



Back-To-School Pulse

A quick check-in with staff

Goal: This tool is a quick, reflective check-in designed to give leaders a “pulse” on what’s working well for teachers and where added support may be helpful. The purpose is to ensure that faculty meetings, professional development, and coaching remain responsive and relevant.

Directions: As you walk through classrooms, use the tool to note what you observe in each focus area. For every area, select the option that best reflects the current state of the classroom (i.e., *Steady* / *Needs a Boost*). This should only take a few minutes per visit.

After visiting multiple classrooms, review the notes for patterns or trends. Focus areas where you mark *Needs a Boost* in several classrooms may indicate opportunities for targeted support, coaching, or additional resources.

Instructional Area of Focus	Pulse	Tools for Support
Supporting ELLs/MLs in the Classroom	☐ Steady ☐ Needs a Boost	- Consider IDE Corp.’s 7 Essential Elements for ELL Support. - Explore ideas for how educators can support ELLs through scaffolding at different proficiency levels.
Building Strong Classroom Habits, Behaviors, and Responsibilities	☐ Steady ☐ Needs a Boost	Use Great Student Rubrics to set clear expectations for behavior while fostering executive function skills and integrating social-emotional learning. Primary version Elementary version Secondary version
Using AI as an Instruction Design Partner	☐ Steady ☐ Needs a Boost	Check out some Effective AI Prompting for Enhanced Learning .
Using Student-Driven Instruction	☐ Steady ☐ Needs a Boost	Watch a video on Using a Content Facilitation Grid .
Implementing Problem-Based Learning	☐ Steady ☐ Needs a Boost	Look at PBL exemplars: A Butterfly Garden (elementary) Honey, I’m Hungry (secondary)

Building Executive Function to Accelerate Student Achievement	☐ Steady ☐ Needs a Boost	• Read Dr. Sulla's blog with 3 embedded tools for increasing executive function and supporting student behavior. • Review a planning tool for creating connections between executive function and academic rigor.
Strategies for Co-Teaching Collaboration	☐ Steady ☐ Needs a Boost	Explore IDE Corp.'s 4 Co-Teaching Strategies .
Prioritizing Student Choice Through Differentiation	☐ Steady ☐ Needs a Boost	Review the following sample activity lists, which illustrate approaches to providing student choice in learning across grade levels and contexts: • Primary example • 2nd-grade example with enhanced ELL supports • 6th-grade example with enhanced ELL supports • HS example
Developing Classroom Norms and Protocols	☐ Steady ☐ Needs a Boost	Read Dr. Sulla's blog with ideas for norms and protocols to help students play a significant role in their own learning, thus building student agency.