

# What Is CLASS?

## What Does CLASS Even Mean?

- CLASS stands for **C**lassroom **A**ssessment **S**coring **S**ystem.
- The interactions teachers have with children impact learning, development—even lifelong achievement. CLASS is the observation tool developed to assess these interactions: from infant care through 12th grade. Teachstone is committed to delivering on the promise of CLASS.

## Where Did CLASS Come From?

- The story of CLASS begins in the 1990s at the University of Virginia’s Curry School of Education where researchers were studying factors of early childhood development.
- They learned that interactions impacted child outcomes and that such interactions could be objectively measured.
- Looking at interactions rather than environmental factors was a new school of thought, but it took off quickly. Soon CLASS had been adopted by The Federal Office of Head Start as a way to measure and improve child outcomes.
- To scale CLASS along with the growing demand, Bob Pianta, PhD, and Bridget Hamre, PhD, founded Teachstone in 2008.

## What Is Involved With CLASS Observations?

- CLASS observations are completed by Teachstone-trained CLASS Observers who assign scores to specific teacher behaviors and responses.
- Because children learn differently at each age level, CLASS Observers must be certified for the age level they observe: infant, toddler, pre-k, K-3, upper elementary, or secondary education.

## Who Uses CLASS Today?

- The focus on effective interactions is growing. CLASS has been adopted by programs all over the world, helping millions of children succeed in the classroom—and beyond.
- Research has shown that to deliver on the promise of CLASS, organizations need to couple observations with professional development. That’s why today many organizations and states use CLASS as a part of their professional development programs.
- To learn more about how CLASS has affected specific organizations, read the Case Studies page on our website, <http://teachstone.com/resources/case-studies>.

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