



CLASS™ OBSERVATIONS: A QUICK GUIDE FOR CHILD CARE DIRECTORS AND SCHOOL LEADERS

Early learning programs that accept public funding to serve children birth to pre-K will participate in classroom observations that evaluate the quality of teacher-child interactions. Trained observers will conduct observations using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS™) tool in the fall and spring each year. Scores from these observations will directly result in the performance rating and profile for the program. Performance profiles are published in the fall each year and are publicly available on [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#).

Many program leaders have found it helpful to participate in expanded training in the CLASS tool to fully understand high-quality teacher-child interactions and how these are measured during observations. These trainings are offered by Teachstone as well as regional resource and referral agencies and lead agencies. Introductory classes can also provide a basic snapshot of the tool for teachers and directors. To learn more about how to become reliable, contact your [Resource and Referral Agency](#).

Early learning programs will be observed by both local observers and third party observers. Louisiana contracts with ULL Picard Center as its third party observer.

	LOCAL OBSERVER	THIRD PARTY
What is the difference between the two observation types? Learn more	Local observations provide the primary scores that determine the performance profile. The local observation is coordinated through the community network. Local observers are trained and reliable, and come from the local community.	These observations serve to validate the local observer scores and must meet a high threshold of reliability. Learn more about third party observations . The Cecil B. Picard Center at the University of Louisiana provides third party observers.
When do these observations take place?	Each program receives a minimum of one observation each fall and each spring per classroom (at least two each year). The Lead Agency conducts announced and/or unannounced visits in alignment with the local coordinated observation plan.	At least 50% of the classrooms at each center each year, and at least one per age level (pre-K and toddler). Picard Center will notify programs of the observation window at least two weeks in advance and will contact programs to learn of any scheduling conflicts within the observation window.
How long are observations?	Observations typically take two hours.	
When do I receive my scores?	Local observers provide feedback to centers within ten days of the observation.	Third party observers provide scores and notes in the online portal within seven days of the observation.
How do I improve teacher-child interactions?	The CLASS assessment tool identifies specific practices and indicators in high-quality teacher-child interactions. Become more familiar with the tool, participate in expanded trainings through the Resource and Referral agency, and consider reliability training to better understand the evaluation of interactions.	