

# CLASS Minimum Score and Exception Policy

## **CLASS minimum score requirement**

To receive an overall Parent Aware rating of four stars, a center-based program serving preschool-age children must receive a mid-range or higher CLASS score. This means a program must receive a score of three, four or five for each CLASS category: Emotional Support, Instructional Support and Classroom Organization. If a program receives a score below three in any of the three CLASS categories, it will receive a three-star rating.

## **Exception policy:**

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) will make an exception to the CLASS minimum scoring requirement if the program:

- Achieves a CLASS score in the mid-range (3,4 or 5) in the Emotional Support category and
- Achieves a CLASS score in the mid-range (3, 4 or 5) in Instructional Support or Classroom Organization.

Programs are eligible to receive a CLASS exception only once.

## **The exception process:**

- The rating letter will state if the program is eligible for the CLASS exception policy.
- Programs taking advantage of the CLASS exception policy must work with their provider resource specialist to develop an improvement plan to raise the score below three. Improvement plans include activities such as staff training, mentoring, coaching, studying CLASS videos or attending CLASS trainings. Programs receiving a CLASS exception are eligible for quality improvement supports through Parent Aware to help them implement their CLASS improvement plans.
- The plan must be sent to DHS for approval. If approved, a new rating will be sent to the program indicating they have achieved four stars. The improvement plan must be initiated within one month of the date the new rating is received and must be completed within a time frame that allows for re-rating within six months.