

**We know that high-quality early learning programs can change a child’s life.** This is especially true for our children in the School Readiness (SR) Program. Research shows that positive teacher-child interactions improve child outcomes in kindergarten and beyond. It’s no wonder that early learning has caught the attention of our state leaders.

During the 2018 legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed a bill (HB 1091) that increases quality and accountability in the SR Program. This legislation became effective July 1, 2018, and required the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to develop rules to implement the new requirements. Three of the new requirements SR providers can expect include (1) participation in an annual program assessment with a minimum score requirement to contract for the SR Program, (2) engagement in a quality improvement plan (if applicable) and (3) an opportunity to receive a payment differential based on program assessment scores and conducting a child assessment.

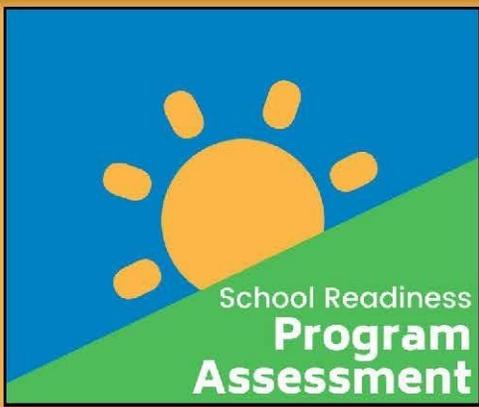
### **What are the program assessment requirements?**

- SR providers serving children birth-5 will be required to participate in a program assessment observation. This assessment measures the quality of interactions between teachers and children. OEL has chosen the Classroom Assessment Scoring System or CLASS® as the program assessment tool for SR providers.
- SR providers must meet a minimum score of 2.51 on the CLASS tool to be eligible for a School Readiness Program contract.
- Providers must participate in program assessments before contracting for the 2019-20 School Readiness Program year.

### **What is the CLASS assessment?**

The CLASS assessment is an observation-based assessment that primarily measures the quality of the classroom interactions between the teachers and children. There is international recognition for the way CLASS captures elements that improve child outcomes within a classroom. SR providers that have participated in the Early Learning Performance Funding Project or other quality programs may have already used the CLASS assessment. If you haven’t, don’t worry. You’ll have the opportunity to learn more about CLASS in the months to come. For more information about the research behind CLASS, visit [teachstone.com](http://teachstone.com).

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### How can I prepare for the CLASS observation?

Get familiar with the CLASS tool. OEL will be offering several opportunities to learn more about it. We strongly encourage providers to take advantage of opportunities as they become available. These resources will help practitioners become familiar with the CLASS tool and learn more about the impact of quality teacher-child interactions on children's cognitive and social outcomes.

Attend Making the Most of Classroom Interactions (MMCI). MMCI is an interactive course for teachers led by Teachstone®-trained coaches. Your local early learning coalition provides training. Over the course of 10 sessions, your coach provides in-person training to teachers preparing them to identify, understand and apply stronger CLASS interactions in their classrooms. For more information on MMCI course offerings, visit \_\_\_\_\_.

### What else can I expect to be included in the 2019-20 SR contract?

- **Quality Improvement Plans**  
SR providers who meet the minimum contract score of 2.51 but score below a 3.00 on the CLASS tool will be placed on a Quality Improvement Plan. Coalitions will identify performance goals and quality improvement strategies through the SR contract to help these providers meet quality scores.
- **Reimbursement for Quality Performance Incentive and Child Assessment Rates**  
Qualifying providers may receive a payment differential based on their CLASS scores. Providers implementing an approved child assessment with reliable assessors may also be eligible for an additional payment differential. The total payment differential for both CLASS scores and implementation of child assessments may not exceed 15 percent.

### Additional Information

For more information about this legislation, you may send questions to OEL at [OEL.Questions@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:OEL.Questions@oel.myflorida.com).

Information will also be available at the next ELCFV Owner/Director Forum to be held at Sunrise Academy, 2700 Enterprise Rd, Orange City, FL 32763 on Tuesday, November 27, 2018. The Forum begins at 6:30 PM. Click here [HERE](#) to register.

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