



**What to Expect: Winter 2022 Classroom Observations
Evaluation of Philadelphia's Quality Pre-Kindergarten Initiative**

October 8, 2021

Dear PHLpreK Provider/Teacher,

As you may be aware, the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) at Rutgers University is working with the City of Philadelphia to evaluate Philadelphia's Pre-Kindergarten Program. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about what to expect as this data collection is carried out in your classroom(s).

This winter, trained Data Collectors from NIEER will be observing your classroom(s) to capture process and environment quality of the PHLpreK program. We ask for your assistance, as we are guests in your classroom(s) and this study would not be possible without your support. Please share this letter with your preschool Teacher(s).

What to expect when Data Collectors visit your classroom:

- Data Collectors are required to have background checks, training in confidentiality, and reliability of the tools used for data collection.
- Data Collectors are also required to follow any COVID-19 protocols established by PHLpreK and program providers.
- There will be one (1) observation completed in each PHLpreK classroom(s) using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System Pre-K (CLASS). CLASS observations last between 2 ½ to 3 hours.
- Data Collectors will call or email to schedule observations with a program administrator before arrival. Multiple Data Collectors may observe sites with multiple PHLpreK classrooms.
- Data Collectors will arrive 10-15 minutes before the start of the school day.
- Data Collectors will carry their CLASS Pre-K manuals and scoresheets with them and observe and listen to interactions in the classroom and take notes most of the time. Data Collectors will not interact with teachers or students during the observation.
- Data Collectors will often walk in and out of the classroom to generate scores. The tool is outlined in 30-minute cycles, and each cycle consists of approximately 20 minutes of observation and 10 minutes of scoring. Data Collectors have been given the option to score inside the classroom, or outside of it, but have been instructed to be as unobtrusive as possible either way.
- Data Collectors are not able to share individual results with the Teachers, Directors, or anyone else at the time of the observation. Please reach out to PHMC for this information at the program level.
- An online satisfaction survey will be sent to Directors to collect feedback on our data collection team and procedures.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to support this important work. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Mariel Acevedo at macevedo@nieer.org, or you can reach out to the PHLpreK Information and Accountability Manager Johanna Morales at jmorales@phmc.org.

Sincerely,

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