



Leadership Guide

This document is a reflective support tool that helps leaders assess family engagement systems, identify patterns in communication and participation, guide coaching and resource development, and strengthen consistent, linguistically accessible, and culturally responsive family partnerships over time. This guide supports leaders in moving family involvement from isolated efforts to a cohesive, schoolwide system that empowers families as active partners in student success.

KEY COMPONENTS:

1. ASL Classes for Families
2. Family Engagement & Empowerment
3. Schoolwide Family Engagement and Communication
4. Home–School Communication and Collaboration

Improvement Recommendations by Rating Level

IF YOUR PROGRAM IS EMERGING:

- Introduce the components of family involvement explicitly to all staff
- Clarify expectations for linguistically accessible communication with families
- Identify current gaps in ASL access and family learning opportunities
- Begin offering basic opportunities for family engagement (e.g., events, communication structures)
- Observe current family communication and engagement practices across settings

Leadership Move: Move from minimal or inconsistent outreach to establishing foundational access and expectations.

IF YOUR PROGRAM IS DEVELOPING:

- Establish consistent ASL class offerings for families with increased accessibility (e.g., timing, format, levels)
- Provide more regular and relevant resources to support family learning at home
- Strengthen schoolwide communication systems to ensure consistency and clarity
- Increase opportunities for family participation (e.g., events, advisory groups, feedback structures)
- Address inconsistencies in classroom-level communication with families

Leadership Move: Shift from sporadic efforts to consistent structures that support family engagement across the school.

IF YOUR PROGRAM IS PROFICIENT:

- Ensure ASL classes are ongoing, differentiated, and well-attended
- Provide high-quality, accessible resources aligned to ASL/English bilingual development
- Strengthen collaboration between families and educators in supporting student learning
- Use family feedback and participation data to guide improvements
- Align family involvement practices across classrooms, programs, and schoolwide systems

Leadership Move: Move from consistent practice to intentional alignment that strengthens partnership and impact.

IF YOUR PROGRAM IS EXEMPLARY:

- Ensure family involvement systems are proactive, comprehensive, and culturally responsive
- Empower families as leaders and partners in decision-making and school initiatives
- Track impact on family engagement and participation, communication access and effectiveness, and student outcomes related to home-school alignment
- Continuously refine offerings (e.g., ASL classes, resources, communication) based on family needs
- Share effective family engagement practices with other programs or districts

Leadership Move: Sustain a system where families are fully engaged, empowered, and integral to student success.