What Does CLASS Even Mean?

• CLASS stands for Classroom Assessment Scoring System.
• 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.