



*Compton High School
Compton, CA*

Building Opportunity:

D&D Learning Spaces Realizes
a Transformative Vision at the
New Compton High School



When the Compton Unified School District set out to rebuild Compton High School, it wasn't just undertaking a construction project—it was investing in opportunity and innovation for a new generation. The \$200 million project drew national attention with a \$10 million donation from music icon and Compton native Dr. Dre, but its success was built on years of planning, collaboration and community trust.

A key contributor was D&D Learning Spaces, the full-service K–16 furniture vendor chosen to lead the FF&E (furniture, fixtures, and equipment) effort for the 34-acre campus. With more than 50 years of experience and a decades-long relationship with Compton Unified, D&D brought both expertise and a deeply personal connection to the project.

“We’ve built more than education spaces here. We’ve built trust. This school is literally built by and for the community. Forty percent of our FF&E installation crew on this project came directly from Compton.”

- Dean Smith, CEO of D&D Learning Spaces

“Every element we specified had to meet our bar for quality, durability and sustainability. As a learning space company, we’re incredibly mindful of what goes into the environments students occupy every day. It’s not just about style or price—it’s about safety, longevity and making decisions we can stand behind.”

- Emily Fettig, Senior Project Manager,
D&D Learning Spaces

Durable, Sustainable & Student-Ready.

For over four decades, D&D had worked with the Compton Unified School District, becoming a trusted partner. That credibility translated into close collaboration with project partners DLR Group, Cumming Group and Swinerton. “We weren’t just another vendor,” says D&D Learning Environment Designer, Doug McIntosh. “We were already part of the community. Our job is to help craft the client’s vision—shaping learning experiences by being flexible, responsive and hands-on.”

The new Compton High School was designed to serve the full spectrum of student needs—academics, arts, athletics and Career Technical Education (CTE). D&D furnished it all, indoor and outdoor: chairs, stools, benches, desks, specialty tables, soft furniture and mobile charging units. All of this furniture designed for diverse learning studios, labs, CTE spaces, collaboration areas, dining areas, media center and administrative spaces. And D&D furnished it all, totaling more than 2,600 chairs, 1,500 desks and 150 mobile charging units across classrooms, labs, makerspaces, collaboration areas, dining, library and administrative spaces. One standout feature was the Teacher Presentation Station (TPS), a mobile, height-adjustable workstation designed by McIntosh. With a dry-erase top surface and seamless tech integration, it provides teachers with a flexible sit/stand hub for instruction across 50 classrooms.

Furniture selections emphasized modularity, mobility and technology integration, giving students and educators adaptable environments for group projects, lab work or independent study. Outdoors, D&D worked with the district and DLR Group to extend dining and social spaces into the Southern California sunshine. Site furnishings from Landscape Forms, including Harvest tables and benches and Carousel seating, balanced durability with an elevated collegiate aesthetic. Harvest’s recycled high-density polyethylene (HDPE) surfaces and thoughtful details—like standing-height options and integrated backpack hooks—were especially successful.

Sustainability was central to the effort with 94% of installed furniture being made in the U.S., and 67% being recyclable at end-of-life.



A Celebration of Vision & Possibility.

The May 2025 ribbon cutting was a celebration of vision and pride, with students, educators, community leaders and Dr. Dre in attendance. CUSD Board President Micah Ali captured the spirit of the day, remarking to the crowd: “The edifice that bears Dr. Dre’s name is not just a building. It is limitless student potential...a spark that will ignite generations of opportunities.”

For D&D, the project reaffirmed its purpose and capabilities. “Compton High pushed us to scale our operations and refine processes while staying true to our service-driven approach,” says Fettig. “It made us stronger and more ready for the next one.” With more campus modernizations on the horizon, D&D stands prepared to bring its proven approach to new opportunities.









“ Projects like this don’t just change campuses—they change companies, ...We’re better for having done it, and we’re readier than ever to take on the next challenge.”

- Dean Smith, CEO of D&D Learning Spaces



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