

2017-2018 Infant CLASS™ Pilot Assurances and Opt-In Form

During the 2017-2018 school year, the Department will pilot the Infant CLASS™ tool in order to understand best practices for use of this tool in Louisiana classrooms. This pilot is optional, and Infant CLASS™ will not be a requirement for the 2017-2018 school year.

The Department seeks sites who will lead the way to improve the quality of infant care in Louisiana by providing critical information and feedback during the school year to the department. These early childhood sites will serve as partners to the department during the 2017-2018 pilot to share innovative strategies and best practices from their experiences using the tool.

To participate in the pilot, sites must:

- 1) Identify an observer who is certified or will be certified to conduct Infant CLASS™ observations.
- 2) Inform their Lead Agency that they will be participating in the Infant CLASS™ pilot.
- 3) Conduct at least one Infant CLASS™ observation in the fall and in the spring for pilot classrooms.
- 4) Provide feedback from the observation to the teachers.
- 5) Allow state-funded 3rd party observers observe in the pilot classrooms.
- 6) Provide scores to the department for analysis and understanding of the tool only (note: these scores will NOT be included in performance profiles or for accountability purposes).
- 7) Collaborate with the department on future implementation of the tool by providing strategies and feedback on the tool, the process of using the tool, and any other related components.

Important Considerations:

- While Infant CLASS™ observation scores may be entered into the CLASS portal, these scores will not be included in any component of accountability for 2017-2018, including:
 - Performance ratings and profiles
 - Missing score reports
 - Observer accuracy percentages or reports
 - Star ratings
- No additional funding is available at the state to pay for local infant observations.
- Lead Agencies are not responsible for infant observations. Lead Agencies may use allocations to fund pilot costs, but they are not required to commit any resources to the pilot.
- Sites may select any number of their infant classrooms to participate in the pilot; not all classrooms in a site must participate for the site to participate.
- Observers identified by the site to participate in the pilot will not be asked by the state to observe any additional sites or classrooms.
- Classrooms in which half or more of the children are 15 months or older by September 30, 2017 must participate in the accountability system and be observed using the Toddler CLASS™ tool. This pilot is for classrooms with a majority of children 15 months or younger as of September 30.

Sites who choose to participate will be informing the state's understanding of the tool, and future policy regarding the use of the tool. The department deeply appreciates the investments these leaders will be making this year. While funding for observations is not available, if there is any other component that the Department can provide support around, including additional training, professional development, or other resources, please email Nasha Patel (nasha.patel@la.gov) or Kaye Eichler (kaye.eichler@la.gov).

Assurances for Infant CLASS™ Pilot: Please email to Nasha.Patel@la.gov by September 30, 2017.

Name of Site: _____

Site Code: _____

Name of Director: _____

License Number: _____

Infant Classroom Name	Teacher Name	Certified Observer

As a participant in the 2017-2018 Infant CLASS™ Pilot, I assure that for the classrooms listed above, I will:

- Identify a certified infant observer to conduct at least one observation in the fall and spring
- Ensure that the teachers observed are provided feedback based on the observation results
- Allow state-funded 3rd Party observers to conduct observations
- Provide scores to the Department for information and analysis purposes only
- Provide feedback on the tool and the process of using the tool to the Department as requested

As a participant in the 2017-2018 Infant CLASS™ Pilot, I understand that:

- No additional funding is available from the state to pay for infant observations during the 2017-2018 school year.
- Lead Agencies are not required to conduct Infant CLASS™ observations unless an agreement has been reached with them to conduct these observations.
- No results from infant observations will be included for any accountability purposes, including performance profiles, missing observations, observer reliability reports, or star ratings.
- Participating in the pilot does not exempt any site from any requirements of any BESE Bulletin, including Bulletin 140.

Signature of Director

Date

Signature of Lead Agency Representative

Date