An Assessment to Measure the Climate of Preschool Classrooms: The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)

➢ The CLASS is an observation instrument developed to assess classroom quality in preschool through third-grade classrooms.

➢ The tool is based on developmental theory and research suggesting that interactions between children and adults are the primary mechanism for children's learning and development.

➢ The CLASS consists of <u>10 dimensions</u> that make up <u>3 broad domains</u> (Emotional Support, Classroom Management, Instructional Support).

➢ **The Emotional Support** dimension offers a way to observe school climate in a preschool.

   ❖ Positive climate. The emotional connection, respect, and enjoyment demonstrated between teachers and students and among students.

   ❖ Negative climate. The level of expressed negativity such as anger, hostility or aggression exhibited by teachers and/or students in the classroom.

   ❖ Teacher sensitivity. Teachers' awareness of and responsivity to students' academic and emotional concerns.

   ❖ Regard for children's perspectives. The degree to which teachers' interactions with students and classroom activities place an emphasis on students' interest, motivations and points of view.

➢ Training (Grantees must consider cost and staffing):

   ❖ In-person training
      ✓ Two days of intensive training with extensive use of video examples and discussion.

   ❖ Post-training reliability assurance
      ✓ Five segments to observe and score
      ✓ Observers cannot be off by more than one point on 80% of items to be considered reliable.
   ❖ On-going trainings to counter drift and maintain reliability.

➢ Observation

   ❖ In each classroom, ratings are averaged across observation cycles (usually 5 or more).

   ❖ Rating Scale: 1, 2: Low Range; 3, 4, 5: Mid Range; 6, 7: High Range.

➢ For more information: http://classobservation.com/