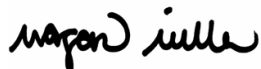


TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
Workforce Development Letter

ID/No:	WD 06-22
Date:	March 18, 2022
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

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this WD Letter is to provide Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with guidance on the use of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System[®] (CLASS[®]) as an option to use instead of Texas Rising Star assessments for Category 2.

RESCISSIONS:

None

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.

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” or “shall.”

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 use only CLASS[®] scores to replace Texas Rising Star scores for Category 2: Teacher-Child Interactions, 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 assessment for Category 2: Teacher-Child Interactions at their Texas Rising Star assessment or annual monitoring visit. CLASS[®] scoring for these classrooms will be entered into the Texas Rising Star technology platform, Engage, per the Engage User Guide.

NLF: 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 assessment with the Texas Rising Star observation tool for Category 2: Teacher-Child Interactions at their Texas Rising Star assessment or annual monitoring visit. For example, 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.

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment 1: Texas Rising Star and CLASS[®] Crosswalk: Category 2

REFERENCES:

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