

OVERVIEW TIP SHEET

Program Identity reflects how a school visibly and consistently centers Deaf students, Deaf culture, and ASL across all aspects of the school experience. These practices shape student identity, belonging, and long-term success.

1

Representation of Deaf Role Models

Deaf role models are visible and actively engaged as leaders, mentors, and contributors. Students regularly interact with Deaf adults, supporting language development, identity, and aspirations.

2

Deaf Culture and History in Environment and Programming

Deaf culture and history are embedded across spaces and schoolwide programming. Students consistently see Deaf experiences reflected, fostering pride, belonging, and cultural understanding.

3

ASL Recognition and Use Across School

ASL is consistently used as the primary language across all settings, with English incorporated intentionally within a bilingual approach. This ensures full access and supports academic and social development.

4

Deaf Community Engagement

The school maintains strong connections with the Deaf community, providing regular opportunities for students to engage beyond the classroom and build authentic cultural and social connections.

5

Student Leadership and Advocacy

Students are supported in taking on leadership and advocacy roles. These opportunities build confidence, independence, and the ability to navigate and influence their world.

