

Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition Transition Frequently Asked Questions

Starting in the 2023-2024 academic year, pre-K CLASS® observations conducted for the Early Childhood Accountability System must be completed using Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition. This updated edition provides enhancements for the CLASS® observation experience without changing any domains, dimensions, or indicators.

Current observers can follow a two-step process to renew certification for Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition. First, the observer should complete the 2nd Edition Transition training course (either self-paced online or through a facilitated Transition Training). Teachstone offers the Transition training course through a free self-paced online option, an individual virtual training costing \$275, or a group training for up to 20 participants costing \$2,500. Following the training course, the observer should complete recertification testing via myTeachstone.

To assist Community Network Lead Agencies with the transition to 2nd Edition, the Department has worked with Teachstone to answer frequently asked questions from program administrators and providers.

Can an observer use CLASS® 1st Edition to conduct Early Childhood Accountability observations in pre-K classrooms?

No. Beginning August 1, 2023, the Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition tool must be used for any observation evaluating the performance of pre-K classrooms in publicly-funded early learning sites. This includes all observations entered in the EC Portal that will be used to assign a Performance Profile to each site and Community Network Lead Agency.

If the observer is not yet certified in Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition, the observer must obtain certification in 2nd edition before conducting any observations in the 2023-2024 academic year.

If an observer's pre-K certification expires in 2024, will they be required to recertify in Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition before certification lapses?

Yes. To address this, Teachstone will offer an adjusted recertification rate of \$62.50 for any observer who is not due to recertify until 2024. This will change the recertification date to one year after the recertification to Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition. *To access this reduced rate, please reach out to louisiana-TS@teachstone.com to receive the adjusted rate product key. The product key will not be sold in the store or online.*

Example: An observer recertified on Pre-K CLASS® 1st Edition in February 2023. The observer can purchase a Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition recertification product key for \$62.50 and complete the transition course in August 2023 to recertify in 2nd edition. The new recertification date will now become August 2024 as opposed to February 2024.

How can observers obtain certification in Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition if they have never been certified?

There are two options for individuals interested in obtaining certification for the first time:

- Teachstone will offer Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition virtual training at a reduced cost of \$500 for new observers in July, August, and September 2023. Please reach out to louisiana-TS@teachstone.com to receive more information.
- Observers can be trained on 1st edition through trainers at the Community Network Lead Agency. Observers will certify in 1st Edition, complete the transition training, and then recertify in Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition. *The observer must complete the transition training and recertify in 2nd Edition in order to conduct accountability observations.*

Can an observer use a 1st Edition manual if they are certified in Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition?

No. Pre-K-3rd 2nd Edition manuals must be used to complete pre-K Early Childhood Accountability observations. The Department has provided additional funding as part of the 2023-2024 Community Network Lead Agency allocations to

cover the cost of Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition manuals. Teachstone’s Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition bundle includes the manual and the recertification fee at the discounted price of \$180.

Will Teachstone update calibration exercises to align with the Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition tool?

Yes. Teachstone has uploaded four new pre-K calibration videos available in the [Teachstone® Store](#) that can be used to maintain reliability.

What resources are available to help observers and Community Network Lead Agencies in the transition to Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition?

In addition to Teachstone’s [2nd Edition homepage](#), there are [CLASS® Observation Supports](#) available for certified observers. These supports can strengthen specific observation skills to effectively measure interactions across all settings. Although some supports must be purchased, [observers may request other supports free of charge.](#)

Exhibit 1: Recertification Process Based on Recertification Date

Recertification Date	Recertification Process	Cost
July 1 - December 31, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the 2nd Edition Transition training course (either self-paced online or through a facilitated Transition Training) Complete recertification testing by activating a Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition Observer Recertification product key 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$125 for Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition Observer Recertification product key Three options for transition training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$0 online self-paced myTeachstone course \$275 individual virtual training provided by Teachstone Group virtual training (\$2,500 for up to 20 participants)
January 1 - May 15, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the 2nd Edition Transition training course (either self-paced online or through a facilitated Transition Training) Complete recertification testing by activating a Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition Observer Recertification product key 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$62.50 for Pre-K-3rd CLASS® 2nd Edition Observer Recertification product key Three options for transition training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$0 online self-paced myTeachstone course \$275 individual virtual training provided by Teachstone Group virtual training (\$2,500 for up to 20 participants)

For any further questions about the transition to 2nd Edition, please email Robert Jones at robert.jones4@la.gov.