

# 5 TIPS FOR COACHING TEACHER LEADERS



Effective teacher leadership relies on continuous professional growth and reflective practice. Here are five actionable tips for coaching teacher leaders to enhance their impact:

## 1. Use a Consistent Instructional Coaching Framework

In working with teacher leaders, and with teachers in general, it's crucial for coaches to utilize a consistent, research-based framework to support teacher development (e.g., Jim Knight's Impact Cycle) that provides a structured pathway for coaching. The TIM-C is a major tool that fits effectively within many frameworks, including any specific models suggested by your District. By using a consistent coaching framework, teacher leaders will be supported systematically in their growth.

## 2. Set Goals Aligned with Professional Aspirations

Encourage teacher leaders to set goals that resonate with their personal and professional aspirations. Whether it involves mastering a new pedagogical approach or improving student engagement, aligned goals promote intrinsic motivation and sustained effort. Goals should follow the SMART criteria (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) to facilitate progress tracking and reflection.

## 3. Foster Reflective Practice

Cultivating a habit of reflection allows teacher leaders to carefully review their teaching methods and their impact on student outcomes. Regularly scheduled reflection sessions, using tools like reflective journals, peer observations and feedback, or student feedback, can help teacher leaders identify their strengths and areas for growth, leading to continuous improvement.

## 4. Encourage Collaborative Learning Communities

Promote the formation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) where teacher leaders can collaborate, share best practices, and support one another. Collaborative environments foster a culture of accountability and shared learning, enhancing the overall impact of coaching efforts.

## 5. Leverage Data-Driven Decision-Making

Guide teacher leaders to effectively use data to inform their instructional practices. Data from student assessments, classroom observations, and feedback can provide valuable insights into what works and what needs adjustment. Empowering teacher leaders with data literacy skills enables them to make informed and impactful decisions.

Implementing these tips can make coaching efforts more effective, resulting in improved instructional practices and student outcomes.