

**Background: Unified Rating and Improvement System for Early Childhood Programs**

This year, 2018-2019, is the third year of the unified rating and improvement system for early childhood sites and community networks.

- All publicly-funded early childhood care and education sites and community networks will be evaluated on their performance.
- At the end of the year, all sites and networks will receive a performance rating based on a five level scale established in [Bulletin 140](#).
- For sites, this rating will be based on classroom observations using the *CLASS™ (Classroom Assessment Scoring System)*, using the methodology outlined in Bulletin 140.

Each community network must ensure that every classroom in a publicly-funded site receives two *CLASS™* observations each year for program evaluation. These observations are used to establish the performance rating as required by state policy, so they are subject to strict rules including that observers are certified by *CLASS™*. Note that the Department will also use third party *CLASS™* observers to verify local observation results. These additional requirements help to ensure a high bar for instruction, and support teachers to understand where they are and how they can improve their interactions.

**CLASS™ as an Option for the Teacher Professional Practice Rubric for Public School Pre-K Teachers**

LEAs (Local Education Agency) and Charter Organizations are encouraged to use *CLASS™* as the rubric for evaluating professional practice of public school pre-K teachers in all or some of their schools. This ensures closer alignment of program accountability and teacher evaluation. Many districts that used the same tool for both systems in 2017-2018 were able to reduce the number of necessary classroom observations. Similarly, classrooms teachers reported that receiving aligned feedback from multiple observations promoted their growth and development.

Note: Using *CLASS™* as the rubric for evaluating professional practice is an option, and is not required for any LEA.

**Differences between CLASS™ for Compass and CLASS™ for the Unified Rating and Improvement System**

The state understands that using the tool for different purposes may result in differing scores.

- Local *CLASS™* observations may be audited by a third party.
  - Local scores may be replaced by third party scores for the unified rating and improvement system.
  - These third party substitutions will not take place for Compass.
- Negative Climate is excluded from the calculations for the unified rating and improvement system, but is typically included in scores for Compass.
- **Principals may use their discretion and consideration of other elements when converting the *CLASS™* score to a Compass score and rating.**

*Summary of Actions for Early Childhood Coordinators & LEAs*

<p><b>Step 1: Review <a href="#">Bulletin 140</a> Requirements for Using CLASS™ observations for evaluating professional practice.</b></p>	<p><b>Step 2: Decide if you would like to use CLASS™ as the rubric for evaluating professional practice in some or all pre-K classrooms in the 2018-2019 school year.</b></p>	<p><b>Step 3: Submit completed waiver request below by September 30, 2018.</b></p>
<p>Consider the extent to which you are able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide or coordinate CLASS™ observer training for all evaluators to ensure reliability of the tool;</li> <li>• Ensure all raters maintain inter-rater reliability through shadow scoring;</li> <li>• Ensure there is no conflict of interest for observers per <a href="#">Bulletin 140</a>;</li> <li>• Provide quality feedback and support for teachers; and</li> <li>• Support evaluators as they enter CLASS™ data, for the purpose of program accountability, into the LDE CLASS™ System within 10 business days after the completion of the observation, and support evaluators as they enter CLASS™ data, for the purposes of teacher professional practice, into CIS using the <a href="#">conversion chart</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions? Contact <a href="mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov">earlychildhood@la.gov</a>.</li> <li>• Remember that if a pre-K program is currently in a TAP school and is considered to be a part of the TAP system, then the use of the TAP/NIET Instructional Rubric must be continued for these teachers.</li> <li>• Keep in mind that regardless of which instrument is used for teacher professional practice evaluations, all LEAs and Charter Schools will be evaluated using the CLASS™ tool for program accountability purposes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you would like to use CLASS™ for the rubric for evaluating professional practice for some or all teachers, submit the waiver request form at the end of this document.</li> <li>• Email the completed waiver to <a href="mailto:compass@la.gov">compass@la.gov</a> by <b>September 30, 2018</b>.</li> </ul>

**Request for Waiver: CLASS™ as Teacher Professional Practice Rubric in 2018-2019**

LEAs and Charter Organizations/Schools choosing to use CLASS™ (*Classroom Assessment Scoring System*) as the Teacher Professional Practice Rubric for public school pre-K teachers for 2018-2019 must email the completed information below to [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) by September 30, 2018.

CONTACT INFORMATION
<b>LEA/Charter Organization/School:</b>
<b>Superintendent/Executive Director:</b>
<b>Early Childhood Coordinator:</b>
<b>Address:</b>
<b>Phone Number(s):</b>
<b>E-mail address of Coordinator:</b>

Our LEA/Charter Organization/School is requesting a waiver to use CLASS™ as the Teacher Professional Practice Rubric for all of our public school pre-K teachers.

Our LEA/Charter Organization is requesting a waiver to use CLASS™ as the Teacher Professional Practice Rubric for some of our public school pre-K teachers located at the following school(s):

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**Superintendent's/Executive Director's Signature**

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**Early Childhood Coordinator's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

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**Date**