

OVERVIEW TIP SHEET

This tip sheet outlines key indicators of intentional, planned language use in an ASL/English bilingual program — use it as a quick reference to understand what strong practice looks like across all school environments.

1

Program Wide Language Planning

A comprehensive, data-informed language plan guides all program decisions and practices. The plan is actively implemented, regularly reviewed, and ensures alignment across classrooms, dorms, and schoolwide systems.

2

Balanced Use of ASL & English

ASL and English are fully integrated and normalized across all settings. Students have consistent opportunities to access, produce, and demonstrate learning in both languages in ways that support comprehension, expression, and academic growth.

3

Language Modeling by Staff

Staff serve as strong, fluent, culturally affirming language models who adjust their language use to match each student's level. Modeling is intentional, accurate and consistent across all interactions and settings.

4

Classroom and Program Language Supports

Proactive visual, linguistic, and instructional supports are embedded across all environments to ensure every student has full access and can meaningfully engage in both ASL and English.

5

Progress Monitoring & Adjustments

Language development in both ASL and English is systematically monitored. Data is used to guide instruction and program decisions with ongoing adjustments that support balanced growth.

6

Intentional Bilingual Instructional Approaches

Bilingual strategies are intentionally embedded in instruction. One language is purposefully leveraged to strengthen understanding and proficiency in the other, supporting deep, connected bilingual learning.

