

## Coaching Environment Example

Here are photographs from an instructional coach's office and the descriptions for each photograph.

### Example 1:

Like a classroom, a coaching environment needs to be set up with purpose, should have designated areas, and should feel welcoming for teachers. If the space is set up for success, coaching will be more successful. To create this space, my principal was very generous with her budget. She and I believe that making the teachers comfortable and happy is a key ingredient to making them productive and effective educators.



To lead professional development and collaboration, you need to have a space to do so. The tables in my room are set up in a horseshoe formation to make participating in a PD and collaborating easier. My principal made sure to order extra comfy chairs for the teachers as well.



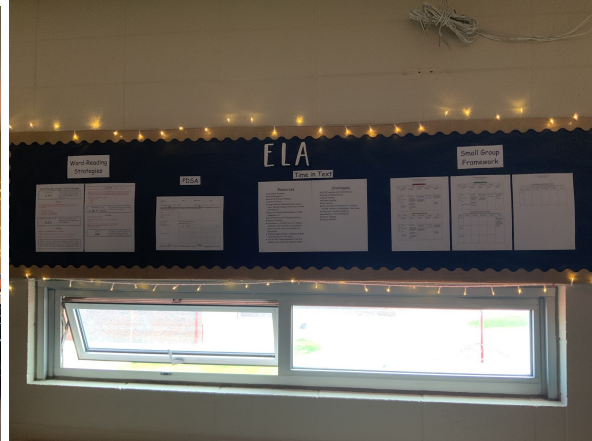
In the center of the horseshoe I have a small-group table that acts as my “landing zone” when presenting, and is perfect for working with smaller groups of people.



Having pencil cups with pencils, pens, and highlighters, as well as sticky notes helps minimize loss of time if teachers forget any of these items during a meeting or PD.



For presenting, I have a smart TV next to a whiteboard. On a small table, I keep drawers with extra whiteboard markers, highlighters, and flip chart markers for easy access. Having a color copier helps with printing any student data reports, or materials for presentations and coaching cycles.



Just like in a classroom, I have a Focus Wall for the teachers. After giving a PD, I add visual reminders and/or descriptions of the new item to the focus wall so teachers are reminded of these things, and can hold themselves accountable. If they have any questions, or need a reminder, they can come to the coaching room, look on the Focus Wall, and talk with me about it.



I always have a two-month calendar filled in so teachers know what's coming. I make a digital copy and give it out to teachers at the beginning of every month.



I have data walls for reading and for math. Our teachers are focused on growth, and this is a way we monitor student growth as a team. Teacher and student names are not put on the data wall.



I try to make my coaching office feel cozy and calm. Using curtains to cover up storage areas makes the space feel clutter-free and organized. Lamps and strings of lights create a calm ambiance.





Teaching is one of the most mentally exhausting jobs out there. I often have teachers come in just to vent or talk through something that is weighing on them. My coaching environment has a space for teachers to relax. Teachers can come anytime and kick up their feet. Some teachers will even work on lesson plans in these chairs. Tea, tissues, and lotion are available to teachers whenever they need it.

Making your coaching environment feel calm and cozy not only benefits the teachers, but it helps you as a coach. Using curtains to cover up storage makes the place feel clutter free and organized. Lamps and strings of light create a calm ambiance.