

Tips and Reminders for Reliability Testing Success

The following tips will help set you up for success on your CLASS® Reliability Test. Remember that you have three attempts to pass. It's normal to feel some anxiety around testing, but the vast majority of test takers—about 92%—who keep at it do pass by the third attempt.

Before the Test

- + Plan to observe the videos and code the interactions over a few days. Coder fatigue can interfere with your objectivity and your ability to code accurately, so it's important to spread the testing process out over a few days to give yourself time to take breaks in between videos.
- + Make sure you have a high-speed internet connection. A slow internet connection can interfere with taking the test, and the videos will not stream properly.
- + Locate a quiet place where you can avoid the possibility of distractions to observe the test videos and code the interactions.

During the Test

- + Watch each video completely.
- + Do not spend too much or too little time coding each video. If this is your first observer certification, spend 40 minutes or less coding each video. For recertification, spend about 10 minutes coding. It is important to take the time you need to think through your coding without overthinking.
- + Do not move forward with coding the video if the picture or audio does not load correctly. If you experience technical difficulties with any of the videos, contact Teachstone for assistance at contact@teachstone.com.
- + Set aside your personal experience and knowledge, and view classrooms only through the CLASS lens.
- + View and code each video separately. Try not to compare videos to each other.
- + Write concise notes with specific behavioral observations, including what both the educators and children say and do.
- + Be sure to consider the experience of all children in the learning setting when assigning codes.



- + Consider the depth, frequency, and duration of the interactions you observe when assigning codes.
- + Use a holistic view of the dimension as well as the range (low, mid, or high) for each of the indicators when scoring dimensions.
- + Use the CLASS Manual or Observation Field Guide (whichever you received in your Observation Training) as your only scoring guide, and always use it when coding. Refer to it often for guidance and clarification, and be sure to refer to the descriptive pages when assigning codes.
- + Get help, if needed. If you do not pass your first or second test attempt, reach out to your trainer or Teachstone at contact@teachstone.com for reliability testing support before you start your third attempt.

After the Test

- + Continue to practice your coding skills and improve your speed. The goal is to code reliably within 10 minutes.
- + Learn more: Check out our **Observation Supports trainings**.
- + Stay connected. Join the **CLASS Learning Community** and visit our **blog**.

