

### Customer

Forest Hills Eastern High School and Middle School offer 21st century technology in secondary education, promoting a collaborative, technology-enriched environment reflective of the work world. Student learning and achievement are the school's top priorities. Located in suburban Grand Rapids, Michigan, the 293,000 square-foot facility on 110 acres opened in 2004. The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement awarded accreditation to the new high school in 2005.



### Location

Ada, Michigan

### Number of people served

2006/2007 Total Enrollment, 897; Faculty/Administrators, 64; Counselors, 3; Support Staff, 23

### Architect/Designer Contact Information

Susan Conklin  
URS Corp.  
616-574-8359

### The need

Teaching today's students about the importance of environmental preservation for tomorrow's generations began literally in the blueprint of Forest Hills Eastern High School. The forward-thinking school board and administrative team worked with URS Corp. to design and construct a brand-new campus to comply with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards set by the U. S. Green Building Council. Next came the selection of brand-new furniture for a brand-new building - not only in the classroom, but also for the principal, school administrators, student counselors and support staff. A team of administrators and faculty evaluated five different companies and carefully conducted a cost comparative analysis of three finalists based on quality, functionality and cost. The final candidate also had to support the school's LEED principles as an A+ environmental choice.

### izzy's Solution:

Who made the grade? The ABCs of the *New Workstyles* puts izzy at the top of the class - with high marks for professional, flexible and functional office furniture. Cool, affordable Clara work tables, personal storage units, archival filing cabinets and multi-functional Rylee meeting tables from izzydesign set the appropriate professional tone in this collaborative, technology-enriched institution. To support Forest Hills Eastern High School's green initiative - as one of only 11 U.S. high schools to earn LEED certification - izzydesign's powder coated steel furniture products, including the archival cabinets at the high school, have earned GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certification. As a Michigan-based manufacturer, izzydesign furniture is also locally sourced, another point in favor of the school's environmentally friendly spirit. We are proud to help equip this high-tech environment to inspire the leaders of tomorrow. Go Hawks go!

### Linda LaBerteaux - Principal, Forest Hills Eastern High School

We're a public institution so it's important to spend dollars wisely. izzy furniture is the right blend of business philosophy for our students. When they see our furniture, they know it's not your typical school. It's a clean-cut design that conveys the message of business professionalism. If you took a photo of my office, you would not know it's in a school. That supports our approach to a 21st century education. We also appreciate the mobility and quality of izzy's furniture, as well the variety of pieces that co-mingle in so many settings. This was a key factor for us. I've changed this office around at least three times and it always looks new. People remark, "I really like that. Does anyone want to trade?" Our work and conversation areas are constantly changing combinations of office, administrative and executive office styles. Since the storage cabinet backs are finished, they even serve as walls to create separate spaces, like in the conference room. That flexibility is very important in meeting the overall philosophical

design and intent of Eastern High School and Middle School."

**Susan Conklin** - Senior Interior Designer, URS Corp.

Each step of the selection process involved a series of committees because the administrative and academic leaders of Forest Hills Eastern are very hands-on and wanted to be involved in every part of it. One of the reasons izzydesign was selected is because Forest Hills Eastern has a very progressive view of education. They really push the envelope, and that fits izzy to a T. We wanted offices to look and feel different in the administrative and principal's offices, to create a mobile, versatile, business-like environment. Everyone is very happy with izzy's products."