

## 2026-2027 Provider CLASS FAQ



### What is a CLASS Program Assessment?

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) measures the quality of teacher-child interactions during a child's typical experience in a classroom. Individual classroom observations are conducted using a tool based on the age of the majority of children in the room. The observation scores are averaged to determine the provider's composite program assessment score. Unlike an individual child assessment, a program assessment focuses on the classroom.

### Are there sites that are exempt from CLASS Program Assessment?

- No VPK sites/classrooms are exempt from CLASS. All classrooms must be assessed.
- Newly contracted SR centers may be exempt from CLASS, **but only until** SR enrollment reaches 20% of listed DCF capacity (or over 2 SR enrollments for FCCHs) 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. Once an SR site's exemption status has been removed, assessments must occur for future contract years as well.

### What sites/classrooms must be assessed?

- 50% of each age group in School Readiness contracted sites (50% Infant, 50% Toddler, 50% PreK classrooms). 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.
- 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. Summer VPK program classrooms will be assessed, and a composite score calculated specifically for the Summer VPK program.

### What is the required composite score that must be achieved?

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.

### Who must be present during the CLASS Program Assessment observations and what can be observed?

- For VPK, the coalition-approved Lead VPK instructor, aide, substitute, or VPK director listed in the Provider Portal and a minimum of 25% of enrolled VPK students must be present for the assessment to occur. ALL instructional VPK hours can be subject to observation, per State Rule.
- 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.

## **What should our site expect during a Program Assessment observations?**

- Per DEL, in 2026-2027 program year, Infant & Toddler Observations will be conducted with the CLASS 2008 version tool. PreK Observations will be conducted with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition PreK tool.
- A certified observer will schedule a 2-week window in which observations may take place. While not required by Rule, we do try to inform each site what day each classroom will be assessed as a courtesy. Eligible classrooms can be observed at any time during the 2-week window (barring any of the 3 black-out dates chosen by the provider). If re-scheduling is needed or the site has multiple classrooms, assessments may occur past the 2-week window.
- 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. Observation can take from 1-2 hours on average, but total length is also dependent upon the amount of time an assessor chooses to use to score between cycles, the classroom schedule, and the age range of classroom being observed.
- Multiple observers may arrive on the same day to observe 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.
- Occasionally observers will conduct "Dual Coding" during CLASS Program Assessments. This means there will be 2 observers present during the assessment. The classroom will still only receive 1 score even if there are 2 assessors.

## **Is there a differential payment for achieving a certain composite score?**

- For VPK, there is currently no differential rate available.
- For SR providers scoring a 5.0 and higher differential rates are available and are listed in your SR contract.

## **How/when do I receive my site's composite score and/or a copy of individual classroom assessment notes?**

Within 14 days after the completion of the last required assessment for your site, your site will receive an email notifying you of your composite score. Attached to that email will be the assessment notes for each assessment at your site.

## **Is there an appeals process for CLASS composite scores?**

There is no appeals process available for SR or VPK. If a reassessment is requested for a site receiving a score under 4.0, only 1 reassessment may be requested and the reassessment composite score is the final score available for the contract year.

**Where can I go for more information?** Visit the sites below for more information or contact your assigned Education Specialist.

[DEL SR Program Assessment Site/DEL VPK Program Assessment Site: fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/](https://fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/)

[ECS4Kids Provider Services Site: https://www.ecs4kids.org/programs/provider-services/](https://www.ecs4kids.org/programs/provider-services/)

[Teachstone: https://teachstone.com/](https://teachstone.com/)