

# HOW CLASS® IMPACTS YOUR PROGRAM

*Focusing on the importance of teacher-child interactions*

## Fast Facts about Maryland EXCELS expanded use of CLASS:

- CLASS aligns with teacher-child interactions related to child outcomes and supports MSDE's Division of Early Childhood mission.
- Free Maryland EXCELS Self-Assessments tools and resources are available for achieving Quality Rating 3.
- Free CLASS resources are available at <https://teachstone.com/maryland-excels/>.
- CLASS Dimension Guides are useful resources and can be purchased from Teachstone or Kaplan Early Learning Company.
- CLASS training is not a requirement of Maryland EXCELS.
- CLASS program assessments are not a requirement of Maryland Accreditation.
- Requirements for program assessments have not changed; some tools have been replaced.

## Program Assessment Guidance

### Working to achieve a Quality Rating 3?

- Use the free [Maryland EXCELS Self-Assessments](#).
- SACERS continues to be used for self-assessment in school-age classrooms/ designated spaces.
- Through June 30, 2021, you can submit an Environment Rating Scale (ERS) self-assessment documentation.

### Working to achieve a Quality Rating 4?

- The tools have changed from Environment Rating Scale (ERS) to CLASS.
- The process is the same. Email the Request for Assessment form to your Program Coordinator.
- SACERS continues to be used for assessment in school-age classrooms/ designated spaces.

### Maintaining a Quality Rating 5?

- The tools have changed from Environment Rating Scale (ERS) to CLASS.
- The process is the same. Complete and return the Maryland EXCELS Program Assessment Form upon receipt from MSDE.
- SACERS continues to be used for assessment in school-age classrooms/ designated spaces.

**CLASS® builds upon all the work you have done using the Environment Rating Scales (ERS) as part of your program's assessment and improvement process.**

The ERS continue to be useful resources for:

- program improvement and professional development
- suggestions for purchasing materials
- room arrangement considerations

