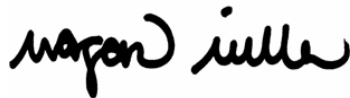


TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
Workforce Development Letter

ID/No:	WD 06-22, Change 1
Date:	July 15, 2024
Keyword:	Child Care
Effective:	Immediately

To: Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors
Commission Executive Offices
Integrated Service Area Managers



From: Reagan Miller, Director, Child Care & Early Learning Division

Subject: CLASS[®] Optional for Texas Rising Star Assessments—Update

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this WD Letter is to provide Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with updated guidance on using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System[®] (CLASS[®]) as an alternative to Texas Rising Star assessment tools for assessing Category 2.

This updated letter includes information about using the CLASS[®] 2nd Edition Pre-K-3rd tool for classrooms with children from age three years to third grade and out-of-school classrooms with children in fourth through seventh grade.

RESCISSION:

WD Letter 06-22

BACKGROUND:

On June 8, 2021, the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) three-member Commission (Commission) approved the optional use of the CLASS[®] assessment tool to measure teacher-child interactions for Texas Rising Star assessments.

Category 2 of the Texas Rising Star certification criteria is specific to teacher-child interactions and describes high-quality teaching behaviors that are evident and consistent across varying contexts of the child's day. CLASS[®] is an evidence-based assessment tool that includes the following three domains of teacher-child interactions that support children's learning and development:

- Emotional Support
- Classroom Organization
- Instructional Support

Although the CLASS[®] assessment tool does not measure the same teacher-child interactions that Texas Rising Star measures, it examines substantially similar items. Because CLASS[®] is already used by several Boards as a part of their local evaluation of quality, TWC is giving all Boards the option to use the CLASS[®] assessment to demonstrate a provider's competency in meeting the Texas Rising Star teacher-child interactions requirements to minimize the duplication of efforts.

In 2022, CLASS[®] 2nd Edition combined the Pre-K and K-3rd tools into a single tool, Pre-K-3rd. CLASS[®] 2nd Edition Pre-K-3rd now covers observations of classrooms with any children aged three years to third grade (children approximately eight to nine years old). School-age classrooms in out-of-school time settings (such as after-school and wraparound programs) may use the CLASS[®] 2nd Edition Pre-K-3rd tool when most children are between the ages of three and 12.

PROCEDURES:

No Local Flexibility (NLF): This rating indicates that Boards must comply with the federal and state laws, rules, policies, and required procedures set forth in this WD Letter and have no local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to comply. All information with an NLF rating is indicated by “must.”

Local Flexibility (LF): This rating indicates that Boards have local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to implement guidance or recommended practices set forth in this WD Letter. All information with an LF rating is indicated by “may” or “recommend.”

NLF: Boards must be aware that the Centralized Assessment Entity (CAE) must use only CLASS[®] scores to replace Texas Rising Star scores for Category 2: Teacher-Child Interactions during the assessment or annual monitoring, based on the following requirements:

- The CLASS[®] evaluator is currently certified by Teachstone to evaluate that classroom's age group.
- The CLASS[®] observation occurred within 12 months of the Texas Rising Star assessment or annual monitoring visit.
- The CLASS[®] evaluator is not a mentor for that provider.

NLF: Once it is determined that CLASS[®] scores will be used during a Texas Rising Star assessment or annual monitoring visit, these scores remain the official scores until the provider's next Texas Rising Star assessment or annual monitoring visit, regardless of new CLASS[®] observations.

Classroom Implementation

LF: Child care providers that have received a CLASS[®] observation in all classrooms, within the most recent 12 months, by a certified CLASS[®] evaluator have the option to bypass the Category 2: Teacher-Child Interactions assessment at their Texas Rising Star assessment or annual monitoring visit by submitting documentation of the observation and scores to the CAE via their School Management page on Engage. CLASS[®] scoring

for these classrooms will be entered by the assessor into the Texas Rising Star technology platform, Engage, per the Engage User Guide.

NLF: Classrooms must be assessed using one of the following appropriate CLASS® observation tools in order to bypass their Texas Rising Star assessment or annual monitoring visit for Category 2: Teacher Child Interactions:

- CLASS® Infant—used in classrooms with children 15 months old or younger
- CLASS® Toddler—used in classrooms with children between 15 and 36 months old
- CLASS® Pre-K—used in classrooms with children between three and five years old
- CLASS® 2nd Edition Pre-K-3rd—used in classrooms with children between three years to third grade and in out-of-school settings with children up to seventh grade

NLF: Boards must be aware that child care providers that have received a CLASS® observation in only some classrooms within the most recent 12 months by a certified CLASS® evaluator do not have the option to bypass the Category 2: Teacher-Child Interactions assessment at their Texas Rising Star assessment or annual monitoring visit. For example, if a provider serves infants through school-age children, but only the preschool classrooms have been evaluated by a certified CLASS® evaluator, this program is not eligible to have their CLASS® scores satisfy the assessment requirements for Category 2: Teacher-Child Interactions.

INQUIRIES:

Send inquiries regarding this WD Letter to childcare.programassistance@twc.texas.gov.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Texas Rising Star and CLASS® Crosswalk: Category 2
Attachment 2: Revisions to WD Letter 06-22 Shown in Track Changes

REFERENCES:

Texas Workforce Commission Texas Rising Star Certification Guidelines
Texas Rising Star Engage User Guide