ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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Results from CLASS® Video Pilot Observations

To: Board Chairperson
Dr. Arcolia Jenkins, Board Chairperson
Community Services Of Northeast Texas, Inc.
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Linden, TX 75563-5210

From: Responsible HHS Official

Date: 06/02/2023
Mr. Khari M. Garvin
Director, Office of Head Start

Thank you for your support during the recent Office of Head Start CLASS® Video Pilot review conducted from **03/17/2023** to **05/01/2023** of your Head Start program. Grant **06CH011282**. The CLASS® Video Pilot provided an opportunity for our monitoring team to ascertain the feasibility, efficiency, and quality of classroom observations obtained through video recordings in comparison to those obtained during in-person visits. Scores from observations conducted during the 2022-23 program year for this CLASS® Video Pilot will not be used for Designation Renewal System (DRS) purposes.

Observations were conducted in preschool center-based classrooms using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®). The CLASS® tool looks at three domains and ten dimensions of teacher-child interactions and measures those observed interactions on a seven-point scale. Please share these results with the appropriate governing board, policy council, management, staff and stakeholders.

The Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) include Quality and Competitive thresholds for each CLASS® domain(s). *While scores from observations conducted during the 2022-23 program year for this CLASS® Video Pilot will not be used for DRS purposes, we offer the following information for your program's reference:*

DOMAIN	SCORE	Quality Threshold	Competitive Threshold
Emotional Support*	5.1548	6	5
Classroom Organization	5.2857	6	5
Instructional Support	2.4444	3	2.3**

To calculate the Emotional Support domain, subtract the Negative Climate score from 8, add the Positive Climate, Teacher Sensitivity, and Regard for Student Perspective scores, then divide by 4.

**The competitive threshold for Instructional Support is 2.3 for CLASS® reviews conducted through July 31, 2025 and then raises to 2.5 for CLASS® reviews conducted on and after August 1, 2025.*

DIMENSION	SCORE
Positive Climate	5.07
Negative Climate	1.33
Teacher Sensitivity	5.02
Regard for Student Perspectives	3.86
Behavior Management	5.45
Productivity	5.71
Instructional Learning Formats	4.69
Concept Development	1.98
Quality of Feedback	2.33
Language Modeling	3.02

If your grant's scores from this CLASS® review would have fallen below the *quality or competitive threshold* for one or more CLASS® domains, the Office of Head Start offers the following training and technical assistance (TTA) resources as a first step to support your program's efforts on quality improvement related to teacher-child interactions in these areas: https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/teaching-practices/article/class-quality-improvement. In addition, you have the option of working with your Regional Office to explore further TTA opportunities that support improvement of classroom learning environments and teacher-child interactions in areas that could most benefit your program.

For more information on CLASS® domains and dimensions, please see the attached description and visit the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center, National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning at https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/teaching-practices/article/learn-more-about-class.

If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Office.

cc: *Mr. Kenneth Gilbert*, Regional Program Manager

Ms. Cecelia Huff, Policy Council Chairperson

Mr. Dan Boyd, CEO/Executive Director

Ms. Bernadette Harris, Head Start Director

About CLASS®

The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 requires that the Office of Head Start (OHS) include in the monitoring reviews of Head Start agencies a valid and reliable research-based observational instrument that assesses classroom quality, including the assessment of multiple dimensions of teacher-child interactions that are linked to positive child outcomes and later achievement.

CLASS® assesses interactions between children and teachers in three broad domains of classroom quality: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. The Office of Head Start believes that the domains of quality measured by CLASS® remain central to its approach to child development and education and serve as important indicators of the future school readiness of all Head Start children.

For all dimensions[†], the scoring principles are as follows:

Low range score
1-The low range description of the CLASS® dimension fits the classroom and/or teacher very well. All, or almost all, relevant indicators in the low range are present.
2-The low range description of the CLASS® dimension mostly fits the classroom and/or teacher, but there are one or two indicators that are in the middle range.

Middle range score
3-The middle range description of the CLASS® dimension mostly fits the classroom and/or teacher, but there are one or two indicators in the low range.
4-The middle range description of the CLASS® dimension fits the classroom and/or teacher very well. All, or almost all, relevant indicators in the middle range are present.
5-The middle range description of the CLASS® dimension mostly fits the classroom and/or teacher, but there are one or two indicators in the high range.

High range score
6-The high range description of the CLASS® dimension mostly fits the classroom and/or teacher, but there are one or two indicators in the middle range.
7-The high range description of the CLASS® dimension fits the classroom and/or teacher very well. All, or almost all, relevant indicators in the high range are present.

[†]Note: The Negative Climate dimension is inversely scored with a higher score indicating lower quality. For all other dimensions and domains, a higher score indicates higher quality.

The scores from each class observation are averaged across the grantee to result in **grantee-level** dimension scores. The grantee dimension scores are then used to calculate the grantee-level domain scores.

The scores from CLASS® observations can be used for a variety of purposes, including professional development, program improvement, policy, goal setting and monitoring. The Office of Head Start began using the CLASS® for monitoring purposes in FY2010 to collect information on the experiences of children at each grantee.

In FY2012, OHS refined the use of the CLASS® in monitoring to include the use of a randomly selected sample of center-based preschool classes for observations, a clearly articulated methodology followed by CLASS® reviewers, and additional support for the CLASS® reviewer pool. For each preschool class selected in the sample, trained and certified CLASS® Teachstone Specialists conduct two 20-minute observations and score at the dimension level using a 7-point scale at the end of each observation cycle.