



Ergonomic Classroom Furniture

User Evaluation 2010_03_06

OSM and Accessibility services considered 14 seats from 5 manufacturers (5 @ showrooms, 9 delivered samples) and narrowed the selection down to 4+ seats for evaluation by 3 Testers (potential end-user students)

2 basic universal conclusions

- Tilt-lock is required as option for support while note-taking
- Arms that move both up/down and side/side highly desirable for option of arm support while note-taking

“Favorite Seat” (& why)

Tester1	AMIA Overall comfort, fairly upright lock, adjustable lumbar
Tester 2	ALTUS Overall stability
Tester 3	AMIA Fully adjustable arms

Seat	Pro	Con
AMIA (Steelcase)	Best arms Overall comfort Decent tilt-lock	Some controls hard to identify
ALTUS (KI)	Stable Labeled controls	Controls confusing to operate (despite labeling) No arms side-to-side Tilt-lock not upright enough
FITZ (Teknion)		Poor tilt-lock No arms side-to-side
FREEDOM (Humanscale)	Simple controls	No Tilt Lock No arms side-to-side

Conclusion

*Definite positive feedback for the ‘ergonomically classroom seating’ project as potentially providing a substantial increase in comfort/accommodation for end-user students.

Test users chose AMIA as best overall seat.

Deficiencies noted as:

- Lumbar not adjust high enough for tall (6'+ users)
- Some controls hard to identify their function



APPENDIX

General comments by Test Users

GENERAL (all seats)

- All samples showed substantial increase in comfort/accommodation over standard poly/poly classroom seating
- Movable lumbar generally do not go high enough for 6'+ user
- Tilt-locks generally do not lock at upright enough position (desirable for note-taking support)
- Few seats (only AMIA) offered arms that moved in close enough to sides of slim user
- One tester noted preference for high back seat for neck support

AMIA

- Good arms
- Good lumbar
- Good overall
- Basic controls good, unclear on function/activation of some other controls

ALTUS

- Tilt-lock not vertical enough
- Up/down hard to reach
- Armrests not adjustable enough
- Tension control on height-adjustment lever confusing

FITZ

- Tilt-lock requires lots of effort
- Tilt-lock moves after locking
- Arms rotate but do not move in close enough to body of user

FREEDOM

- Arms not move side-side
- Arms height adjustments force them to also move front-back (not good)
- No tilt-lock

ISSUES

Potential features/issues posed to testers (with their basic feedback):

Wheels

- Movable seats could be good in rooms where ideal location not specific, but otherwise may not be required

Seat lock

- Could prevent confrontation (i.e. disallows non-designated user from taking station)
- What if user forgets key?
- Testers did not express concern over potential stigma of using locked seat; expressed more concern about potential physical benefits than potential social drawbacks

User Familiarization

- Testers suggested that Accessibility services have sample seat(s) so users could familiarize themselves with controls prior to classroom use
- instruction card attached to seat would be helpful