CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

CLERC CENTER
AT GALLAUDET

CLASSROOM LIBRARY CHECKLIST

(ASL/ENGLISH BILINGUAL PROGRAMS)

Representation & Identity

- ◯ Library includes Deaf and Hard of Hearing protagonists across multiple ages and experiences
- ◯ Deaf characters are represented as whole, capable individuals, not only in disability-focused narratives
- ◯ Books reflect diverse Deaf identities, including race, ethnicity, gender, family structures, and experiences
- ◯ Deaf adults are represented as professionals, leaders, artists, and community members

Language & Bilingual Access

- ◯ Library includes materials in both ASL and English
- ◯ ASL resources are accessible (e.g., QR codes to signed stories, video-based books, signed read-alouds)
- ◯ English texts are available across a wide range of reading levels
- ◯ Bilingual connections are intentional (e.g., paired ASL story + English text, visual vocabulary supports)

Deaf Culture & History

- ◯ Books include Deaf history, Deaf leaders, and Deaf cultural experiences
- ◯ Library reflects Deaf norms, values, and community life, not just school-based experiences
- ◯ Deaf culture is presented as rich and ongoing, not limited to historical moments or awareness weeks

Quality & Variety of Texts

- ◯ Includes fiction, nonfiction, biographies, poetry, and informational texts
- ◯ Texts support multiple purposes (background knowledge, enjoyment, research, identity building)
- ◯ Materials are age-appropriate, engaging, and visually accessible

Accessibility & Organization

- ◯ Books and materials are physically accessible to students
- ◯ Organization supports independent student choice
- ◯ Visual labels or categories are used where helpful (e.g., ASL stories, Deaf history, science, biographies)

Use & Integration

- ◯ Library is actively used during instruction, not just displayed
- ◯ Teachers intentionally reference and pull texts during lessons
- ◯ Students are encouraged to explore, discuss, and recommend books
- ◯ Library materials support current units or themes

Maintenance & Growth

- ◯ Library is regularly updated with new materials
- ◯ Gaps in representation or language access are identified and addressed
- ◯ Teacher seeks student input when expanding or updating the library

NOTES