



**100 Learning Spaces Transformed, \$5 Million Invested: College Football Playoff Foundation and School Specialty Celebrate Impact Across Schools Nationwide**

*New media center at North Dade Middle School marks milestone in initiative revitalizing learning environments to benefit the entire learning community*

**GREENVILLE, WI- November 21, 2025** – The [College Football Playoff \(CFP\) Foundation](#) and [School Specialty](#) today announced the completion of a media center makeover at [North Dade Middle School](#), marking the 100th learning space transformed in collaboration with the [Extra Yard Makeover initiative](#). As a part of their nationwide effort to enhance learning environments for students and educators alike, the two organizations have now invested over \$5 million into reinvigorating classrooms across the country.

Miami will host the 2026 College Football Playoff National Championship in January, and as part of its legacy work in the community, the CFP Foundation has committed to delivering more than 30 Extra Yard Makeovers alongside School Specialty to revitalize innovation spaces across schools in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. With this latest round of makeovers, the CFP Foundation will have helped enrich learning environments in every Miami-Dade middle school.

"Changing our middle school libraries into modern learning spaces has had a tremendous impact on engagement and learning outcomes," said Dr. Jose L. Dotres, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. "In addition to renovation, the transformation is an investment in our teachers, our students and our future. These new innovative spaces support hands-on learning for students of today and tomorrow, so they can develop greater curiosity for learning and lifelong skills."

These makeovers transform static spaces into flourishing learning environments, providing upgrades like flexible furniture, technology, supplies and even fresh paint or murals. Each school receives the School Specialty proprietary [Projects by Design®](#) experience, which includes comprehensive consultations to determine the type of space that best supports students, educators and the broader school community. Past rooms made over include STEM labs, broadcast classrooms, libraries, media centers, makerspace rooms, teachers lounges, wellness spaces, sensory rooms, multi-purpose rooms, an esports room and a mariachi room.

"The transformation of our media center is truly invaluable to our students and staff," said Nicole Fama, Executive Director at Phalen Leadership Academies, which received a

makeover in 2024. “We are profoundly grateful to the College Football Playoff Foundation and School Specialty for this investment. Before the media center, we lacked a space that truly fostered community. Now, everything happens here—from senior breakfasts and college athlete signing days to family game nights and teacher appreciation events. It has become the heart of our community, a space we didn’t realize we needed until it was here.”

These makeovers serve to benefit both students and teachers, allowing schools to improve their offerings, inspire innovation and modern learning, and directly counter some of the top issues in education today.

“Addressing teacher burnout and maximizing student engagement starts with the physical environment,” said Jeremy Westbrook, Director of Strategic Account Development at School Specialty. “The physical classroom is an educator’s primary tool, and by modernizing these spaces, the CFP Foundation and School Specialty are delivering a critical resource that empowers teachers to stay focused on their students’ growth and long-term success.”

“We’re proud to work alongside School Specialty to bring these meaningful makeover projects to life,” said Britton Banowsky, Executive Director College Football Playoff Foundation. “Their expertise in the design of the spaces and incredible generosity make it possible for us to turn vision into impact for teachers and students.”

In addition to the CFP Foundation and School Specialty, these makeovers have been supported over the years by Bowl Games, Conference partners, Sponsors and host committees of each College Football Playoff National Championship. To date, makeovers have taken place in 18 states across 58 counties.

To learn more about the College Playoff Foundation’s Extra Yard Makeover initiative, click [here](#).

To learn more about School Specialty, click [here](#).

### **About School Specialty, LLC**

With a 60-year legacy, School Specialty is a leading provider of comprehensive learning environment solutions for the infant-K12 education marketplace in the U.S. and Canada. This includes essential classroom supplies, furniture and design services, educational technology, sensory spaces featuring Snoezelen, science curriculum, learning resources, professional development, and more. School Specialty believes every student can flourish

in an environment where they are engaged and inspired to learn and grow. In support of this vision to transform more than classrooms, the company applies its unmatched team of education strategists and designs, manufactures, and distributes a broad assortment of name-brand and proprietary products. For more information, go to [SchoolSpecialty.com](http://SchoolSpecialty.com).

### **About the College Football Playoff Foundation**

The College Football Playoff (CFP) Foundation is the 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving as the community engagement arm of the College Football Playoff and works in partnership with institutions of higher education, sports organizations, corporations and non-profits to support educators and improve student outcomes. The purpose of the CFP Foundation lies in supporting PK-12 education by elevating the teaching profession. The CFP Foundation inspires and empowers educators by focusing its work in four areas: recognition, resources, recruitment and retention, and professional development. To learn more, visit [cfp-foundation.org](http://cfp-foundation.org) and follow Extra Yard for Teachers (@CFPEXtraYard) on social media.

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