

VQB5 Unified Measurement and Improvement System

External CLASS® Observations for Practice Year 1 (2021-2022)

As part of Practice Year 1 of the [Unified VQB5 System](#), publicly funded birth-to-five classrooms will be observed using the **Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS®)**. All classrooms participating in **VQB5 Practice Year 1** will receive two local CLASS® observations coordinated by PDG Communities, and may also be randomly selected for an external CLASS® observations during the 2021-2022 school year. The [Advancing Effective Interactions and Instruction \(AEII\)](#) team coordinates the external CLASS® observations and will work with early childhood leaders to analyze trends in the data.

External CLASS® Observation Process

- **WHY:** Practice Year 1 external CLASS® observations are being conducted to gather information about the accuracy and consistency of local observations and will be used to guide the development of future guidelines and protocols for CLASS observation quality in future years of VQB5. The external CLASS® observation scores will not be used for Practice Year 1 ratings.
- **WHY CLASS?:** The CLASS® is a validated, reliable observation tool that focuses on interactions between teachers and children. Research indicates that children in classrooms with higher CLASS® scores show more learning and development. The CLASS® is used to measure and strengthen thousands of infant, toddler, and preschool classrooms, including family day homes, nationwide.
- **HOW:** AEII will randomly select infant, toddler and preschool classrooms, including family day homes, across PDG communities and will work with community leads to coordinate external CLASS® observations.



- **WHO:** Classrooms participating in VQB5 Practice Year 1 are eligible for external CLASS® observations. The AEII team will randomly select infant, toddler, and PreK classrooms across school-based, center-based, and family day home settings.
- **WHAT:** AEII (along with our partners at Teachstone) will coordinate and schedule external CLASS® observations. AEII will share a summary of external observation results with PDG community leaders to help guide local observer supports.
- **WHEN:** External CLASS® observations will occur during the fall observation window (mid-October – December 17th) and spring observation window (mid-January – May).
- **WHERE:** During Practice Year 1, external CLASS® observations will be conducted in classrooms in participating PDG communities around Virginia.



If you have questions or would like additional information about external CLASS® observations, please refer to our FAQ document or contact us at aeii@virginia.edu. To learn more about local observations, please refer to the [Local Observation Guidebook](#).



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