2017 CLASS Observation Results

Agenda for
CHILDREN
...a voice for Louisiana's children and families

Agenda

CLASS Observations Overview

Observer Reliability

LDE Changes to Support Observer Accuracy

LDE Efforts to Harmonize Observation Protocol

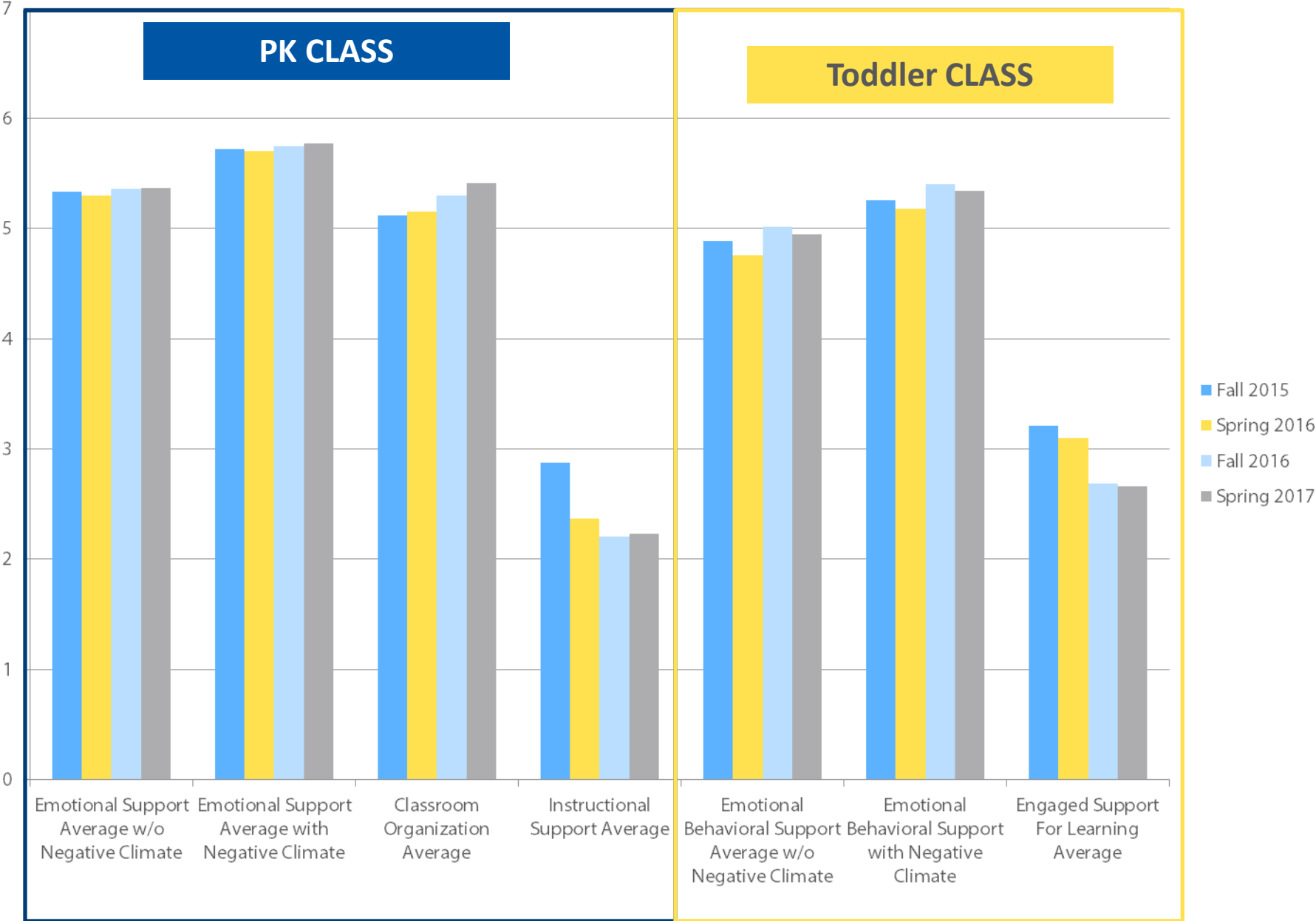LDE Policy Shift to Support Significant Score Improvement

NOEEN Efforts to Improve Observation Quality & Enhance Transparency

What's next?

Observations by the Numbers

- **206** Toddler Classrooms
  - ✦ each received 2 local observations
  - ✦ **136** (66%) received both a Local and a Third Party Observation

- **314** PK Classrooms
  - ✦ each received 2 local observations
  - ✦ 215 (68%) received both a local and a Third Party Observation

- **1,391** CLASS observations performed in NOEEN classrooms in the 16-17 school year alone! That's 5,564 cycles.

Average Local NOEEN CLASS scores 2015 - 2017

Reliability Refresher

CLASS is scored on a 7-point scale.

- **What is considered reliable?** Observers must score within one point of the Master Code, 80% of the time, in order to pass the CLASS Observer certification test. The state refers to this as the "2-point band of reliability."

- **How are Third Party Observations used?** LDE is using Third Party observers (Picard) as a "check" on local observations. If the Picard score differs from the local score by more than one point on any domain, the Picard score replaces the local score for that domain.

LDE Standards for
Local Observer Reliability vis a vis Picard

Update to Practice
Observers will be excluded from the accountability system if there are two consecutive semesters in which more than 50% of their scores* are replaced.

*for which there is a comparable 3rd Party score

Bulletin 140 authorizes-but does not require-the LDE to exclude observers after one semester in which more than 50% of their comparable domain-level scores are replaced.
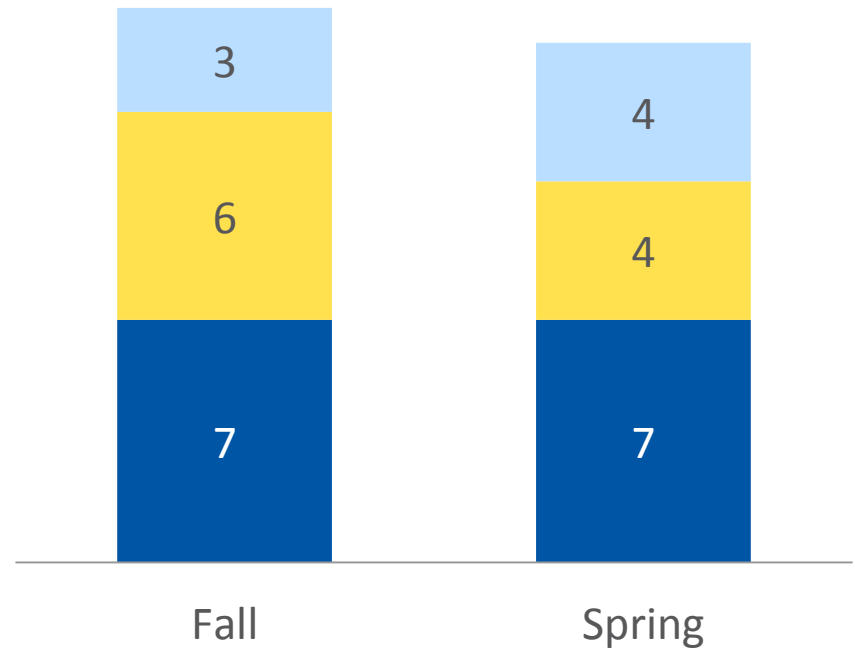
Calibration Data

Per Bulletin 140, NOEEN observers calibrate twice a year-once each semester.

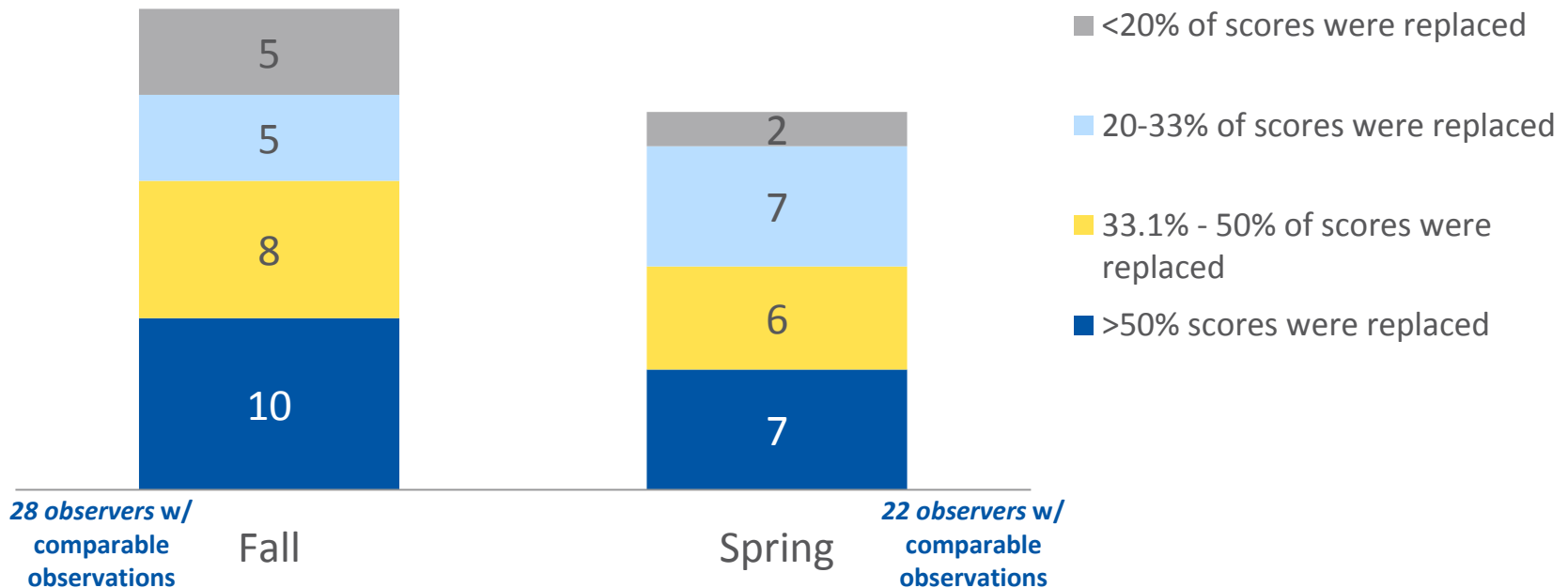Most observers' calibration scores indicate high levels of reliability.

Observer Calibration Rates

■ 100% ■ 80-99% ■ 50-79%

	Fall	Spring
50-79%	3	4
80-99%	6	4
100%	7	7

How Do NOEEN Observers Compare to Third Party Observers?

Replacement Rates for NOEEN Observers
including contracted & partner observers

Legend:
- ■ (gray) <20% of scores were replaced
- ■ (light blue) 20-33% of scores were replaced
- ■ (yellow) 33.1% - 50% of scores were replaced
- ■ (dark blue) >50% scores were replaced

Fall values (bottom to top): 10, 8, 5, 5
Spring values (bottom to top): 7, 6, 7, 2

28 observers w/ comparable observations — Fall

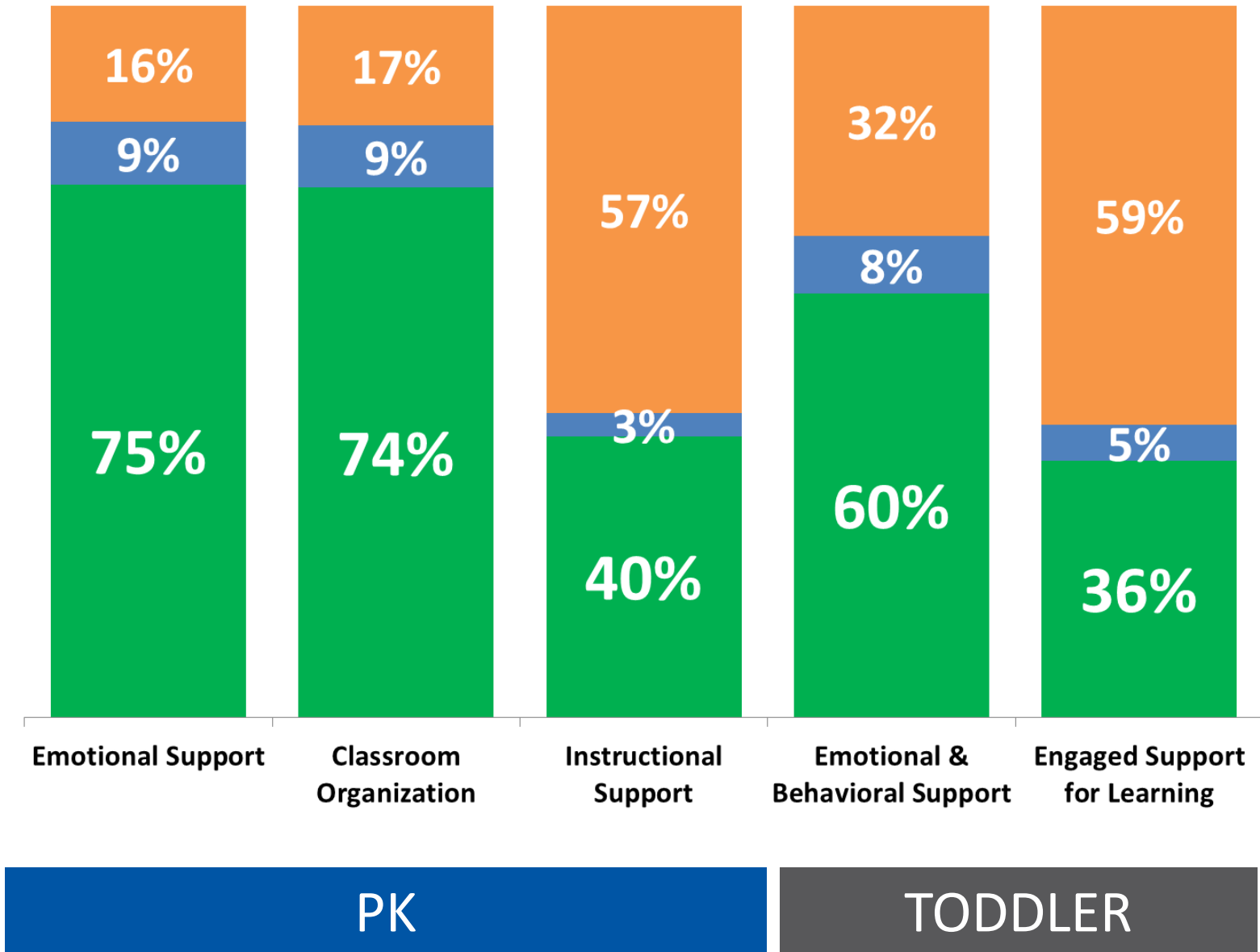*22 observers w/ comparable observations* — Spring

Two observers did not meet the state's threshold for continuing, meaning more than 50% of their domain-level scores were replaced in both fall and spring.

Status of Local CLASS Observations *vis a vis* Picard Observations
2016-2017 school year

Legend:
- local score=1+ point lower
- local score=1+ point higher
- within 1 point

Category	within 1 point	local score=1+ point higher	local score=1+ point lower
Emotional Support	75%	9%	16%
Classroom Organization	74%	9%	17%
Instructional Support	40%	3%	57%
Emotional & Behavioral Support	60%	8%	32%
Engaged Support for Learning	36%	5%	59%

PK

TODDLER

LDE Efforts to Support Observer Accuracy

Original Concern
There may be several months between when a Picard observation is conducted and when the local observation is conducted. Significant changes can occur during that time, including teacher turnover. In the past two years, lead agencies had to submit schedules to LDE for all observations in the beginning of the semester, reducing lead agencies' flexibility in scheduling.

Value
LDE should provide local networks with more flexibility so they can schedule local observations closer to Picard observations. Local observers should also have the opportunity to explain differences between Picard & local scores.

Changes in Practice
1. **Allow Lead Agencies to use just-in-time scheduling.** For example, if a third party observation takes place on September 15th, the Lead Agency could schedule an observation on September 16th.
2. **Allow local observers to explain potential causes for differences at the end of each semester.** For example, the lead teacher may have changed within the semester.

LDE Efforts to Harmonize Observer Protocol

- LDE is working with Lead Agencies to ensure that local observer protocol and third party observer protocols are the same.

- NOEEN will follow third party protocol in the 17-18 school year.

LDE Efforts to Support Significant Improvement

Original Concern
Under the original rules, local observers (and the program) would be "penalized" by having domains replaced if a Picard observation was conducted early in the semester and a classroom achieved 1+ point improvement on a domain by the time a local observation was conducted later in the semester.

Value
LDE wants to ensure there are no disincentives for significant improvement for leaders, teachers, or observers.

Changes in Practice
There will be allowances for significant improvement in scores within a semester. If significant improvement is validated, there will not be any consequences for local observers. Validation may come from an additional third party observation or verification from a program director.

NOEEN's Ongoing Efforts for Observation Improvement & Transparency
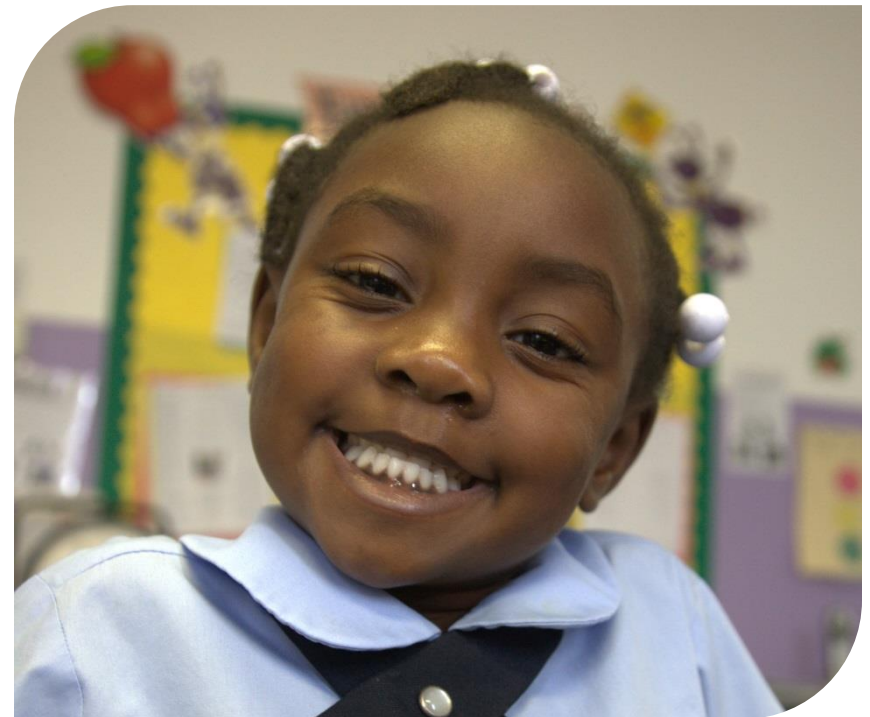
Professional Development for Observers

- Observer Professional Learning Community (PLC)
- Each observer is shadow scored at least once a semester
- myTeachstone Resources
- "Performance Profiles" for observers to help them identify strengths & opportunities for improvement

Quality Control & Transparency

- Instituting a clear process for programs to report possible breaches of protocol for local observations
- Reminding program leaders that they can conduct their own observations

Scheduling

- Possible adoption of just-in-time scheduling to reduce the amount of time between local & Picard observations

What's next?

Now that we are beyond the learning year and programs have a better sense of how their rating & School Readiness Tax Credits will be affected, we expect that:

More programs will choose to conduct their own observations.

- Agenda is offering additional CLASS observer trainings this summer and ongoing support for all observers.
- Agenda can remind programs of their right to perform their own observations, along with all of the quality control requirements (shadow-scoring, passing reliability tests and recalibration, etc.)

More programs will submit CLASS scores appeals to LDE.

- We will continue to inform programs of the reasons that scores can (and can't) be appealed. Many programs are under the misconception that they need to appeal if the Picard observation differs by more than a point.