

Month Day, Year

SAMPLE

|SiteName|

«Address_2_Mailing»

«City_Mailing», LA «Zipcode_Mailing»

Dear Principal/Director:

The Louisiana State Department of Education has contracted with the Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning to conduct the third party Infant, Toddler and Pre-K CLASS® observations called for in BESE Bulletin 140.

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®) is an observation instrument used to assess the quality of learning settings from birth through high school. The CLASS® measure focuses on key aspects of classroom interactions including, “Educators’ provision of emotionally safe and supportive interactions, support of children’s behavior, time, and engagement and facilitation of children’s cognitive and language development” (CLASS® Pre-K-3rd Observation Field Guide 2nd Edition, 2023, p. 3).

We respectfully request that you inform your staff at *|SiteName|* that a certified, reliable CLASS® observer will conduct **at least one** formal CLASS® observation between September 12, 2024 through September 30, 2024. Please prepare your teachers for this observation by sharing our “[What to Expect on the Day of the CLASS® Observation.](#)” This document outlines the protocols Picard Center observers will follow for all observations.

Please have an updated copy of the classroom roster and a copy of the teacher’s schedule ready for the observer when they arrive. You can email a copy of the daily schedule in advance to classactull@gmail.com. The observer will verify classroom information with the administrator and/or teacher(s) to determine which CLASS® tool (Infant, Toddler or Pre-K) is most appropriate and to ensure the schedule provided will be followed the day of the observation.

Typically, CLASS® observations take place in the morning and last approximately 2 hours. **If you have scheduled events during this time that preclude our observations (e.g., scheduled field trips, picture day, health screenings, holidays, teacher absences, professional development days), please contact the Picard Center by email classactull@gmail.com no later than 1 week before the scheduled timeframe of the observation. Also, be aware that observers do not have the authority to reschedule a visit.**

There will not be an exit interview after the observation. Following the observation, Picard will provide general feedback on the highest and lowest scoring CLASS® dimensions for infant observations and the two highest and two lowest scoring CLASS® dimensions for pre-K and toddler observations. This information will be available on the Louisiana Department of Education’s Early Childhood portal within 2 weeks of the observation being conducted.

Sincerely,

Kara Farmer-Primeaux, MS, CCC-SLP
Project Director, Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning

Cc: «Agency_Contact» «Agency_Contact_2» «Agency_Contact_3» «Agency_Contact_4»
Enclosure