Key Features of Effective Chinese Language Programs:
A CELIN Checklist

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Chinese language programs are emerging in new ways in schools, school districts, and states across the United States, and program leaders are seeking to build strong, effective programs. They want to develop and sustain programs that will provide learning pathways, from Pre-K through university, in which students develop high levels of oral proficiency and literacy in Chinese that will allow them to participate effectively in academic settings, the workplace, and the world.

This checklist provides a tool that highlights Chinese-specific points for consideration for teachers and administrators to review their program, identify strengths and areas for improvement, and develop plans to advance the program to the next level over time.

Nine features of effective Chinese language programs are identified:
1. Program Design, Funding, Leadership, & Accountability
2. Curriculum
3. Assessment
4. Instruction
5. Staff Quality & Professional Development
6. Materials, Resources, & Technology Tools
7. Program Articulation
8. Family Support & Community Engagement
9. External Networking & Partnerships

Each feature has a list of indicators that program stakeholders can review together and rate as Distinguished, Clearly Evident, Somewhat Evident, and Approaching, based on the score for that indicator. After they have completed the review and rating, they can use the indicators to engage in continuous improvement of their program.

The Brief includes a program self-assessment checklist with tables that can be used by a team to rate the indicators for each feature, a list of references concerning effective program features and approaches to conducting program review and improvement. It also includes common assessment instruments used in K-12 Chinese language programs and an example of a program review of Feature 1.