

Exciting Updates to Program Assessment: Enhancing Pre-K Interactions with CLASS 2nd Edition

Teachstone has released the CLASS 2nd Edition, and DEL has announced Phase One of our transition to using the updated tool. Beginning in the 2026 contract year, we will move to the 2nd Edition for Pre-K. We want to ensure you know what to expect during this change.

What's Changing?

Don't worry—the heart of CLASS isn't changing. It still focuses on the powerful interactions between you and your students. However, the 2nd Edition brings some helpful "facelifts":

- **Enhanced Equity:** Includes better defined behavior markers, diverse examples, and videos reflecting various cultures, communities, and child abilities.
- **Streamlined Tools:** Age-level frameworks are simplified and perfect for mixed-age settings.
- **Actionable Scoring:** Observers provide scoring at the "indicator level" to better support your professional growth

What to Expect During an Observation?

Observations will feel very familiar. An ELC certified observer will spend time in your classroom—typically about 2+ hours—to document natural, everyday interactions. Remember: There is no need for a "perfect" lesson! Observers want to see a typical day. They are looking for how you build relationships (Emotional Support), manage your classroom (Classroom Organization), and challenge children's thinking (Instructional Support). So, here's how to prepare for a smooth transition to the 2nd Edition for Pre-K.

- **Be Authentic:** Continue your normal routine. The best observations happen when you and the children are comfortable and being yourselves.
- **Focus on Relationships:** The core of CLASS 2nd Edition remains your responsiveness to children's needs. Trust in the bonds you've built!
- **Use the Feedback:** Look at your new indicator-level scores as a roadmap for your own professional goals and growth.

What more can you do?

Attend the Provider Update meeting on Tuesday, May 12th, at 1 pm for additional information.