



Exhibit S

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS™)

Section 641A(c)(2)(F) of the Head Start Act (the Act) requires that the OHS monitoring review process include the use of "a valid and reliable research based observational instrument, implemented by qualified individuals with demonstrated reliability, that assesses classroom quality, including assessing multiple dimensions of teacher-child interactions that are linked to positive child development and later achievement." The Act also states, in Section 641(c)(1)(D), that such an instrument should be used as part of the system for designation renewal. The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS™) is the tool that is used to meet this requirement.

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®) is an observation instrument that assesses the quality of teacher-child interactions in center-based preschool classrooms. CLASS® includes three domains or categories of teacher-child interactions that support children's learning and development: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. Within each domain are dimensions that capture more specific details about teachers' interactions with children.

CLASS® is scored by trained and certified observers using a specific protocol. Following their observations of teacher-child interactions, CLASS® observers rate each dimension on a 7-point scale, from low to high.

Scores of 1-2 mean the quality of teacher-child interactions is low. Classrooms in which there is poor management of behavior, teaching that is purely rote, or that lack interaction between teachers and children would receive low scores.

Scores of 3-5, the mid-range, are given when classrooms show a mix of effective interactions with periods when interactions are not effective or are absent.

Scores of 6-7 mean that effective teacher-child interactions are consistently observed throughout the observation period.

During the CLASS® observation reviewers independently review and score each classroom using a computer-based scoring system in the Office of Head Start Monitoring Software (OHSMS). After the review OHSMS averages the scores across the grantee to result in grantee level dimension scores. The dimension scores are then used to calculate the grantee-level domain scores. Reviewers do not have access to the grantee level score during or after the review.

The Office of Head Start has established thresholds for each domain that must be met annually. These thresholds have been established as a score of 6 for the domain of Emotional Support, 6 for the domain of Classroom Organization, and 3 for the domain of Instructional Support. The 10 percent of grantees reviewed that receive the lowest average scores in each domain are required to compete.

For additional information visit:

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/designation-renewal-system/article/use-classroom-assessment-scoring-system-class-head-start>

<https://teachstone.com/class>