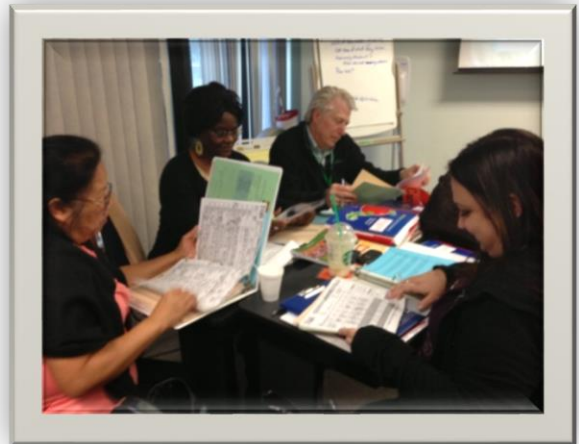


## Achieving Comprehensive Excellence (ACE)

A proven Early Childhood Education Classroom Quality Initiative

**ACE Background:** Originally, LACOE Head Start strategically collaborated with the LACOE Family Engagement and Instructional Leadership (FEIL) Unit in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction in 2011 to co-create an organic initiative to enhance quality in the early childhood education (ECE) classroom. A committee comprised of FEIL and Head Start staff, along with representatives of local delegate agencies helped to inform, define and create key elements of the Achieving Comprehensive Excellence (ACE) initiative. Together, they created an organic definition of quality in the ECE classroom, using three key instruments: The Head Start Roadmap to Excellence, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation Standards and the State Early Learning Quality Improvement Systems, all initiatives working to define quality. Initially, the ACE pilot was designed to directly support classroom teachers with ongoing coaching and large group professional development. Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) outcomes for those teachers served by ACE were outstanding.

In 2012-13, The ACE service delivery system was redesigned to outreach an increasing number of teaching staff. Today, ACE supports education specialists, those responsible for training and supporting the teaching staff.



**Purpose of ACE:** ACE is designed to nurture supervisors as instructional leaders (ILs) in their roles as 1) On-going learners; 2) Communicators; 3) Coaches/Mentors; and 4) Resource Providers. ILs receive 14 - 28 hours of on-site coaching from their ACE Quality Specialist. Coaching includes a focus on instructional leadership, data analysis, and reflective dialogue and hands-on experiences that support positive child outcomes as measured by CLASS. Additionally, ACE ILs participate in professional development to enhance their own professional development training opportunities for their staff, and learn strategies that promote parent partnerships that enhance school readiness outcomes. ACE trainings provide networking opportunities for colleagues to share best practices and solutions to instructional challenges.

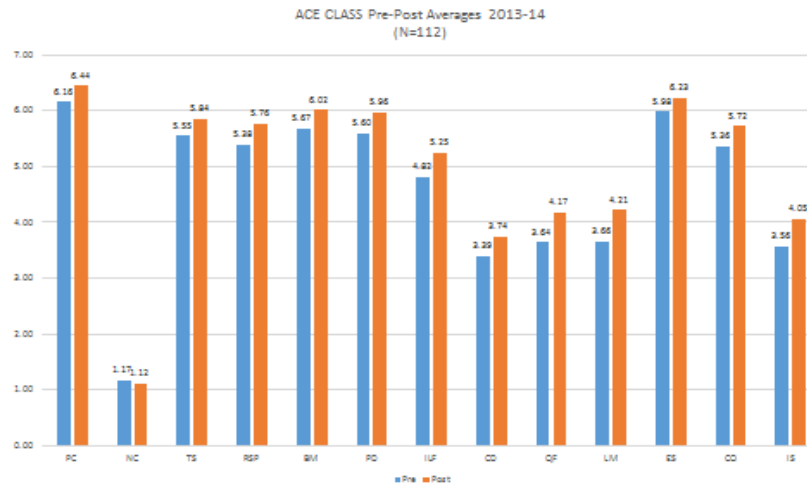
**Components of ACE Service Delivery System (SDS):** The ACE ILs analyzing CLASS data to prepare for their next PD! planning, coaching, and follow-up & outcomes. The three key areas of ACE coaching include: instructional leadership; using and analyzing data; and ECE instructional practices. Key research supporting ACE include :

The Head Start Roadmap to Excellence, , the California Preschool Learning Foundations, The Leadership Challenge by Posner and Kouzes, Powerful Interactions by Dombro, Jablon and Stetson, 360 Leadership by John Maxwell, and GLAD and CIRCLE strategies.

**ACE Evaluation Methods:** FEIL’s technical assistance is evaluated through a number of tools and methods including the following: participant training evaluations; on-line pre and post instructional self-surveys; end of year staff reflections; and hard copy or on-line Live Binders (portfolios) ACE Quality Specialist site notes; and an End of Year report highlighting the progress of each of the ILs progress and continued areas for growth. Additionally, ACE evaluates its impact on staff and children through pre and post CLASS rating scores, when funding is available CLASS data is collected by an external observer.

**ACE Outcomes:** LACOE HS ACE Outcomes in 2013-14 were as follows:

- 76 percent of instructional leaders participating in ACE made a gain or remained at the highest rating of a 7 on CLASS instructional support (IS). The instructional support area of CLASS was this year’s focus for ACE.
- Domain Score Averages - % of teachers making gain in one or more dimensions within domain
  - Emotional Support: 78%
  - Classroom Organization: 81%
  - Instructional Support: 76%



**FEIL Clients using the ACE model:** In 2014-15, the ACE model is being implemented by FEIL at both LACOE and Long Beach Unified School District Head Start sites.

To learn more about the ACE model contact:



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