



Designing for the Journey



COURSE TITLE:

Designing for the Journey: Reducing Environmental Friction to Create Accessible Learning Environments (AIA-ABC11426)



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Student success is shaped not only by classrooms, but by every space students encounter throughout the school day. This course explores how learning environments—from arrival areas and corridors to classrooms and transitional spaces—influence student regulation, accessibility, and readiness to learn. Drawing on research in neuroscience, environmental psychology, and universal design, participants will examine how sensory input, movement, wayfinding, and spatial predictability affect diverse learners. Through a student-centered journey framework and real-world case studies, attendees will identify barriers and opportunities that impact independence, safety, and engagement. Participants will leave with practical, evidence-based strategies to design learning environments that reduce environmental friction, improve accessibility, and support student success.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. **Explain** how sensory input, spatial predictability, and environmental conditions influence student regulation, navigation, and readiness to learn across the school day.
2. **Evaluate** school environments using a student-centered framework to identify sensory, cognitive, and physical barriers that impact neurodiverse and physically diverse learners.
3. **Analyze** how circulation, transitions, wayfinding, and spatial sequencing affect accessibility, independence, and safe navigation within learning environments.
4. **Apply** evidence-based design strategies to reduce environmental friction and support movement, belonging, and engagement.

COURSE CREDIT:

» 1.0 CEU/HSW/Barrier Free

This course addresses barrier-free design by examining how the built environment can reduce environmental friction: the unnecessary physical, sensory, and cognitive effort required to safely navigate and participate within educational environments.

CEU TYPE:

» Project Planning and Design

