



Overview of CLASS® Observations in VQB5

Using CLASS® in VQB5

VQB5 uses the [Infant](#), [Toddler](#), and [Pre-K](#) CLASS observation tools. Each tool is developed to assess and support the quality of teacher-child interactions needed to promote child learning and development within each specific age range. ([VQB5 2024-2025 Guidelines](#) Section 4)

Types of CLASS Observations in VQB5

VQB5 sites are required to complete two types of CLASS observations: local and external observations. These observations have different purposes and frequencies during the annual measurement and improvement cycle as described below.

	Local Observations	External Observations
Purpose	Used for gathering classroom-level information about the quality of teacher-child interactions and to provide individualized feedback in VQB5.	Used by the state to gather information about the accuracy and consistency of local observations across the Ready Regions and to provide additional feedback in VQB5.
Definition	Coordinated and scheduled at the local level through Ready Regions , with results recorded in LinkB5. Conducted by locally identified reliable observers.	Coordinated, scheduled, and recorded for the state by the Teachstone External Observation Team . Conducted by externally identified reliable Teachstone observers.
Annual Cycle	In VQB5, all birth-to-five classrooms will get two local observations each year. One in the fall and one in the spring.	In VQB5, only some birth-to-five classrooms will get an external observation. All sites will receive external observations in at least one of their classrooms, for each age-level.
Feedback Process	Local Observer schedules a feedback session with teacher or team of teachers within 10 days of the local observation.	Feedback is shared via a written report which is emailed to the primary site administrator 10 days after the external observation.
For Detailed Information	View Local Observation Guidebook or email Ready Regions	View External Observations in VA website or vaexternalobservations@teachstone.com

Throughout the fall and spring observation windows, the VDOE will compare all local and external observations that are completed in the same classroom during the same observation window to check for consistency. If inconsistencies are found, VQB5 will use a score replacement protocol to address comparable observations with significantly different scores.

CLASS training is provided for free to VQB5 participating program leaders and teachers. Contact your local [Ready Region](#) for upcoming CLASS training options in your area.

For questions about the use of CLASS in VQB5 contact VQB5@doe.virginia.gov.