2015-2016 CLASS Observation Successes

NOEEN CLASS Observers completed observations in 98% of publicly funded toddler and preschool classroom in the network.

Contracted with Picard to complete CLASS observations in all French Immersion Pre-K classrooms in the network.
**CLASS Protocol**

**Information Gathering:** Programs provide NOEEN with a list of all PK and Toddler classrooms in August 2016, including teacher names and emails. Programs wishing to perform their own observations inform NOEEN, but will still be double-coded by NOEEN staff.

**Scheduling:** In August, all CLASS observations are scheduled. Programs are randomly assigned to be observed in September, October, November or December. This determines their spring observations as well (September > January; October > February, etc.) Programs are notified of their month and are asked to notify NOEEN of any non-typical days (e.g. field trips or holidays).

**Refusal of Entry:** If a center turns an observer away twice, they are assigned 1’s for that classroom. Refusals are costly and taxing on the tight timeline.
CLASS Protocol

4 cycles: each cycle consists of 20 minutes of observation followed by a 10 minute scoring period

Timing: observations conducted at start of instructional day (between 8:30 and 9:00 am)

Focus: Observers follow children throughout observation (except recess for Pre-K CLASS)

Interactions: Observations assess all adult-child interactions in a room, including assistant teachers, paraprofessionals, volunteers, et cetera.
2016-2017 CLASS Observation Plan

Certified Observers

• 16 Contracted Observers can cover all required network observations
• Two program partners, Total Community Action and Catholic Charities, will conduct their own observations
• NOEEN will contract with Picard to conduct observations in French Immersion classrooms

CLASS Coordinator oversees observation process

• Recruits and hires contracted observers
• Ensures scheduling and completion of observations in all required Network classrooms
• Supports and supervises contracted observers
• Assures accuracy of observations and of observers
• Provides oversight of observation data input in both the LDE Early Childhood Web Portal and in the myTeachstone online learning platform.
Ensuring Accuracy of Observations

All CLASS observers have either recently become certified or have completed their re-certification.

All CLASS observers complete a calibration once during each observation period to minimize drift.

All CLASS observers must be double-coded at least once during each observation period.
Enhanced Focus on Accuracy of Observations

CLASS Coordinator *reviews score sheets and notes* and provides observers with feedback to ensure ongoing improvement and accuracy in note-taking.

**In-depth analysis of double codes** to identify “problem” dimensions for individual contracted observer and Agency staff professional development.

Identification and provision of individualized **professional development activities** to improve practice and reliability.
Accountability & the Accuracy of Observations

Bulletin 140 provides LDE’s plan to ensure accurate local observations by comparing local observers’ scores to the third party scores for the same classrooms in the same semester:

✧ If **>20%** of domain-level results differ by more than one point, local observer gets a warning.

✧ If **>33%** of domain-level results differ by more than one point, local observer gets shadow scored by another network observer in the next obs. period.

✧ If **50% or more** of domain-level results differ by more than one point, local observer cannot be hired in the next observation period.
Replacement scores

• If the observation results conducted by community networks are consistently different by more than one point from observation results conducted by the department’s third-party contractors, the department may replace all of the community network’s observation results for a publicly-funded site with the results from the department’s third-party contractors, including those results that do not differ by at least one point.

• If a local observer’s domain-level score differs by more than one point from the 3rd party score, the 3rd party score will be used to calculate the performance score.