flexible lab spaces and collaborative classrooms support hands-on, project-based learning that aligns directly with real-world workplace practices.

The school's **partnerships with local industries, businesses, and higher education institutions** are embedded into the daily student experience. From career shadowing and mentorship to internship placements and guest instruction, these professional connections provide students with authentic exposure to the careers they are studying. As a result, students graduate not only with academic knowledge, but with **practical experience, professional networks, and clarity about their future.**

This strong bridge between school and workforce also supports the **economic development goals of the community.** By preparing students with the skills needed in high-demand regional industries, the school creates a pipeline of local talent while encouraging graduates to stay, contribute to, and thrive within their own community.

Ultimately, the building fulfills the aspirations of the Del Valle community by **providing access, relevance, and hope**—empowering students to move confidently toward meaningful futures while strengthening the fabric of the region itself.

Stewardship and Lasting Value

Fulfilling Community Aspirations

Beyond its physical resilience, the true value of the building lies in how it supports Del Valle ISD's educational mission and community goals. The facility serves as a hub for workforce development, equity, and innovation—creating tangible pathways for students to transition from high school to higher education or high-demand careers. By partnering with local industries, businesses, and post-secondary institutions, the school offers students early exposure to the world of work through career shadowing, internships, dual-enrollment programs, and mentorships.

These partnerships are not incidental—they are built into the identity of the school. The facility was intentionally designed to foster real-world learning, where students can earn industry certifications, build portfolios, and engage directly with professionals in fields such as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and engineering. These experiences not only make education more relevant, but they connect students to real opportunities that can change the trajectory of their lives.

By aligning the building's purpose with the district's core values—equity, opportunity, relevance, and access—Del Valle ISD demonstrates strong stewardship of public resources while also investing in its greatest asset: its students. The result is a facility that performs at every level—functionally, fiscally, and socially—and one that will continue to serve the district and community well into the future.

2025 James D. MacConnell Submission
Del Valle Early College High School & P-TECH