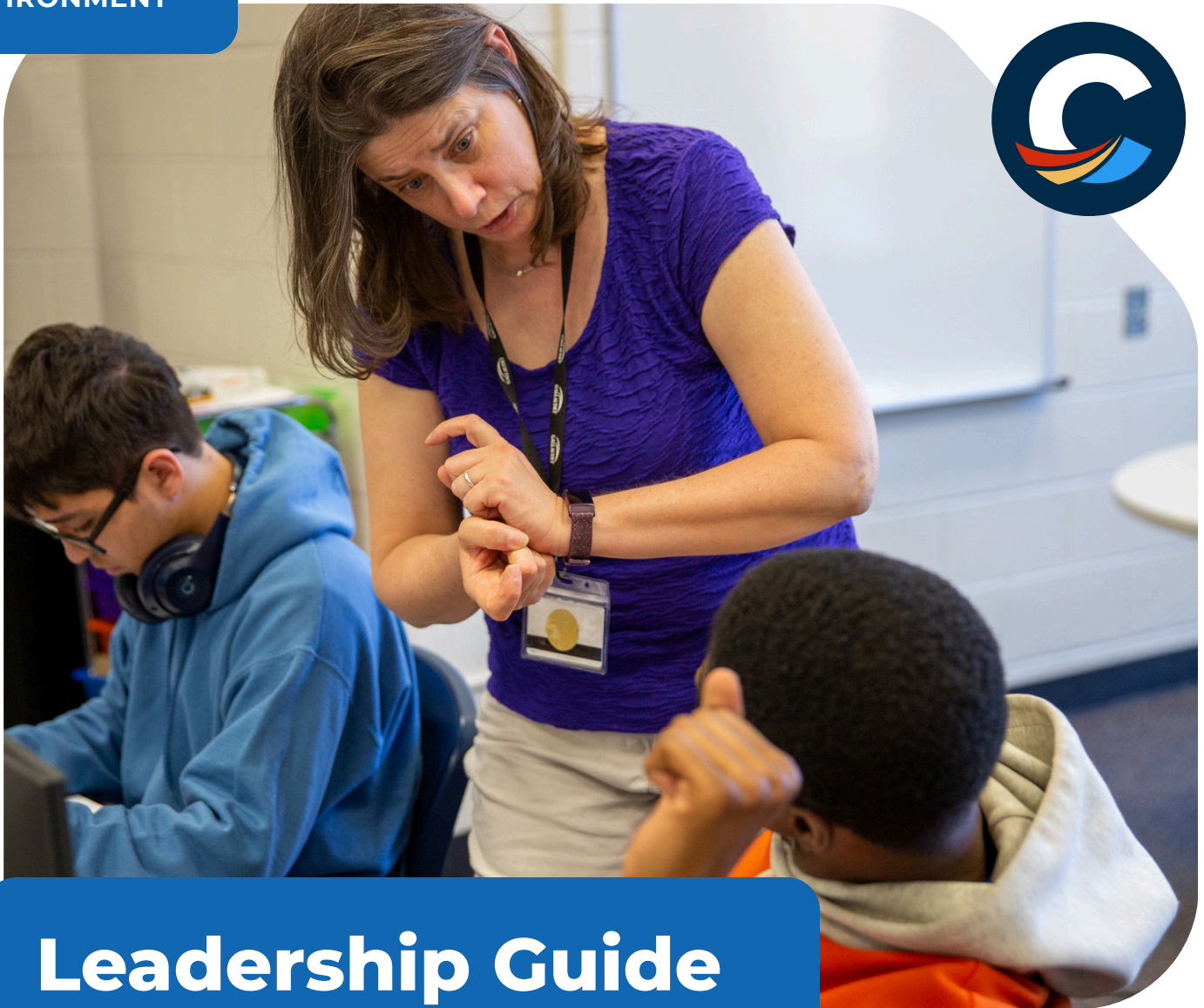




Leadership Guide

Bilingual Classroom Environment

The Classroom Environment Leadership Guide is a reflective support tool grounded in the Program Review Rubric ratings that helps leaders identify schoolwide patterns, guide coaching and professional learning, and strengthen consistent, equitable classroom environments over time.

KEY COMPONENTS:

- Visual Access
- Recognition of ASL and English
- Deaf Culture
- Classroom Library
- General Accessibility & Climate

Improvement Recommendations by Rating Level

IF YOUR PROGRAM IS EMERGING:

- Introduce the five components explicitly to all staff
- Establish non-negotiables for visual access and language recognition
- Conduct walkthroughs focused on seeing, not evaluating
- Use exemplars (photos, videos, model rooms) to build shared understanding
- Assign leader responsibility for monitoring classroom environment

Leadership Move:

Move from “we value this” to “this is what we expect.”

IF YOUR PROGRAM IS DEVELOPING:

- Use a common walkthrough tool across classrooms
- Focus improvement efforts on one or two components at a time
- Support teachers with:
 - Setup guidance, coaching conversations, and peer walkthroughs
- Strengthen classroom libraries and cultural representation
- Begin documenting trends across classrooms

Leadership Move:

Ensure consistent student access by aligning on shared, schoolwide practices rather than individual, variable approaches

IF YOUR PROGRAM IS PROFICIENT:

- Deepen intentional use of ASL and English during instruction
- Refine classroom libraries as instructional tools, not just collections
- Strengthen alignment between environment, language planning, and instruction
- Use walkthrough data to guide PD and coaching
- Ensure substitutes and new staff understand expectations

Leadership Move:

Shift from “most classrooms” to “every classroom.”

IF YOUR PROGRAM IS EXEMPLARY:

- Use classrooms as model sites for training and mentoring
- Involve teachers in refining tools and exemplars
- Track impact on student engagement, language access, and classroom climate
- Support other programs or districts in this work
- Regularly revisit and refresh expectations

Leadership Move:

Steward the work so excellence survives change.