

Provider CLASS FAQ for 2023-2024 Contract Year

1) What is a CLASS Program Assessment?

- I. A CLASS program assessment is an assessment that measures the quality of teacher-child interactions during a child's typical experience at a childcare provider. Program assessments are made up of individual classroom observations using a tool based on the age of the majority of children in the room. The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is the program assessment tool that was selected in Florida. The Web-based Early Learning System (WELS) is used to randomly select classrooms, totaling 50% of each care level, for observation. The observation scores are averaged in WELS to determine the provider's composite program assessment score. Unlike an individual child assessment, a program assessment focuses on the classroom.

2) Are there sites that are exempt from CLASS Program Assessment?

- I. No VPK sites/classrooms are exempt from CLASS. All classrooms must be assessed.
- II. Newly contracted SR sites may be exempt from CLASS, **but only until** SR enrollment reaches 20% of listed DCF capacity and/or the site receives qualifying DCF violations. If either of these scenarios occur, ECS will notify your site of your change in exemption status and schedule your CLASS Program Assessment.
- III. Once an SR site's exemption status has been removed, assessments must occur for future contract years as well.
- IV. For 2023 and prior, sites that scored a composite score of 5.0 or higher were allowed to skip one contract year of Program Assessments, provided 80% teachers were retained and no qualifying DCF violations were received. PLEASE NOTE- according to current State Rule, this will no longer be the case for the upcoming 2023-2024 contract year. All non-exempt sites will receive a CLASS program assessment during the 2023-2024 contract year.

3) What sites/classrooms must be assessed?

- I. 50% of each age group in School Readiness contracted sites (50% Infant, 50% Toddler, 50% PreK). Example: If your site has 3 Infant rooms, 2 of those rooms will be assessed. All birth-5 classrooms are considered for assessment regardless of the number of SR children in the classroom. Rooms are selected at random by DEL's appointed assessment site: WELS.
- II. ALL VPK Classrooms in VPK contracted sites. If a new VPK classroom is added after the provider receives a composite score, that classroom must be assessed, and a new composite score calculated.
- III. Summer VPK program classrooms will be assessed, and a composite score calculated specifically for the Summer VPK program.

4) What is the required composite score that must be achieved?

- I. 4.0 is the Contract Minimum Threshold required by State Rule. If a provider receives a score below 4.0, the site may request and pay for a second CLASS assessment at the rate listed in the SR and/or VPK contract. This reassessment must meet a minimum of 4.0 to remain contracted for SR and to contract for the following year for VPK.

5) Who must be present during the CLASS Program Assessment observations?

- I. For VPK, the Lead Teacher listed in the Provider Portal and a minimum of one VPK student must be present for the assessment to occur.
- II. For SR, the teacher listed in the QPS system during your CLASS registration must be present. If that teacher is not present, the teacher in attendance that day must have been assigned to that classroom for the past 15 calendar days.

6) What should our site expect during a Program Assessment observations?

- I. A certified observer will schedule a 2-week window in which observations may take place. While onsite, the observer will conduct 4 cycles of observing classroom interactions while taking notes. Assessors are permitted to use up to 10 minutes between observation cycles to score, but are not required to take the full 10 minutes. Depending on the age level of the assessment and the length of time used to score between cycles, a classroom observation can take from 1-2 hours.
- II. Multiple observers may arrive on the same day to score different classrooms or an observer may stay and conduct more than one classroom observation depending on the age levels being assessed and the classroom schedules.
- III. Occasionally ECS will conduct “Dual Coding” during CLASS Program Assessments. This means there will be 2 observers onsite during the assessment. The classroom will still only receive 1 score even if there are 2 assessors.

7) Is there a differential payment for achieving a certain composite score?

- I. For VPK, there is currently no differential rate available.
- II. For SR, providers scoring a 4.5 and higher, differential rates are available to view in your SR contract.

8) How do I receive my site’s composite score and/or a copy of individual classroom assessment notes?

- I. Your site will receive an email notifying you of your composite score after all required assessments have been completed. Within the notification email are instructions on how to obtain individual assessment notes. Rule requires providers to make a written request for individual assessment notes.

9) Is there an appeals process for CLASS composite scores?

- I. There is no appeals process available for SR or VPK. If a reassessment is requested, only 1 reassessment may be requested and the reassessment composite score is the final score available for the contract year.

10) What are the guidelines for reassessment?

- I. For SR: Per Rule 6M-4.740: A single classroom will be reassessed and its score will replace the previous score to calculate a new composite score if the teacher previously assessed is still actively teaching in the classroom being reassessed. If the previously assessed teacher is not active in the classroom and the newly assigned teacher is hired after the previous assessment was completed, the single classroom will be reassessed, and its score will replace the previous score to calculate a new composite score. If the previously assessed teacher is not active in the classroom and the newly assigned teacher was moved from a different classroom, every classroom will be reassessed for the new scores to replace the previous assessment scores.
4. If at the time of the provider’s request for a second program assessment, there are less than 50% of the original classrooms in the program assessment baseline or teachers remaining active, new observations shall be made on the randomly selected rooms identified by the OEL-defined system. If the provider adds any new classrooms when its registration is reset, all classrooms selected by the OEL-defined system (50% by care level) must be observed for the second assessment.

11) Where can I go for more information?

- I. Visit the sites below for more information or contact your assigned Education Specialist.

[DEL SR Program Assessment Site](#)

[DEL VPK Program Assessment Site](#)

[ECS Provider Services Site](#)

[Teachstone](#)