

2018-2019 Infant CLASS™ Pilot

To participate in the 2018-2019 Infant CLASS™ Pilot, complete this [SURVEY](#)
Deadline to complete survey: November 16, 2018

Beginning in 2019-2020, all infant classrooms will be observed using the Infant CLASS™ tool, and beginning 2020-2021, Infant CLASS™ observations will be included in the calculation of site and network performance ratings.

During the 2018-2019 school year, the Department will pilot the Infant CLASS™ tool in a select number of classrooms in order to understand best practices for use of this tool in Louisiana classrooms and to help sites prepare for full implementation of Infant CLASS™. Due to limited resources, pilot participation will be offered only to a limited number of sites and classrooms.

What is Infant CLASS™?

Infant CLASS™ is an observation-based system of measures to assess and rate classroom quality across multiple areas on a scale from 1.00-7.00, similar to the Toddler and PreK CLASS™ tools already used as part of the unified rating system for early childhood across the state.

What is the Infant CLASS™ Pilot?

Sites that participate in the Infant CLASS Pilot are agreeing to the following:

- Inform teachers about the tool and process, and provide them any feedback that results from observations
- Allow 3rd party to conduct infant observations and report the results to the state
- Where possible, secure or conduct local observations and report the results to the state
- 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.
- Allow data to be aggregated for state level reports that does not include information about individual sites or classrooms

This pilot is an opportunity for publicly-funded sites to practice local and third-party observations of infant classrooms before they are fully included in the unified quality rating system. This observation data will be uploaded to the online CLASS™ Portal without impacting 2018-2019 performance ratings, School Readiness Tax Credits or bonus payments, shadow score completion, or any other site metrics. Note that opting into the pilot does not guarantee a third party observation.

Timeline of Statewide Infant CLASS™ Implementation

In accordance with Bulletin 140, Infant CLASS™ is being phased into the Early Childhood Accountability System over three years, and Infant CLASS™ observations will be included in the 2020-2021 Performance Profile ratings, released in the fall of 2021.



Which classrooms should be observed using Infant CLASS™?

Infant CLASS should only be used with classrooms in which the majority of children are younger than 15 months old.

How will I know if my site is selected for third party observations?

Your site will receive a letter notifying you that you have been selected for an infant, toddler, or pre-K observation at least two weeks before an observation takes place.

What do I do with the results from my local infant observations?

Please enter these results into the CLASS portal, as you do for toddler and pre-K observations. Third party observation results will also be accessible via the CLASS portal.

What will the state do with the results from infant observations this year?

Louisiana will use the results from local and third party observations to inform state policy on fully integrating infant classrooms into the unified rating system. No site or classroom level information will ever be published publicly.

What support exists for Infant Classrooms?

The Department is committed to supporting all classrooms regardless of age and is working to increase offerings of observer trainings, My Teaching Partner, and Making the Most of Classroom Interactions for Infant CLASS™. Local community resources also exist to support teachers and providers to increase their understanding of the tool.

Who do I contact with questions?

Please email any questions to earlychildhood@la.gov.