Getting Into Classrooms
When to Begin: Windows of Opportunity

• Student outcomes pose significant concerns
• Large number of new teachers
• New initiative at school, district or state level
  – New grant funding
  – Literacy initiative
  – Curriculum adoption
  – New district priority/goal
Getting Into Classrooms: Schedule & Track Walk-Throughs

• Schedule classroom walk-throughs into your personal calendar on a daily/weekly basis:
  – Make an “appointment with yourself” to be in classrooms.
  • cover the range; differentiate your time
  – Use self-monitoring (goal-setting and feedback) to lend motivation and track your progress
Getting Into Classrooms: Get Assistance from Support Staff

• Have your school secretary or other office personnel “kick you out of the office” and “send you to the classroom.”
  – Share your calendar of visits with office staff.
  – Ask staff to remind you when it’s time to go into classrooms.
  – Request staff to protect this time from intrusions.
  – Ask staff to help you track and self-monitor visits.
Getting Into Classrooms: Make Yourself Accountable

• Make classroom visits part of the annual goals you set with your supervisor. Report monthly progress.

• Use public posting of this goal and your progress in meeting it.
  – staff room, with feedback from staff
  – tally sheet students keep in the classroom
Getting Into Classrooms: 
If you are collaborative...

• Set up a collaborative arrangement with another person to get into classrooms more
  – Pair up with a colleague periodically to walk through a few classrooms and debrief together.
  – Invite teachers to join you on a “learning walk.”
  – Establish a relationship with a mentor who will prompt you and provide support, ideas and feedback.
  – Invite the superintendent, district administrators, school board members or others to join you.
  – Set group goal with others (two or more principals).
Getting Into Classrooms:
If you are competitive...

- Set up competitive arrangement with another person (administrator).
  - Set up a friendly competition with a colleague (e.g. a principal at another school) on number of classroom visits in week or month as a percentage of a goal.
  - Person with the highest percentage of planned walk-throughs completed wins the competition for that time period.
Brief Activity
Getting Into Classrooms

• Identify one or two of these strategies that could work for you.
• Tell a colleague about the strategy and ask them to get involved in helping you use it.
• Ask support staff to help you implement it.
• Write a note in your calendar reminding yourself to follow up on this idea.