
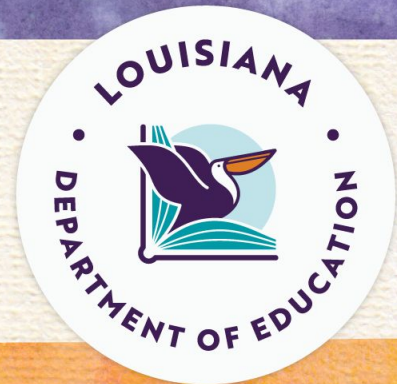


*EARLY CHILDHOOD*  
***CONFERENCE 2024***  
*SHAPING LOUISIANA'S FUTURE*

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**Introduction to the Early Childhood  
Accountability System**



# Session Objectives



Participants will be able to:

- explain how the early childhood accountability system promotes early care and education across the state; and
- explain how Louisiana uses CLASS<sup>®</sup> observations to assess quality of care.

# Louisiana's Educational Priorities

- ✓ **Early childhood** leading to kindergarten readiness
- ✓ **Literacy** instruction aligned to the Science of Reading
- ✓ **Foundational math** instruction advancing to conceptual understanding
- ✓ Opportunities ensuring a **meaningful high school experience**
- ✓ An effective **teacher for every student**
- ✓ Expand **educational choice** for students and families

# Agenda

1. Session Overview
2. What is Early Childhood Accountability?
3. Creating an Effective System
4. CLASS<sup>®</sup> Observations
5. Conclusion





# **What is Early Childhood Accountability?**

# What is Early Childhood Accountability?

## LDOE vision for early childhood

All infants through 5-year-olds need educators and caregivers that...



respond to their emotions with **sensitivity and warmth,**



are prepared to **guide their behavior** and **facilitate their attention,**



promote their learning through **engaging language and high-quality interactions,**



support their development with **high-quality instructional tools,** and



address **all children's individualized needs.**

# What is Early Childhood Accountability?

## The Early Childhood Education Act



“[Act 3] calls for the creation of a statewide, **integrated** early childhood care and education network which will establish uniform standards of readiness for kindergarten and, through coordination with other state agencies, **align all standards for quality early-child education.**”

- *BESE current initiatives*

# What is Early Childhood Accountability?

## Measuring quality of care

Louisiana uses the CLASS® rating tool to measure quality. CLASS® is a research-based, nationally regarded measure that assesses how well teachers interact with the children under their care.

Classroom Expectation	Infant	Toddler	Pre-K
<i>Warm, positive environment with trusting relationships</i>	Responsive Caregiving	Emotional and Behavioral Support	Emotional Support
<i>Daily routines are organized with minimal disruptions</i>			Classroom Organization
<i>Children learn concepts and connect ideas through dialogue and play</i>		Engaged Support for Learning	Instructional Support



# What is Early Childhood Accountability?

## Units of CLASS<sup>®</sup>

		Infant	Toddler	Pre-K
Domain →		<b>Responsive Caregiving</b>	<b>Emotional and Behavioral Support</b>	<b>Emotional Support</b>
				Positive Climate
	Relational Climate		Positive Climate Regard for Child Perspectives	Regard for Child Perspectives
	Teacher Sensitivity		Teacher Sensitivity Behavior Guidance	Educator Sensitivity
Dimension →				<b>Classroom Organization</b>
				Behavior Management
	Facilitated Exploration		<b>Engaged Support for Learning</b>	Instructional Learning Formats Productivity
			Facilitation of Learning and Development	<b>Instructional Support</b>
	Early Language Support		Quality of Feedback Language Modeling	Concept Development Quality of Feedback Language Modeling

# What is Early Childhood Accountability?

## Observation coordination



“To help improve learning opportunity for all publicly-funded children within the community network, lead agencies will be responsible for coordinating classroom observations[...].”

*-Guide to Success for Early Childhood Community Network Lead Agencies, 2016*

# What is Early Childhood Accountability?

## Timeline of CLASS® in Louisiana

CLASS® pilots  
launched in 13  
community  
networks

Site  
Performance  
Profiles  
published on  
School Finder

Performance  
Profiles  
published for  
sites that  
improved

2013-  
2014

2014-  
2015

2015-  
2016

2016-  
2017

2017-  
2018

2018-  
2019

2019-  
2020

2020-2  
021

2021-  
2022

2022-  
2023

2023-  
2024

Community  
networks  
established  
for all school  
districts

Infant  
classrooms  
enter  
accountability  
system

Family  
childcare sites  
enter  
accountability

# What is Early Childhood Accountability?

## Supporting improvement

- Site Improvement Planning (SIP)
- Field support consultants
- Childcare resource and referral agency coaching supports



# What is Early Childhood Accountability?

## LDOE's vision for early childhood

All infants through 5-year-olds need educators and caregivers that...



respond to their emotions with **sensitivity and warmth,**



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support their development with **high-quality instructional tools,** and



address **all children's individualized needs.**

# Creating an Effective System



# Creating an Effective System

## Fall CLASS<sup>®</sup> observation activities



- Update the Early Childhood CLASS<sup>®</sup> Portal
- Submit a local observation protocol
- Observe every classroom at each publicly-funded site
- Conduct shadow scoring and observer calibration activities

# Creating an Effective System

## Spring CLASS<sup>®</sup> observation activities

- Observe every classroom at each publicly-funded site
- Conduct shadow scoring and observer calibration activities
- Ensure that every classroom has a local observation





# Creating an Effective System

## Connect to LDOE vision



Where have you seen evidence of these activities?

How do you think the Department or your local lead agency ensures that public sites are accountable for their performance?

# **CLASS<sup>®</sup> Observations: A Closer Look**



# CLASS® Observation Requirements

## Center directors or principals

- Communicate classroom and lead teacher updates to lead agency
- Communicate with local and third party observers as appropriate
- Facilitate observation rescheduling
- Greet observer upon arrival to site
- Report feedback to lead teacher



# CLASS® Observation Requirements

## Observers



- Maintain CLASS® reliability and CCCBC
- Alert lead agency to conflicts of interest
- Adhere to observation protocol
- Report any suspected abuse or neglect as mandated by law

# CLASS® Observation Requirements

## Early childhood teachers

- Alert director or principal of any conflicts of interest with observer
- Respond to (minimal) communication with observer and site administration
- Teach and provide care as normal



# CLASS® Observation Requirements

## Connect to LDOE vision



How do these requirements maintain a clear and fair observation process?

# Conclusion

The image features a dark blue, textured background. In the center, there is a large, light beige rectangle with a fine, woven texture. To the right of this rectangle, three overlapping, L-shaped bars extend from the bottom edge towards the right. The top bar is dark purple, the middle bar is orange, and the bottom bar is teal. All bars have a white outline and a slight shadow effect, giving them a layered appearance.


# Session Objectives



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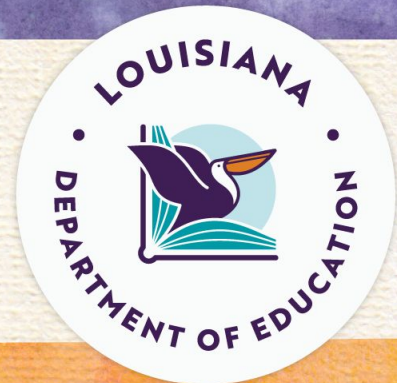
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**Thank you for attending my session!**


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**Thank you for attending my session!**

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