

CASE STUDY

Ventura County, California

Using myTeachstone to help center-based and family child care providers improve their teaching and support learning for more than 5,000 children.

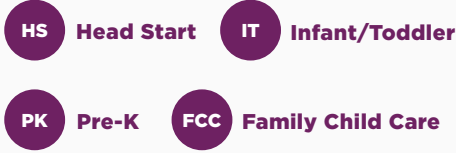


OVERVIEW

Client



Program Type



Contract Start Date

2016 - Present

Products Used

myTeachstone, CLASS Group Coaching (CGC), CLASS Master Coaching (CMC), CLASS 1:1 Video Coaching

The Players

- + Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) Early Childhood Programs Department, implementer of Ventura County Rising Stars QRIS
- + myTeachstone Projects utilizing California Department of Education and First 5 funds
 - Teaching STARS Project (Supporting Teachers' Achievements through Rising Stars):
 - o State-preschool educator support funds, providing a financial incentive to participating educators
 - Infant-Toddler Block Grant Family Child Care (FCC) Project:
 - o Collaborated with Child Development Resources, a private non-profit corporation that administers the Child Care Resource and Referral and Head Start Programs in Ventura County
 - o Primarily Spanish-speaking FCC providers, providing a financial incentive for participation

The Reach

- + Ventura County Rising Stars QRIS includes 150 programs:
 - Nearly 50 family child care programs
 - Over 100 center-based programs, including Head Start, state preschool, and private
- + From 2016-2018, 135 preschool and FCC providers completed myTeachstone projects and earned a financial incentive, with an additional 100 myTeachstone accounts provided to other Ventura County Rising Stars QRIS preschool educators and FCC providers

THE CHALLENGE

Ventura has had a long relationship with Teachstone, using the CLASS tool as the focus of the county's QRIS efforts. Building on nearly two decades of quality initiative work, the VCOE Early Childhood Programs Department set their sights on two goals: retaining quality educators and supporting local family child care (FCC) providers in raising the quality of their programs using CLASS-based strategies. With deep CLASS knowledge and experience, Ventura County selected myTeachstone as the professional development engine for the projects with a special focus on efficiency and efficacy for their coaching and technical assistance staff.

myTeachstone online platform allows coaches to prescribe personalized professional development (PD) resources to their educators based on their individual needs. myTeachstone provides learning resources that allow educators to see effective interactions in action and reflect on their individual practice.

“Our coaches carry a very heavy load. myTeachstone has been a great tool because you can reach a lot of teachers”

Sloane Burt

Operations Specialist,
Early Childhood Programs,
Ventura County Office of Education

THE IMPLEMENTATION

Ventura recognized a great need to incentivize the use of myTeachstone, especially among the more fragmented family child care provider community. Selected participants received a \$500 incentive for completing the recommended online work and participating in coaching or Community of Learners sessions. “We were really proud we worked specifically with family child care providers,” Burt said. “They are a unique population with unique needs. In Ventura County, we have a close-knit community where a lot of them come together through our office or other programs.”

With extra coaches needed to support this effort, Child Development Resources (CDR) staff were prepared for their role as myTeachstone coaches by participating in CLASS Toddler Observer Certification Training. Then, FCC providers were recruited and introduced to the myTeachstone platform at an orientation, where providers also received an iPad on loan to support their development work online. Through the platform’s combination of resources and reflective questions, curated, assigned and reviewed by coaches, 34 FCC providers completed almost 500 hours of coach-recommended or self-directed professional development resources in one year.

For preschool educators, Ventura’s Teaching STARS Project has brought over 100 additional early childhood providers to the myTeachstone platform in the past few years. With the support of an operations specialist and three technical assistance specialists, as well as the existing Community of Learners and coaching structures, these educators from state-funded programs took part in CLASS-based professional development, both online and in person. Technical assistance specialists (coaches) pair information from visits to QRIS programs with recommendations and communications to educators through the myTeachstone platform. To further ensure the success of the projects, Ventura integrated their myTeachstone work with coaching and Community of Learners sessions, bringing educators together four times a year around this quality work.

Preschool educators and FCC providers found great value in working with myTeachstone to improve their teaching practice:

“myTeachstone helped me interact with the children. It also allowed me to resolve a conflict by using a different tone of voice. Overall, the participation has changed [my interactions] and the kids feel more secure and confident.”

“Through the platform, [I learned] how to engage an infant or toddler and how much of what I naturally do with the children [is] needed for their development mentally and physically.”

“I learned to expand on children’s language and how to add complex language.”

THE OUTCOMES

An overwhelming majority of both FCC providers and state-funded preschool educators found their work with myTeachstone to be a worthwhile success. Among FCC providers, a full 97 percent said the work “influenced their teaching practices and interactions with children, providing new ideas and strategies to implement.”

The project was an introduction to the CLASS tool for a great number of these providers, with almost 80 percent reporting that they learned something new through the platform, and 97 percent saying they would use it again. Among the preschool educator cohort, a full 100 percent of those who completed the program recognized that the work had allowed them to be more effective in their classroom, building confidence and depth in their interactions with children. 80 percent of those educators said that the myTeachstone work had encouraged them to remain in early childhood education, and with the county CLASS tool scores beating national averages in all domains (see graphic), those educators can affect Ventura’s children for years to come.

“Building on the previous year’s success, professional development with myTeachstone, an online support system built on the CLASS assessment tools and based on a strong research foundation, was used as a means for effectively tailoring professional development to meet the needs of the teachers and influence their teaching practices and interactions with children.”

Ventura County’s 2017-18 Child Care Retention (AB 212) Program Report

Average CLASS Pre-K domain scores in 2016 through 2018, from 126 assessments:

CLASS PRE-K DOMAIN	VENTURA COUNTY AVERAGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE
Emotional Support	6.35	6.07
Classroom Organization	5.86	5.83
Instructional Support	3.49	3.0

*Data from: VCOE Child Care Retention (AB 212)
Program Report, 2017-18*

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Success in implementing these tools, like any other, takes a lot of careful planning and thoughtful administration.

VCOE developed a detailed protocol for myTeachstone coaches, outlining their support actions, participant activity, and incentives. This protocol included step-by-step guides and message drafts and has proven useful to several additional agencies around the state.

The protocols that VCOE put in place and regular check-ins

between coaches and administrators, allowed coaches to monitor participant engagement and program administrators to prompt lapsed users, or even to transfer licenses to interested participants.

Carve out time to administer these tools properly.

It takes time to administer, but that is time that's worthwhile.



TEACHSTONE OVERVIEW

At Teachstone, we help educators around the world leverage the proven power of interactions with the power of CLASS®. It starts with learning from the best: the committed, innovative educators who build positive relationships in classrooms daily. We pair these practitioners with researchers to rigorously study the meaningful interactions that spark success and continually iterate as we learn more. We then partner with childcare programs and schools, empowering all educators to understand the interactions that matter most. From actionable feedback and training to user-friendly content and tech, Teachstone offers everything needed to apply and advance the simple art of intentional interactions.

Every single student has the potential to achieve when supported by a educator who knows how to effectively connect with them. To stoke their curiosity. To make them feel safe and valued. To inspire their best. **[Connect with Teachstone today](#)** and unlock the outcomes you need by investing in the relationships that drive them.

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