

# McCurdy Charter School Disinfects for Student & Staff's Safety

## At a Glance:

- With workforce challenges combined with continued disease spread (COVID-19, flu, RSV), McCurdy Charter School needed to consider new operational solutions in 2022 that would increase efficiency.
- Director Sarah Tario decided to get 33 Breezy Blue disinfecting foggers for her school, placing one in every classroom.
- McCurdy Charter School now has the ability to disinfect classrooms at the push of a button, reducing operational costs and time spent disinfecting.

## Introduction

McCurdy Charter School is located in the rural city of Española, New Mexico and serves grades K-12. The school is comprised of staff, families, and stakeholders who not only value education in their own lives but recognize the long-term impact it has on a student's life. McCurdy strongly believes that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts and a well-rounded education is much more likely to ensure a well-rounded student.<sup>1</sup>

Data from the 2021-2022 school year showed that more than 70 percent of schools saw increases in chronic student absenteeism since the onset of the pandemic, with greater percentages for students in poverty or students of color.<sup>2</sup> Chronic absenteeism may have devastating consequences, leading to students falling behind in school, a greater likelihood of dropping out, and poverty and diminished health.<sup>3</sup>

More students in the U.S. attend rural schools (more than 9.3 million) than in the nation's 85 largest school districts combined.<sup>4</sup> Most schools in New Mexico are in rural communities, with almost a quarter of the NM student population attending these schools.<sup>5</sup> These communities typically have less access to resources and healthcare, making it even more essential to prioritize the health and safety of those who make up the McCurdy community.



## Challenges

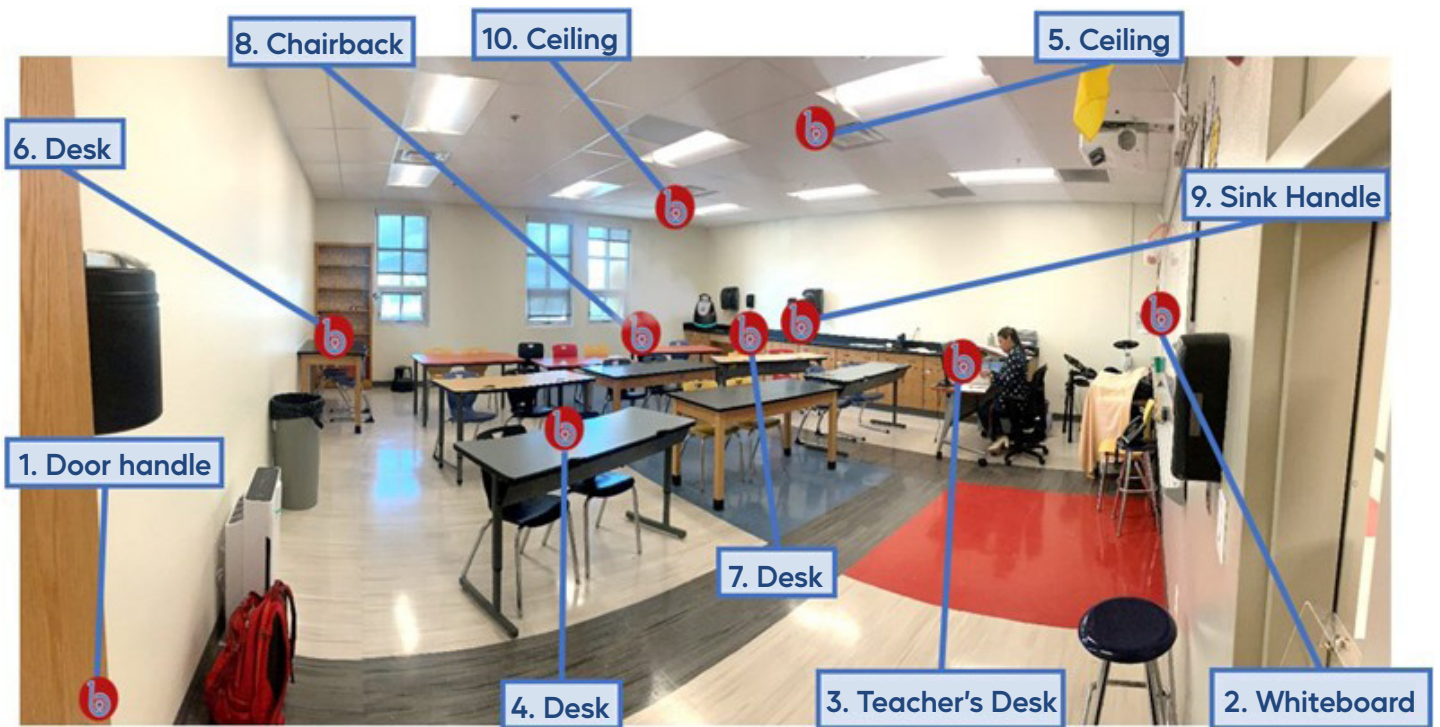
Some teachers have as many as 120 students per day. Because of the increased focus on providing a healthy facility, McCurdy added policies to disinfect after every class. The students and teachers stepped up to help protect their school and disinfected their desks by hand. Ian Maestas, the Operations Coordinator at McCurdy, stated that if a student was sick, all students were evacuated from the classroom and personnel from the janitorial staff would have to put on personal protective equipment before disinfecting the entire classroom. These methods were not effective or efficient and interfered with learning time. Manual disinfection inherently allows room for inconsistencies and, depending on what is used to disinfect, potential exposure to harmful pathogens.

With many students in rural communities being minorities and economically disadvantaged, it was important to find a solution to help overcome the obstacle of absenteeism and give these children the opportunity for an invaluable, in-person education.

## Solution

[Build With Robots Inc.](#) (BWR) partnered with McCurdy Charter School in their mission to provide a safe learning environment for the students of northern New Mexico. Breezy Blue Response, by BWR, provides an automated disinfecting solution that can accommodate a busy school schedule. As of September 2022, teachers are still responsible for disinfecting their own classrooms, but now with a remote solution that can be implemented with the touch of a button, disinfecting in 45 seconds or less.

Efficacy testing, supported by laboratory viability data, performed by BWR showed that the fogging technology evenly distributes disinfectant throughout the classroom with >99.9% pathogen elimination (testing locations shown in the image on the following page). Breezy BioCare, the disinfectant utilized, is [EPA List N](#) certified and [Green](#).



[Clean Institute](#) certified. Breezy BioCare leaves no residual disinfectant on surfaces. The harmful pathogens are eliminated, then the environment returns to its natural state and isn't fouled with odor or remaining disinfectant.

Based on efficacy field testing results, it is recommended that, to ensure 99.9% efficacy in a classroom of similar dimensions, fogging should be done for 45 seconds from a position that ensures the most uniform dispersal of disinfectant. Breezy BioCare's summary of efficacy can be provided by a BWR representative upon request.

Breezy Blue Response is a supplemental device to be used in conjunction with Center for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) guidelines and face covering guidelines. BWR has found trends when school partners disinfect nightly, such as an 18% increase in attendance ([St. Mary's Catholic School](#)).

*"I chose to use Breezy Blue to disinfect my school because I wanted a tool that was quick, easy to use, and proven to be effective. I know that I'm giving my community a healthier learning environment and a safer place to work."*

**- Sarah Tario, Director of McCurdy Charter School**

*"I like that I have a way to keep the students and myself safe with the power to easily disinfect my classroom whenever needed. This form of disinfection is more effective and streamlined compared to our previous methods."*

**- Adrian Roybal, Teacher at McCurdy Charter School**

Sources

1. [https://mcsk12nm.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=388089&type=d](https://mcsk12nm.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=388089&type=d)
2. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/07/05/absenteeism-behavioral-issues-pandemic-data/>
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4. <https://www.ruraledu.org/WhyRuralMatters.pdf>
5. [https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018052/tables/table\\_04.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018052/tables/table_04.asp)

