

PreK Head Start Federal CLASS Review November 13-17, 2023

Monitors from the federal Office of Head Start (OHS) will be on-site and visiting Head Start classrooms throughout Philadelphia from Monday, November 13, 2023 to Friday, November 17, 2023 in order to observe adult-child interactions.

As a federal grantee, the School District of Philadelphia is required to undergo this regular monitoring visit and fully cooperate with the monitors when they arrive. Staff from the Office of Early Childhood will accompany the federal monitors on the site visits.

OHS monitors will be completing the *Pre-K Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)* tool when they visit. This tool is used to analyze and assess the effectiveness of interactions between children and teachers/assistant teachers in preschool classes from observations throughout the course of an average day.

The classrooms are selected through a random sampling procedure by OHS. The list of classrooms will not be shared until the federal team arrives in the District. Your schools' assigned PreK Education Field Administrators (EFA) and Instructional Specialists (IS) have been trained in how to prepare teachers for the visit using the CLASS tool and provide ongoing support to teaching staff. Teaching staff have received professional development (most recently on 9/29/23) on what to expect during a CLASS observation, and how to have classrooms that are well-organized and managed, provide social and emotional support, have positive instructional interactions and use materials that stimulate children's thinking and skills.

The three domains or categories of teacher-child interactions that support children's learning and development in CLASS are: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. Within each domain are dimensions that capture more specific details about teachers' interactions with children.

If you would like additional information, please visit:

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/designation-renewal-system/article/use-classroom-assessment-scoring-system-class-head-start>

If you have any questions about the monitoring visit, please contact the PreK EFA for your school (see school assignments here:

 2023-2024 Guidance for Principals with PreK) or Joy Diljohn, Executive Director for PreK at jdiljohn@philasd.org.