

Client

DeSoto Independent School District

Location

Desoto, Texas

Products Used

Riot, 983 Roust Amount



Design Vision

DeSoto ISD envisioned a network of healing-centered, trauma-informed wellness spaces—warm, calming environments that would nurture emotional regulation, mindfulness, and resilience for all learners. These “Zen Dens” were designed to feel safe, soft, and restorative, supporting the mental well-being of the district’s 5,700 students and 800 employees. Each space needed to offer a sensory-friendly atmosphere where students and staff could reflect, reset, and return to learning with greater clarity and stability.

To bring this vision to life, DeSoto ISD partnered with 2 Inspire Peace, Inc., a Dallas-based nonprofit specializing in restorative practices, to guide the design and purpose of these spaces across all 10 district campuses.

Challenge

The district’s previous flooring felt institutional, cold, and unsupportive of trauma-informed design principles. These materials intensified noise, lacked warmth, and provided no sensory comfort—elements crucial to creating emotionally supportive environments for students and staff. At the same time, any new solution needed to be durable, cost-effective, easy to maintain, and scalable across multiple schools.

Opportunity

DeSoto ISD’s commitment to mental health created an opportunity to redefine educational spaces. By designing Zen Dens across its 10 campuses, the district aimed to:

- Promote emotional regulation and mindfulness
- Reduce stress and sensory overload
- Create safe environments for reflection and calm
- Support staff well-being in addition to student needs
- Integrate trauma-informed principles into the physical environment

The flooring choice would become a foundational part of the district’s wellness strategy.

Testimonial:

“Partnering with Mohawk Group has been instrumental in our mission to design restorative environments that measurably reduce stress and behavioral incidents while improving emotional regulation for both students and staff. Their flooring provides the foundation for our Zen Dens, spaces that transform wellness into a scalable and measurable infrastructure investment. We are deeply grateful for a partner that shares our commitment to creating healing spaces.” - Nikisha Ahsikin, Executive Director | 2 Inspire Peace Inc.



Value Added & Solutions

Mohawk Group offered solutions that aligned directly with the district’s design vision and functional needs:

- Warm, Sensory-Friendly Aesthetic
- Mohawk’s carpet tile selections provided a soft, home-like visual warmth—supporting the calming environment essential for restorative spaces.

Acoustic Performance

The cushioning and sound-dampening qualities reduced noise levels, helping decrease sensory overstimulation.

Durability + Low Maintenance

The flooring solutions could withstand daily foot traffic, constant student use, and multi-campus wear—while remaining easy for facilities teams to maintain. Administrators consistently noted that installation and product availability were never an issue.

Budget-Conscious Options

Mohawk provided solutions that met all performance and aesthetic goals while staying within budget—an essential requirement for scaling the spaces districtwide.

Design Collaboration

District leadership, school administrators, and wellness designers jointly evaluated materials, textures, and color palettes. Mohawk’s range allowed the team to align flooring with trauma-informed design and the Zen Den brand identity.

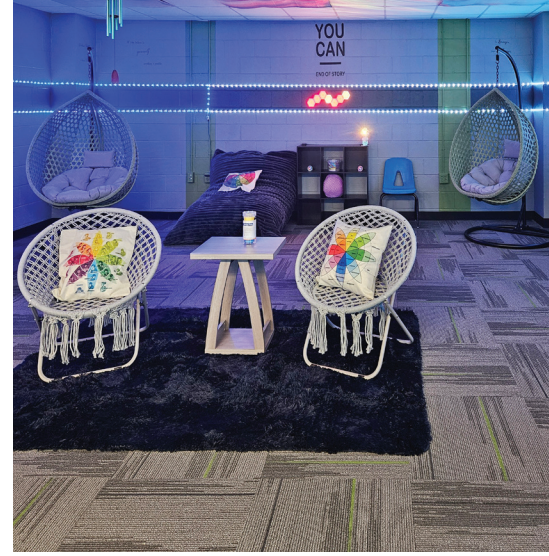
The final selection delivered the ideal balance between comfort, function, and cost efficiency.

Mohawk Group’s flooring became a cornerstone of the Zen Den design, combining comfort, performance, and wellness. Its soft, visually warm surfaces support emotional regulation, mindfulness, and sensory sensitivity, while built-in acoustic dampening reduces noise and sensory overload. Made in the USA, Living Product Challenge certified, Red List free, quickship ready, beyond carbon neutral, and part of the Recover program, the flooring met rigorous health and sustainability standards. By blending durability, ease of maintenance, and restorative qualities, the product helped create spaces that truly nurture the well-being of students and staff.

Better Together

Mohawk Group played a pivotal role in bringing the Zen Den vision to life, delivering flooring solutions that were a perfect fit for the district’s students and staff. The team provided durable, sensory-friendly, and visually calming materials that supported emotional regulation, mindfulness, and overall well-being that aligned with trauma-informed principles while meeting operational needs, creating restorative spaces that truly nurture students’ and staff’s wellness.

The result was a cohesive, restorative environment in each wellness space—spaces that now actively support students’ emotional health, staff well-being, and the district’s commitment to resilience and care.



Outcome

The implemented Zen Dens now provide:

- Safe, quiet places for stillness, reflection, and emotional regulation
- A comforting environment that feels supportive and human-centered
- Reduced noise and improved sensory experiences
- Durable, low-maintenance flooring that meets district operational needs
- A districtwide model showing what’s possible when design, wellness, and educational mission align

DeSoto ISD reports consistently positive experiences with both the Mohawk products and the installation process, emphasizing easy sourcing, affordability, and reliability. The district expressed interest in future product-education visits to enhance preventative care and extend product life.