



Chariho Alternative Learning Academy

New Construction Wood River Junction, Rhode Island



Project Summary

Chariho Alternative Learning Academy (ALA) offers an alternative learning environment for students who have not reached their full potential in the traditional school setting. The school replaced temporary prefabricated structures. It was designed with three “pod” classroom and breakout room clusters. Within each cluster, individual one-on-one focus rooms are also included. The school was intended to have a sense of inclusion with the rest of the campus. This sense of inclusion is reinforced by designing the school to physically share a wall with the existing middle school. The building features individually controlled heating and cooling zones for each pod cluster, natural light via direct exterior windows and large skylights and a multi-function room that provides space for physical activities, lunch area and large gatherings. The classroom pods are configured off a central corridor. Accent finishes and colors are used at the entrance of each pod area to provide visual interest and allow for easy navigation through the main hall. Building access is directly monitored and controlled by the adjacent administration area via video intercom and electronic card access. This school also takes advantage of its flat roof and orientation with a 46 kW rooftop photovoltaic system.

Gina M. Picard, Superintendent

Building Committee Members

Barry J. Ricci, Superintendent 2005–2019

Ryan Callahan	Marie Glass	Arthur Nelson
William Day	Bruce Loeckler	Frederick Stanley
Erick Davis	Craig Louzon	Gary Wright
John Dobson	Lisa Macaruso	Etta Zasloff

Project Team

Colliers
Owner’s Project Manager

Ahlborg Construction Co.
Construction Manager

Robinson Green and Beretta Architects
Architect

ABOUT THE PROJECT



\$ 4.89 million
Project Cost



13,431
Square Feet

June 2018
Completion Date

60
students
Grades 5–12



\$ 3.2 million
Total State Support



4%
Housing Aid
Bonuses

65% Final
Reimbursement Rate

\$ 0
Pay-As-You-Go
Funding



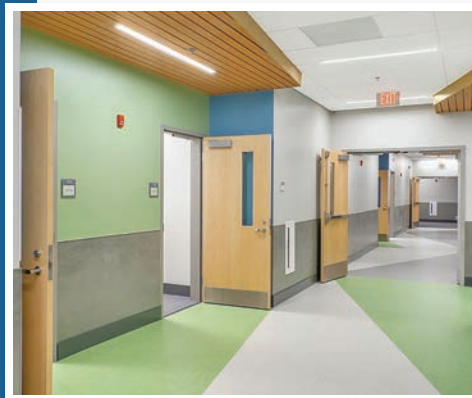
Bonuses Realized & Valuable Outcomes

HEALTH & SAFETY

- The new school building replaced a series of conjoined prefabricated modular units that were at the end of their useful life. The windows were leaking and the mechanical systems were starting to fail.
- The new facility addressed many of the deficiencies of the old modulars.

EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS

- CALA is a special school, offered to provide extended services for students who require further attention or social emotional support.
- CALA consists of both a clinical day program (CDP) and an alternative learning program (ALP), and serves students in 5th through 12th grade.
- The school has an emphasis on standards-aligned, project-based learning (PBL) and assessments.
- All students have access to credit recovery opportunities, job coaching and internships.



“CALA offers students a secure and inspiring place to learn, with smaller class sizes, focused programs for guided engagement and a hands-on experiential approach to learning. We are incredibly fortunate to have dedicated staff who do whatever it takes to motivate CALA students to reach their full potential. They now have a building to support that work.”

— Gina M. Picard, Superintendent