

Wake County Quality Supplements

2017-18 CLASS® Information Sheet and Application

wakeQS@childcareservices.org or 919-314-6853



Background

As a new feature to the Wake County Quality Supplements program for FY18, Wake County Smart Start is making funding available for Quality Supplement participants that choose to make an investment in further quality improvement by engaging in meaningful efforts to improve teacher-child interactions and classroom instruction.

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (or CLASS®) is an observational instrument, developed as part of a national study in early childhood development, to assess classroom quality in classrooms for children from infant/toddler age to grade 12. The CLASS® is a proven tool that measures teacher-child interactions in a classroom setting and offers strategies/resources for strengthening those interactions across curriculum areas and age groups. (*For more information on CLASS®, see <http://curry.virginia.edu/research/centers/castl/class>*)

Eligibility and Requirements

For FY18, an additional one-time payment, based on available funding, will be available to QS participants that have successfully taken steps to incorporate CLASS®-based strategies in quality improvement efforts. Eligible efforts* and required documentation of these efforts are outlined in the chart below:

CLASS®-based Strategy (<i>Jan. 1, 2017-May 31, 2018</i>) (only one strategy required)	Required Documentation (<i>due by May 31, 2018</i>)
CLASS observer training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification of training completion • Plan to improve/sustain center wide CLASS® practices (<i>template/form to be provided</i>)
CLASS® assessments of at least two classrooms of different age-groups (Pre-K, Toddler, Infant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of CLASS assessments completed by certified observer • Plan to improve/sustain center wide CLASS® practices (<i>template/form to be provided</i>)
Advancing School Readiness (ASR) - CLASS® component	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification of completion of ASR program and CEU's earned • Plan to improve/sustain center wide CLASS® practices (<i>template/form to be provided</i>)
Technical Assistance/coaching regarding implementation of CLASS® practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification from TA provider • Plan to improve/sustain center wide CLASS® practices (<i>template/form to be provided</i>)

**Other eligible efforts may be added at a later date*

Participants interested in applying for the additional CLASS®-based payment must complete and submit an application form (see attached) no later than **January 31, 2018**. *Efforts involving CLASS®-based strategies must have been implemented no earlier than January 1, 2017 to be eligible for consideration.*

The additional CLASS® payments will be made in Q4, no later than at the time of June Supplement payments. Documentation of completed efforts and a plan to improve or sustain CLASS®-related quality practices on an ongoing basis (see table, above) will be required by **May 31, 2018** in order to be eligible for payment. The one-time payment amount will be based on number of applicants and available budget, but will be a **minimum of \$1,500**. The total number of programs to be awarded the additional CLASS® payment will also be determined based on available budget and may not be available to all who apply. Awards will be made on a **first-come, first-served basis, based on date of CLASS® application**.

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CLASS® Resources

Several resources are available to support CLASS®-based quality improvement strategies in Wake County. Below is a chart with a sampling of training, technical assistance and other services to guide you in your planning efforts:

CLASS®-based Strategy	Description	Approximate Cost	Contact Information
CLASS® Observer Training	2-day training that covers the CLASS® tool and what it specifically measures; the link between effective teacher-child interactions and children’s learning gains; how to identify the teacher-child interactions associated with each CLASS® dimension; and how to code classroom videos using the CLASS® measures. The course provides preparation for online reliability testing and certification.	\$500 per person	Child Care Services Association 919-403-6950 CLASS@childcareservices.org
CLASS® Assessments	On-site assessment of classrooms by currently certified CLASS Observers. Process involves 2 hour observation sessions of each classroom, and provision of a narrative summary with scores for each classroom assessed.	\$330 per classroom (CCSA & WCSS only; contact other certified observers for their rates)	Child Care Services Association 919-403-6950 CLASS@childcareservices.org Wake County Smart Start Carol Orji, 919-723-9284, corji@wakesmartstart.org Other CLASS certified observers: http://info.teachstone.com/class-observer-directory-for-organizations
Advancing School Readiness (ASR) - CLASS® component	Directors will receive a 2-day CLASS® Observer training with certification support as well as on-site coaching for using the CLASS® assessment to guide teachers around interactions and instructional supports. Pre-K teachers will participate in a 10-session training series (2 hours per month) with on-site coaching between sessions. Training participants will: 1) Learn to identify and describe effective interactions in preschool classrooms; 2) Discuss ways to interact intentionally to increase children’s learning; and 3) Gain access to valuable print and video resources aligned with the CLASS® measures.	No cost (funded by WCSS)	Child Care Services Association 919-403-6950 TA@childcareservices.org

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CLASS [®] -based Strategy	Description	Approximate Cost	Contact Information
<p>CLASS[®]-based Technical Assistance/coaching</p>	<p><u>CCSA</u>: Technical assistance, based on a completed CLASS[®] assessment, involving 1 feedback session to discuss an improvement plan and 3 on-site coaching sessions to support implementation of the improvement plan.</p> <p><u>WCSS</u>: On-site technical assistance/coaching to support the use of CLASS[®] as a tool for continued quality enhancement as well as to help better understand CLASS[®] Dimensions. Incorporates tip sheet (guide) when modeling for and mentoring teachers on Infant, Toddler and Pre-K CLASS[®]. Must have had CLASS assessment within prior 12 months, and same teacher must still be in the classroom.</p> <p><i>Additional TA options may be available from other CLASS[®] certified observers – please contact them for information</i></p>	<p><u>CCSA</u>: \$450-750 per classroom (based on need for CLASS[®] assessment)</p> <p><u>WCSS</u>: \$100 per hour for a minimum of 3-4 hours</p>	<p>Child Care Services Association 919-403-6950 TA@childcareservices.org</p> <p>Wake County Smart Start Carol Orji, 919-723-9284, corji@wakesmartstart.org</p> <p>Other CLASS certified observers: http://info.teachstone.com/class-observer-directory-for-organizations</p>

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Applicant Facility Information

Name of Child Care Facility: _____ Facility License #: _____

Contact Name: _____ Title: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Plan for CLASS[®]-based Quality Improvement Efforts

What are your program's quality improvement goals related to teacher-child interactions and/or instructional quality?

What is the past experience of your facility/staff with CLASS[®] (e.g. training/mentoring received, assessments completed)?

Please specify which CLASS[®]-related effort(s) you will engage in to help you towards your goals and indicate any costs projected or already incurred to access these strategies. (Only one required)

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLASS [®] observer training | Costs: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLASS [®] assessments | Costs: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advancing School Readiness (ASR) - CLASS [®] comp. | Costs: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLASS [®] -based Technical Assistance/coaching | Costs: _____ |

How will you use these experiences/activities to support your quality improvement goals?

Who will participate in these efforts?

What is your projected timeline for engaging in and completing these efforts?

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

To submit application (*due by January 31, 2018*):

- Scan and email to wakeQS@childcareservices.org or
- Fax to QS Program at CCSA, 919-403-6959 or
- Mail to Child Care Services Association, 1201 S. Briggs Ave, Ste 200, Durham, NC 27703

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