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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Early Learning Coalition (ELC) Executive Directors  
School District Superintendents  
School District Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)  
Contacts

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**DPS: 2021-190**

**FROM:** Matthew H. Mears

**DATE:** November 19, 2021

**SUBJECT: VPK Program Assessment Requirement and Training Opportunities**

In accordance with recent legislative changes to [s. 1002.68, F.S.](#), following the passage of 2021 Legislative Session [House Bill \(HB\) 419](#), each private and public school VPK program must participate in a program assessment of each VPK education classroom beginning with the 2022-2023 VPK program year. The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) will be used as the program assessment to measure the quality of adult-child interactions including emotional support, classroom organization and instructional support for children ages three to five years.

The following online trainings and resources will be available at no cost in Fall/Winter/Spring 2021-2022 for VPK administrators, teachers and assistants to become familiar with the CLASS tool and related resources. These trainings are optional, but participation is encouraged. The Division of Early Learning will reach out to District CLASS Leads and ELC CLASS Leads to arrange access:

CLASS Training or Resource	Description
<p><b>Primer for Leaders</b> (self-paced online module)</p>	<p>In this two-hour online training, learners will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand how CLASS works and why it is important.</li> <li>• Identify the value CLASS brings to their organization in the areas of improved teacher effectiveness and student outcomes.</li> </ul>

**MATTHEW H. MEARS**

CHANCELLOR, DIVISION OF EARLY LEARNING

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CLASS Trainings or Resources	Course Description
<p><b>Primer for Leaders continued</b> (self-paced online module)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate how the functions of CLASS fit into the work of their organization.</li> <li>• Learn to interpret CLASS data and how to use it.</li> <li>• Feel confident enough in the value of CLASS to choose next steps in their CLASS journey.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CLASS Foundations for Teachers</b> (self-paced online modules)</p>	<p>This collection of online courses is designed to build a teacher’s understanding of CLASS and gain foundational skills that drive quality interactions.</p>
<p><b>Observer Training</b> (instructor-led virtual training)</p>	<p>This training provides preparation on the CLASS tool so that participants can reliably observe classrooms and help educational leaders make informed decisions about their programs.</p>
<p><b>CLASS Group Coaching (formerly Making the Most of Classroom Interactions(MMCI))</b> (instructor-led virtual training)</p>	<p>CLASS Group Coaching helps early childhood professionals engage with CLASS as they identify and understand the interactions that increase children’s learning and development.</p>
<p><b>myTeachstone</b> (online learning platform with independent access)</p>	<p>myTeachstone is a digital library of over 1,200 research-based resources that enables individualized professional development opportunities that target best practices in areas such as social-emotional learning, literacy, classroom management and more.</p>

Please direct any questions regarding CLASS requirements, 2021-2022 trainings or resources to [VPKQuestions@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:VPKQuestions@oel.myflorida.com).

MHM/mw