

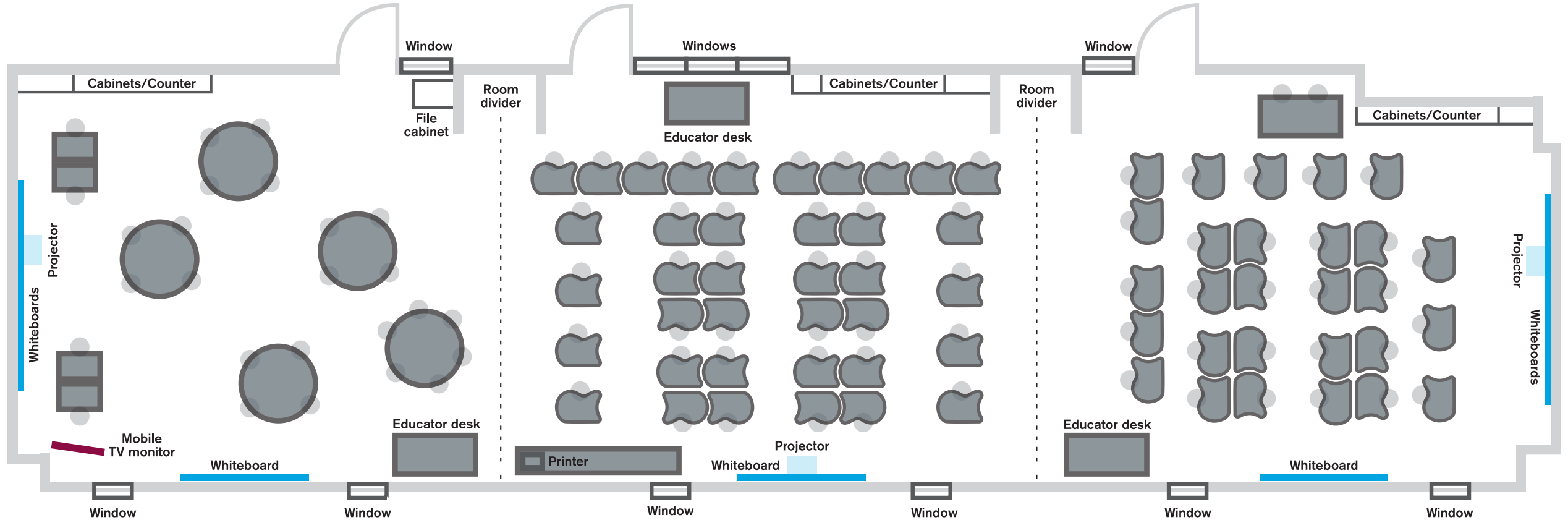
Learning space layout: Westwood High School's Academy Teams

Approximately 900 ninth grade students at Westwood High School in Mesa, Arizona are distributed across six Academy Teams. Each core team comprises at least four educators: a lead teacher and three certified teachers. Depending on students' needs, special educators, English Language Learner educators, MLFTC residents and paraeducators may also be included on the team. **Here is how one of the six teams designed their learning space.**



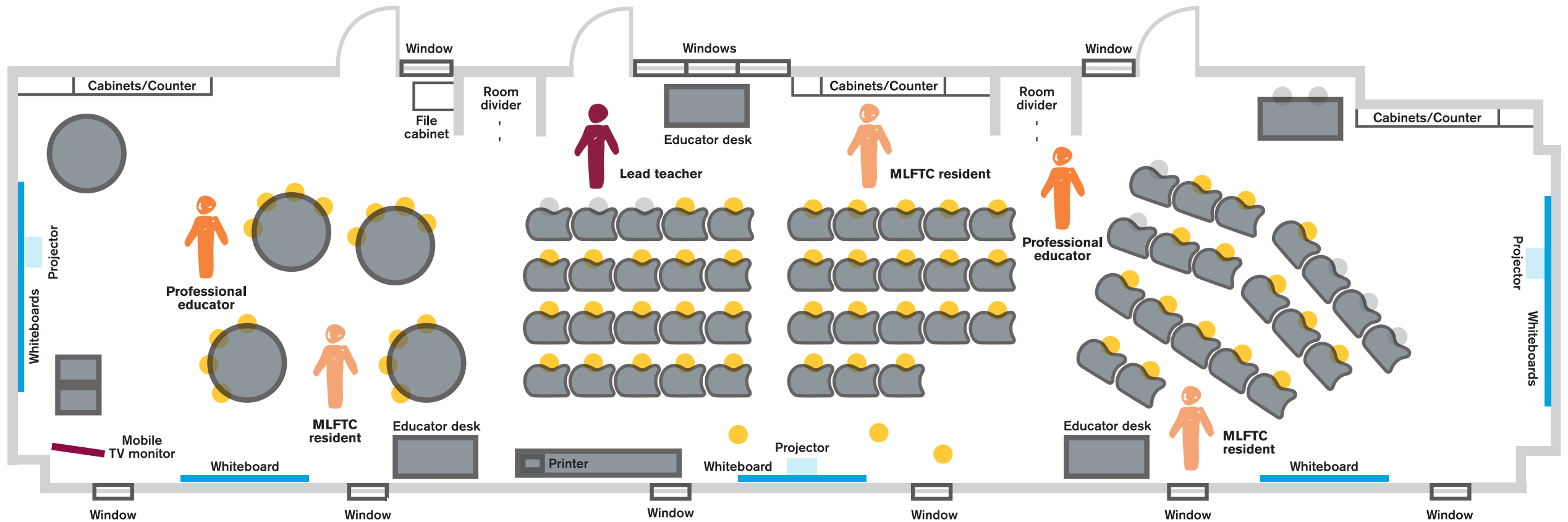
The learning space at a glance

This learning space serves a team of six educators and as many as 90 students at a time. The three adjoining classrooms are separated by collapsible room dividers, a feature that supports the team in thinking more flexibly about their space and schedule. For example, it isn't uncommon for two or three classrooms to merge together for an extended period of time so that educators can co-teach interdisciplinary lessons.



Configuring the learning space for different purposes: Large-group presentations

For large-group presentations, educators typically collapse the three room dividers and reconfigure all seating to face the presenters. Pictured here, three students present to their peers and educator team.



Configuring the learning space for different purposes: Cross-curricular project work time

Cross-curricular instruction is a key component of the Academy Teams' approach to deeper and personalized learning. For a recent cross-curricular unit, educators adjusted the space and schedule to better support student research time by lengthening class periods and opening the collapsible walls between rooms. Educators then circulated throughout the full learning space, providing students with access to much of the core educator team for a prolonged time period. Pictured here, six educators circulate to support students across the three rooms as they engage in both independent and small-group project work time.

