

- The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an observation tool developed to describe and measure the effectiveness of educator-child interactions in learning settings. CLASS includes three broad domains of educator-child interactions that support children's learning and development: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. Within each domain are multiple dimensions of educator-child interactions and behaviors.
- The CLASS tool is based on developmental and educational psychology theory and research suggesting that interactions between children and adults are the primary way of supporting children's development and learning, and that effective, engaging interactions and environments form the foundation for all learning in early childhood classrooms.
- CLASS is scored by trained and certified observers using a specific protocol. Following an observation of educator-child interactions, CLASS Observers rate each dimension on a 7-point scale, from low to high.
- Score Ranges - Seven-point scoring scale
 - Low Range (1-2) – Behaviors and interactions are rarely present or low-quality, superficial, strained, rote, or ineffective.
 - Middle Range (3-5) – Behaviors and interactions are somewhat present during the classroom observation or a part of some children's experience. Interactions are mixed; some interactions remain superficial, ineffective, or absent, whereas others demonstrate more intentional support that deepen children's experiences.
 - High Range (6-7) – Behaviors and interactions are meaningful, consistent, sustained, and reflective of most children's experience in the classroom. Interactions deepen children's experience or understanding and convey a level of intentional and effective support.
- During the 2011-2012 program year, the Office of Head Start (OHS) began using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) teacher-child observation instrument during its on-site reviews.
- In 2022, CLASS 2nd Edition (CLASS 2.0) was released and includes enhancements with a focus on improving equity, access, and impact. CLASS 2.0 includes more diverse and inclusive definitions and representation, considerations for scoring across diverse settings, and guidance for reducing bias.
- CLASS Thresholds – The Office of Head Start has published two sets of thresholds for CLASS scores as a part of the Designation Renewal System (DRS): Quality Thresholds and the Competitive Thresholds. During an OHS CLASS Federal Review, if a Recipient receives a score below the Quality Threshold for one or more of the CLASS domains, OHS provides support for quality improvement. If a Recipient receives a score below the Competitive Threshold for one or more of the CLASS domains, then the Recipient is required to compete for continued funding.

**City of San Antonio Head Start Program
Federal Review Results and Office of Head Start Thresholds**

Source	Emotional Support	Classroom Organization	Instructional Support
2014 – 2015 OHS Monitoring	5.9978	5.8216	2.5585
2019 – 2020 OHS Monitoring	5.8500	5.6788	2.6818
Quality Threshold	6	6	3
Competitive Threshold	5	5	2.3/2.5*

*Observations conducted on or after August 2025



Office of Head Start National Average Scores

Source	Emotional Support	Classroom Organization	Instructional Support
2011-2012	5.90	5.45	2.98
2012-2013	5.99	5.63	2.72
2013-2014	6.10	5.83	2.90
2014-2015	6.03	5.80	2.88
2015-2016	6.00	5.73	2.83
2016-2017	6.07	5.83	3.00
2017-2018	6.08	5.80	2.96
2018-2019	6.05	5.79	2.91
2019-2020	6.03	5.78	2.94
2020-2021*	-	-	-
2021-2022**			
2022-2023**			
2023-2024**			

*Due to COVID-19, CLASS Observations were not conducted

**Data pending

City of San Antonio Head Start Program

Internal Monitoring CLASS Results

CLASS 2008

Program Year	% Classrooms Observed	Emotional Support	Classroom Organization	Instructional Support
2012-2013	60%	5.83	5.26	3.70
2013-2014	60%	5.74	5.32	3.39
2014-2015	60%	5.57	4.84	2.91
2015-2016	60%	5.82	5.18	2.86
2016-2017	60%	5.65	5.02	2.99
2017-2018	60%	5.78	5.16	2.98
2018-2019	100%	5.75	5.19	3.12
2019-2020*	N/A	-	-	-
2020-2021*	N/A	-	-	-
2021-2022	100%	5.88	5.32	3.25

*Due to COVID-19, CLASS Observations were not conducted

CLASS 2.0

Program Year	% Classrooms Observed	Emotional Support	Classroom Organization	Instructional Support
2022-2023	60%	5.92	5.39	3.09
2023-2024	60%	6.14	5.69	3.36

Resources & Information

- [Use of Classroom Assessment Scoring System \(CLASS\) in Head Start](#)
- [National Overview of Grantee CLASS Scores by Year](#)
- [Resources on CLASS Pre-K](#)