

## Science

NIEER's study is designed to identify how public preschool programs can achieve and maintain high quality. Here, NIEER Senior Co-Director Dr. Ellen Frede discusses how participating districts could use findings to improve practice.

### **Q. What type of information will NIEER share with districts?**

In the short-term, NIEER plans to summarize information on the three classroom observation instruments, the ECERS-3, the CLASS and the EDUSNAP, as well as the teacher survey, and provide an opportunity this summer for district representatives to discuss and interpret overall findings across districts and with members of the research team.

### **Q. What opportunities does this information provide to the districts?**

As you know, classroom observation and teacher survey data can provide a different lens on classroom practices that can be used to inform improvement. We strongly believe this is only one piece of the puzzle of program improvement, however. Decision makers should first review the data and reflect on how much they think it accurately represents day-to-day practice in their classrooms.

Then if a criterion is not met they should ask themselves "Do we think this is an important objective to meet?" Just because a criterion exists in a classroom observation tool does not mean that it is consistent with the philosophy or approach of the individual school district and particularly, the curriculum model being employed.

Working together with researchers who have experience with the tools, as well as colleagues from across districts and within your district, can be beneficial in thinking these things through and coming up with potential strategies for improvement.

### **Q. What can the districts learn from the measures used?**

The CLASS focuses on emotional and instructional interactions between teachers and children, as well as the efficiency in which the classroom is organized and facilitated. The EDUSNAP examines the amount of time children experience various groupings, content, and teaching and learning approaches. The ECERS examines the overall environment and health and sanitation practices, as well as interactions that occur across different activities and content areas.

The teacher survey instrument captures teachers' job satisfaction and their perceptions of working conditions, especially regarding supports for teaching and learning.