



Dorm Environment Checklist

Recognition of ASL & English

- ☐ Dorm rules posted in ASL (video/QR) and English print.
- ☐ House meeting agendas shared in ASL and English.
- ☐ Daily/weekly schedules accessible visually and in both languages.
- ☐ ASL resources accessible (QR codes to ASL videos, visual dictionaries).
- ☐ English-language supports available when needed (conflict scripts, reflection forms, journaling prompts).
- ☐ Staff model bilingual strategies when supporting homework or conflict resolution.
- ☐ Labels in ASL signs + English throughout shared spaces.
- ☐ Digital devices bookmarked with accessible bilingual tools.

Dorm Library

- ☐ The collection includes books featuring Deaf/HH characters, authors, and lived experiences.
- ☐ ASL storybook videos readily accessible in the dorm (QR codes, shared tablets, smart TV access).
- ☐ Books organized by genre and purpose (recreational reading, SEL, identity, college/career exploration).
- ☐ Multiple reading levels represented, including hi-lo texts for older students.
- ☐ Materials reflect diverse cultures, races, and intersectional Deaf identities.
- ☐ English print books paired with ASL video access when possible.
- ☐ New titles added throughout the year based on student interest.
- ☐ Comfortable, well-lit reading spaces arranged with clear sightlines.
- ☐ Students encouraged to recommend titles and help curate the collection.
- ☐ Dorm staff intentionally reference books during discussions, identity conversations, and downtime.

Home-Like Environment & Belonging

- ☐ Furniture arranged to feel comfortable and welcoming (not institutional).
- ☐ Soft seating options available (couches, lounge chairs, floor cushions).
- ☐ Lighting includes warm, adjustable options in addition to overhead lights.
- ☐ Decor reflects student interests, cultures, and identities.
- ☐ Walls include student-created artwork, photos, and ASL projects.
- ☐ Common areas feel lived-in and inviting rather than sparse, clinical, or overly cluttered or used as storage.
- ☐ Students have personal space to display photos and meaningful items.
- ☐ Shared spaces reflect seasonal changes or student-led decoration themes.
- ☐ Color choices promote warmth and calm (not harsh or sterile).
- ☐ Noise-reducing materials used when possible (rugs, curtains, soft surfaces).
- ☐ Dorm traditions intentionally build shared identity and belonging.
- ☐ Students describe the dorm as feeling safe, comfortable, and "like home."

Accessibility & Climate

- ☐ Dorm norms emphasize respect, ASL/English bilingualism, and full participation.
- ☐ Visual behavior expectations clearly displayed.
- ☐ Students can safely navigate all dorm spaces.
- ☐ Quiet spaces available for visual rest or sensory regulation.
- ☐ Clear routines for transitions, lights out, study time, and shared responsibilities.
- ☐ Conflict resolution structures visible and consistently practiced.
- ☐ Students feel emotionally safe expressing concerns in ASL.
- ☐ Community-building activities occur regularly.

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.