

### Introduction

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) continues to focus on improving literacy rates and developing a K-2 accountability system that reflects the quality of instruction our youngest learners receive. In order to prepare for the 2022-2023 K-2 Accountability Learning Year: Phase I, pending BESE approval, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) began encouraging all K-2 schools to implement the CLASS® or NIET (TAP/Best Practices) rubrics in 2017. Systems' adoption of these rubrics will provide valuable information to the department as it develops the K-2 accountability system proposal, and it will support evidence-based practices to improve instructional practices.

### What is required to implement the CLASS® or NIET (TAP/Best Practices) Observation Rubrics?

CLASS® and the NIET (TAP/Best Practices) Rubrics are the preferred observation rubrics for K-2 teachers.

- School systems should ensure that schools have a sufficient number of trained, certified evaluators.
- School systems should train and certify enough evaluators to account for loss of evaluators at sites (resignations, etc).
- Evaluators must meet the requirements of [Bulletin 130](#).
- Evaluators are required to recertify annually.

### How will the CLASS® or NIET (TAP/Best Practices) evaluator training be funded?

- CLASS® Rubric: There is limited additional funding available for systems with CIR/UIR-A schools to receive [CLASS® Train-the-Trainer](#) training through Teachstone. Additionally, money was allocated in Achieve! for the 2022-2023 school year. Please reference the contact information below for additional training, and it may be included as part of Super App in future years.
- NIET Rubric: Funding was allocated for systems with CIR/UIR-A schools in Super App. For those interested in implementing the NIET Teaching Standards Rubric, please reference the contact information below, and it may be included as a part of Super App in future years.

### What additional training opportunities are there for evaluators?

Training for observers is conducted through Teachstone and NIET separately for the two instruments. Please contact the vendors for more information about their observer training. Systems may also want to consider training additional observers to conduct shadow scoring. Shadow scoring is when two trained observers conduct independent observations at the same time in order to confirm consistent scoring that helps to validate the reliability of the measure and fidelity to the observation process. Vendors for both rubrics offer training to assist with calibration. Contact information is provided below.

### What additional training opportunities are there for teachers?

Vendors for both the CLASS® Rubric and NIET (TAP/Best Practices) Rubric offer training to introduce and support teachers with the scoring system. It is recommended that schools study the rubric components as an integral part of teacher collaboration and in context of lesson planning and the discussion of student work.

### How will CLASS® and NIET (TAP/Best Practices) observation scores convert to a 4.0 scale for the Compass Information System (CIS)? How do I enter this into CIS?

Conversion charts are developed for both the CLASS® and NIET (TAP/Best Practices) Observation Rubric scores to convert to the 4.0 scale and are available in the [Compass Library](#). Schools adopting these rubrics will enter observation scores into the K-2 Portal which will convert to the 4.0 scale automatically and transfer to the Compass Information System (CIS).

**What happens if we want to use a different rubric for teacher evaluations?**

All systems who prefer to use a rubric that is not CLASS®, NIET (TAP/Best Practice), or Compass should follow guidance in [Bulletin 130](#) to submit a [Professional Practice Evaluation Rubric Waiver](#) to [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) for approval.

**Contact Information**

**CLASS® Rubric**

Vendor: [Teachstone](#)

Contact for Louisiana: Amy Marciniak, 434-409-7144, [amy.marciniak@teachstone.com](mailto:amy.marciniak@teachstone.com)

**NIET (TAP/Best Practices) Rubric**

Vendor: [National Institute for Excellence in Teaching](#)

Contact: Vicky Condalary (ext 454) or Davita Lancelin (ext 458), 1-800-575-NIET, [vcondalary@niet.org](mailto:vcondalary@niet.org) or [dlancelin@niet.org](mailto:dlancelin@niet.org)

For additional information on teacher evaluations, email [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov).

For additional information on accountability, email [accountability@la.gov](mailto:accountability@la.gov).