TXST LSRS FY25 Update

Summary

A total of 66 ‘changes’ occurred in classrooms during FY24/25 at Texas State University. **The changes resulted in LSRS scores increasing, on average, by 1.55 points (in those spaces)**. The vast majority of these changes came in the form of classroom technology upgrades done by Learning Spaces. Technology upgrades resulted in a relatively small increase in LSRS scores (avg. +1.6 points). These points came from the addition of video conferencing technologies in the form of room integrated cameras and microphones. Room renovations yielded a +1 point increase (average) in LSRS score, while renovation + technology upgrades yielded, on average, a +1.8 point increase in score.

Outlook

Technology upgrades will continue to yield small gains in terms of a space’s LSRS score, as additional points – beyond video conferencing - will require significant investments in technology infrastructure (e.g., increased screens, access to power, active acoustic quality systems) rather than smaller, individual device additions or system integrations (which largely are already done).

In their current form, renovations also will not result in any significant changes in score as they largely do not target systemic weaknesses in university classrooms in terms of environmental and layout factors. While they may help with lighting (increased control) and furniture flexibility (casters on chairs, nestable/stackable) in some cases, other factors such as increasing net ASF per student, increasing movement through spaces, biophilia, etc. are not addressed. **This will likely persist as long as there is not increased strategic planning at an institutional level regarding classrooms and learning spaces.**

FY24/25 Details

During the second half of FY24 and FY25, a total of 50 classroom technology upgrades, 7 room renovations, and 5 classroom technology + room renovation upgrades were done by the Learning Spaces and Facilities teams. Additionally, one classroom received a custom classroom technology system and one new IT Supported classroom was ‘created’.

Classroom technology upgrades

In FY24, upgrades focused on moving Gen1 classrooms to Gen4 with video conferencing (VC) capabilities. FY25 focused more on moving Gen3 classrooms to Gen4 with VC capabilities; those Gen3 systems were then used to upgrade Gen1 classrooms at the Round Rock campus to Gen3. A small number of Gen1 and Gen2 rooms were also upgraded to Gen4 with VC.

Overall, classroom technology upgrades, regardless of the system generation, yielded relatively small benefits in terms of increasing the LSRS score – average of +1.6 points. Adding VC capabilities generally yielded a +2 point increase as it allowed for a 'room integrated' system that can do video conferencing and increased ability for session capture. System upgrades generally do not improve the LSRS score as the 'core' functions that the LSRS measures are already included in older system generations.

Room renovations

Room renovations yielded mixed results in regard to LSRS scores. Room renovations typically included the replacement of desks and chairs with a standard version. In some cases flooring was replaced with a standard flooring. Walls are usually painted a standard color (off white) as well. In some cases, lighting is also replaced with dimmable lights.

On average, rooms that received a renovation saw a +1 point increase in their LSRS score. The range of score increases was from 0 points to +2 points. Rooms that saw increases in their score were usually due to increased flexibility in furniture (casters on chairs/tables) and sometimes lighting. If that already existed on prior furniture, rooms did not see an increase in score after the room was renovated. This is largely due to the fact that room renovations do not attempt to address current room weaknesses in LSRS scoring such as increased space to move, environmental factors, increasing work surface area, etc.

Technology + renovations

Rooms that received both a technology upgrade and room renovation saw more mixed results. Overall, those five spaces saw an increase in their LSRS score of +1.8 points. However, these spaces also saw the largest spread from –1 point to +4 points.

The space (JOW A209) that had its score drop 1 point was an interesting case. It had VC added to it, which increased its score by +2 points, but the renovation saw it lose points as it was stripped of its 'character', lost its passive acoustic quality control (carpeting), and the removal of mobile whiteboards. Conversely, ED 2128 saw the largest increase of any space with +4 points gained. This space gained points for increased flexibility in the furniture as well as the addition of VC technology.