

## **Region 10 Head Start CLASS® Observations 2022-2023:**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Why am I receiving this information?**

Region 10 has partnered with SMU's Center on Research and Evaluation (CORE) housed in the Simmons School of Education and Human Development to conduct and report on pre-kindergarten classroom observations using CLASS®. You will need to know and utilize this information so you can prepare to participate in this initiative as either a principal, instructional coach or teacher. This partnership has produced valuable information concerning the environmental quality of early learning classrooms in the Region 10 Head Start program.

#### **What is CLASS®?**

CLASS® stands for *Classroom Assessment Scoring System*. The story of CLASS® begins in the 1990's at the University of Virginia Curry School of Education. Researchers looked at how interactions impacted child outcomes rather than simply looking only at environmental factors. The interactions teachers have with children impact learning, development, and even lifelong achievement.

The CLASS® framework focuses on the domains of Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. CLASS® is an observation tool developed to assess these interactions from infant care through 12th grade. CLASS® is designed to observe classrooms, not teachers.

For more information on CLASS®, please read [What is CLASS?](#)

#### **Why am I being observed?**

Region 10 has contracted with SMU CORE to focus efforts on ensuring high-quality teaching and learning in Region 10's Head Start classrooms. CORE is responsible for collecting, un-biased observation data with no personal interest in the identities of individual schools or classroom teachers.

#### **Fall 2022 CLASS® timeline**

**October 10** - Region 10 teachers will receive an email and link to a teacher survey from Dawn Levy.

**October 14** - Teachers submit survey results

**October 17** - Region 10 teachers will receive an email from their assigned CLASS® observer requesting to set up CLASS observation date and time.

**October 24 – November 4** - CLASS® observations occur

Within ten business days of the last CLASS observation, classroom-level reports will be sent to Region 10.

#### **What will happen during an observation?**

SMU will conduct CLASS® observations in person during the 2022-2023 school year.

Our aim is to complete three 30-minute cycles: The observer will take anecdotal notes for 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes to score each dimension using the CLASS Dimensions Overview rubric. Once complete, the next cycle will begin, and the sequence of events will be repeated until the completion of the whole observation. SMU CLASS® observers fully understand that this amount of time might not be feasible. He/she will use his/her professional judgement to shorten cycles or the entire observation if that is what seems most appropriate. During the observation, the observer will not interact with students at any time and will interact with the classroom teacher only for matters related to technology.



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### **Who are the CORE CLASS® observers?**

SMU CORE has a large team of CLASS® observers, including former educators, who have received formal CLASS® training. All CORE CLASS® observers pass the certification test annually and biannually calibrate to maintain reliability to the CLASS® tool. CORE CLASS® observers are responsible for collecting impartial observation data with no interest in the identities of individual schools or classroom teachers.

### **What happens to the data that is collected?**

CLASS® scores are meant to be formative to inform professional development and quality improvement. It is the responsibility of Region 10 personnel to utilize collected data as it aligns to Region 10's goals and mission. Scores, in the form of Classroom CLASS® reports, will be given to Region 10 consultants within 10 days of the completion of Region 10 observations.

### **When will CLASS® observations occur?**

Observations will occur between 8:00 – 3:00 Monday – Friday. All teachers participating in this partnership will be observed once in the fall and once in the spring. Fall 2022 observations will be between October 24 – November 4. Dates for spring observations have not yet been determined.

### **Whom can I contact for more information?**

Please email or call Dawn Levy at [dlevy@smu.edu](mailto:dlevy@smu.edu) or 214.405.1904 with any questions.

*~ The SMU CORE CLASS Team*

