

Phase II Update

In the 2023-2024 school year, current K-2 Learning Year participants will have the option to continue with the pilot. The CLASS® or NIET Teaching and Learning Standards observation rubrics will be used to observe participating teachers for those that choose to continue. Participants will be expected to observe participating teachers using either tool once in the fall and once in the spring.

In August 2022, BESE requested that the Department find a way to include an incentive to use CLASS® or NIET Teaching and Learning Standards observation rubrics in school accountability, specifically in the Interests and Opportunities Index. In 2025-2026, an indicator will be included for schools to earn credit for using the rubrics on the Interests and Opportunities Index. This indicator is still being developed and will be published no later than Spring 2025.

If participants choose to continue with the pilot, the following information will apply. Questions about the 2023-2024 Learning Year: Phase II can be emailed to compass@la.gov.

Logistics for K-2 Learning Year: Phase II

Pilot systems will gain access to the [K-2 Portal](#) at the beginning of August. Systems will enter observation data into the [K-2 Portal](#) once in the fall and once in the spring annually for the teachers and classrooms participating in the learning year. These scores can automatically be transferred to CIS, so data will only need to be entered once. Monthly, the Department will host an office hours call where participants have the opportunity to ask any questions.

Shadow Scoring

Shadow scoring by local observers is a recommended practice to ensure fidelity and reliability to the tool. Systems should follow guidance for conducting shadow scoring based on the provider guidance for the selected tool. In addition, the [Guide for Shadow Scoring CLASS® Observations](#) is available for reference.

Observations

School systems should develop a written plan to ensure they have all sites and the teachers for each site, with correct grade levels, entered in the [K-2 Portal](#) and have a schedule for completing local observations for each observation period. As participants of the K-2 Learning Year: Phase II, the Department requires that all sites and classrooms are entered in the portal by September 30 in order to ensure appropriate third-party coverage and general support. School systems should establish a process to review observer schedules for schedule conflicts, [conflicts of interest](#), or other concerns, and make adjustments that are communicated to observers and sites.

School systems should establish a process to contact sites to determine the optimal learning time during which to conduct observations. Sites should contact the school system or the observer with any events that would preclude an observation no later than one week before the scheduled timeframe of the observation.

Observers

All observers should follow the guidelines for certified observers developed by the providers. Observation results must be entered in the [K-2 Portal](#) within ten days after the visit occurs.

Certification

Both observers and evaluators must be certified by the provider of the observation tool. Observations completed for the K-2 Learning Year: Phase II may be completed by either a certified observer or the evaluator. If the evaluator conducts the observation, it may be used for evaluation but should follow all guidance set forth in Bulletin 130.

Observations: Corrections and Appeals

Error corrections that are not based on scores can be made directly in the [K-2 Portal](#) by the observer. To submit a request for a score correction, school leaders and observers can submit requests via the [K-2 Portal](#) directly starting in the fall. Appeals for third-party Observations can be submitted by the school system on the [K-2 Portal](#). (Note: Third-party observations are conducted to ensure local reliability for the 2023-2024 school year. There is no use in school accountability or educator evaluation for these scores.)

Third-Party Observations

Third-party observations will take place from September 20, 2023-May 15, 2024. They will take place for systems implementing both CLASS[®] and NIET Teaching and Learning Standards rubrics. Third-party observations are conducted to ensure local reliability for the 2023-2024 school year. These scores are not used for school accountability or for educator evaluation.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I have to participate in Phase II of the pilot?

No, systems/schools that are currently participating do not have to continue participating in Phase II.

Should I add my other schools in Phase II if only a few participated in Phase I?

LDOE is recommending that no new schools or school systems be added to Phase II. Schools using CLASS[®] or NIET Teaching and Learning Standards rubrics are not required to participate in the Learning Year: Phase II.

Do all schools have to participate in the Learning Year: Phase II if our system opted in?

No, not all schools have to participate. Systems may opt to keep only some of the current participating schools in the Learning Year: Phase II. The number of schools and participation status is determined by the school system.

Am I required to use CLASS[®] or NIET Teaching and Learning Standards rubrics for teacher evaluation?

No, Compass may still be used for teacher evaluation. Systems participating in the Learning Year: Phase II, who choose to use Compass for evaluation will have to use Compass and CLASS[®] or NIET Teaching and Learning Standards rubrics to observe teachers. If systems choose not to participate in Phase II, systems are not required to use CLASS[®] or NIET for the professional practice portion of teacher evaluation.

Do I need to submit a waiver to use the CLASS[®] or NIET Teaching and Learning Standards rubrics for teacher evaluation?

No, systems do not need to submit a waiver to use CLASS[®] or NIET Teaching and Learning Standards rubrics for grades K-2.

How do we track the data and observations?

Once systems email compass@la.gov, they will be considered a part of the K-2 Learning Year: Phase II, and in August of 2023, access will be granted to the [K-2 Portal](#). More information about the [K-2 Portal](#) is available in the [Accountability Library](#) and linked as the [K-2 Portal User Guide](#).

Are there additional assessment requirements for those participating in K-2 Learning Year: Phase II?

No, there are no additional assessment requirements for schools and systems participating in K-2 Learning Year: Phase II.