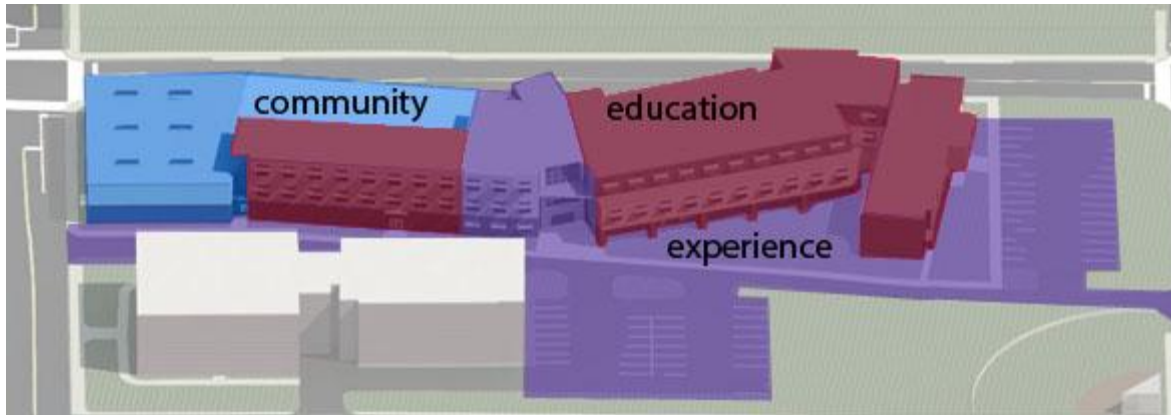


## 1. Executive Summary

In considering the socioeconomics of Reading, Pennsylvania and the necessity for a new elementary school, it was determined that the building will be broken into three distinct categories that merge together to create a school that benefits both the students and the community. These three categories are: **Experience**, **Community**, and **Education**.



The **Experience** category of the building consists of the campus, the building envelope, and the lobby of the school. It is also the intersection of the Education and Community sections. One major goal for the Experience section is to make the students and the visitors feel welcome when they visit the school. The lighting in this part of the school is meant to create a pleasant, welcoming feeling. The use of three glowing rings in the triple height lobby emphasizes the verticality of the space, while creating an aesthetically pleasing arrangement. Safety is heavily emphasized in the Experience area of the building by providing enough light for facial recognition at night, as well as keeping the area bright enough to deter criminal activity.

The **Community** category consists of the gymnasium and the pool. The gymnasium is reserved for the students during school hours, but will be open to the community in the evening. The lighting of the gym needs to be versatile to be able to adapt to the needs of the client and to the activities in the space. The pool is an add-option package that the school system can choose to build if and when the funds are available. Nexus included the pool as a way to give back to the community. Special care needs to be taken in the pool area to ensure that there is minimal glare on the surface of the pool to create a safe environment for swimmers.

The **Education** category is the heart of the school. This section is where the classrooms and learning spaces are located. With the classrooms came the need to integrate daylighting into the overall design of the building. The lighting and structural teams integrated the systems to ensure adequate daylight in the spaces while maintaining structural integrity. The teachers in the classrooms need to be able to have control over the electric lighting, as well as the daylighting, in their rooms to create an optimal learning environment.