



SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITY (AGES 3 TO 22) |
NEW CONSTRUCTION | ENTIRE BUILDING
A.E.R.O. Therapeutic Center
 Burbank, IL

A.E.R.O. Therapeutic Center is designed for students with special needs and for the teachers who help them thrive. The new campus provides a safe, nurturing environment with connections to daylight and nature for students with cognitive/physical disabilities and behavior/emotional diversities. The 150,000-square-foot facility, one of the largest of its kind in the Midwest, serves 11 member school districts.

The design responds to the challenges these students face and encourages them to become active members of the classroom. Six separate building entrances facilitate efficient movement of a large and neurodiverse student population. The building surrounds two internal courtyards, each designed to support the therapeutic needs of students in an enclosed outdoor environment.

A variety of features are intended to reduce stressful transitions. Examples include human-scaled canopies, rounded corners to follow along, strategically placed lighting, and a calming color palette. Spaces such as in-classroom quiet areas, sensory rooms, and stair pockets allow students to safely separate from their peers.

The classrooms, at nearly twice the size of previous A.E.R.O. classrooms, not only offer much more instructional space but also provide more room for the specialized equipment needed by many of the students.



Legat Architects

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DESIGN TEAM

Rob Wroble, AIA (Legat Architects), Project Manager/Principal
 IHC Construction, Construction Manager
 IMEG, MEP/FP Engineer
 GRAEF, Structural Engineer

OWNER/CLIENT

A.E.R.O. Special Education Cooperative
 Burbank, IL
 Dr. Bill Roseland, Executive Director

KEY STATS

Population Served: Students with disabilities (ages 3 to 22)
 Capacity of Students/Occupants: 550
 Size of Site: 13 acres
 Gross Area of Bldg./Space: 150,000 gsf
 Space per Student: 273 sq. ft.
 Cost per Student: \$99,272
 Square Foot Cost: \$364
 Project Cost: \$54,600,000
 Occupation Date: 9/5/2023
 PHOTOGRAPHY: AJ BROWN IMAGING