

Supporting Rater Accuracy and Consistency in Classroom Observations

NCTE Webinar
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WHAT is Measured Really Matters

- In an accountability and improvement system, what you measure is important—what gets measured gets done.
- Attend to teaching practices that make the most difference for student learning.
- Avoid focusing attention on practices that don't matter.
- A measurement system should be based on these “practices that matter” and this determines the type of system to be used.

Student-Teacher Interactions: Key Feature of Teaching and Learning

- Students learn from their interactions with teachers
- Teacher-student interactions matter across content areas

What Is the CLASS Tool?

- The CLASS tool is a measurement tool for observing and assessing the effectiveness of interactions among teachers and students in classrooms.
- It measures the *emotional, organizational, and instructional supports* provided by teachers that have contribute to children's *social, developmental, and academic achievement*.
- The CLASS tool is used to assess interactions among teachers and students for a variety of purposes:
 - Teacher Professional Development
 - Monitoring and Evaluation of Teacher Performance/Effectiveness
 - Research

What Is Teachstone ?

Teachstone was founded by the authors of the CLASS tool to provide at-scale support for teaching and learning through proven, evidence-based programs, observation tools, and professional development. Teachstone provides:

- TRAINING for observers, trainers, and coaches.
- QUALITY ASSURANCE programs including observer reliability testing, calibration, and certification.
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT at varying levels of intensity.
- SUPPORT AND CONSULTATION with our partners to ensure quality implementation at scale.

The CLASS Lens

The CLASS tool provides a common language and shared lens for:

- Teachers
- Coaches
- Observers
- Researchers
- Administrators

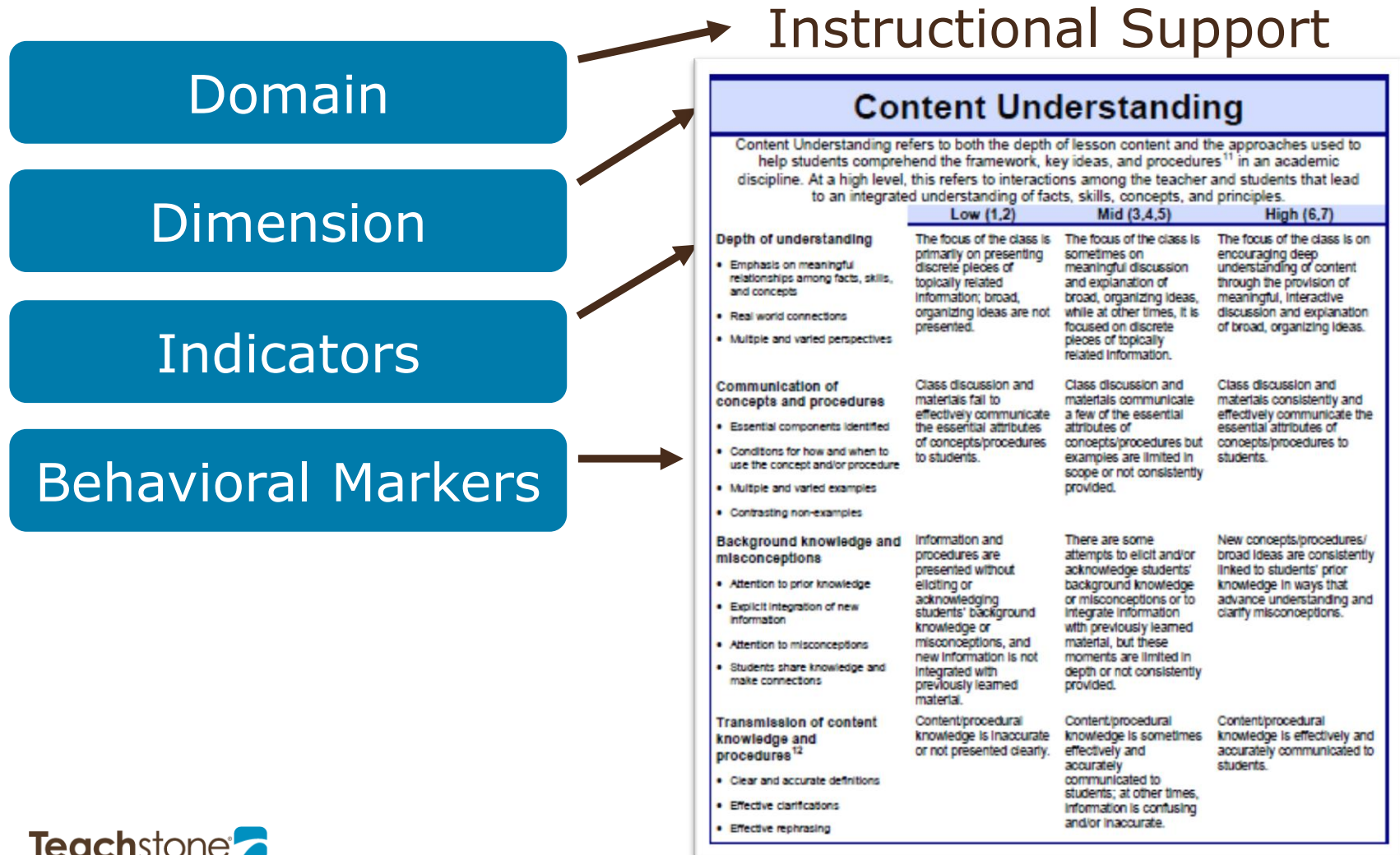
The CLASS Lens—Coherent and Consistent Across Age, Grade, and Content

- Infant (CLASS-I)
- Toddler (CLASS-T)
- Pre-Kindergarten (CLASS-Pre-K)
- Elementary (CLASS-K-3)
- Upper-Elementary (CLASS-4 to 6)
- Secondary (CLASS-S)

How the CLASS is Organized

	Emotional Support	Classroom Organization	Instructional Support
Pre-K and K-3	Positive Climate Negative Climate	Behavior Management	Concept Development Quality of Feedback Language Modeling
Upper Elementary/ Secondary	Teacher Sensitivity Regard for Student (Adolescent) Perspectives	Productivity Instructional Learning Formats	Content Understanding Analysis and Problem Solving Quality of Feedback Instructional Dialogue

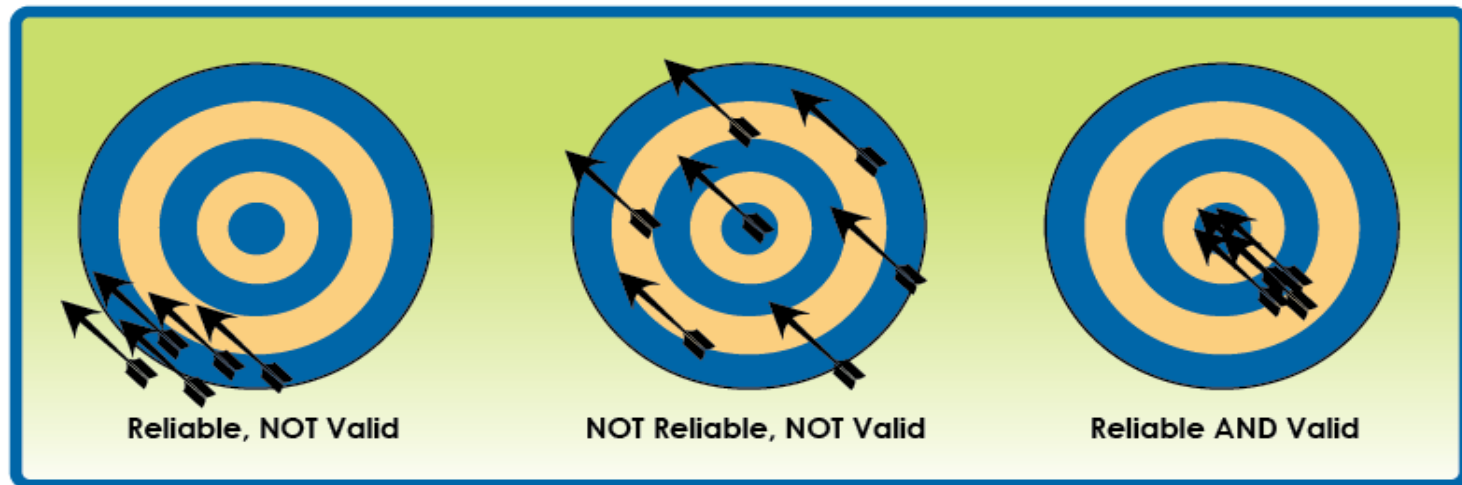
The CLASS Rating System



A Technically Strong, Proven Tool

Created and studied by researchers at the University of Virginia, the CLASS tool is

- **Valid**—CLASS scores reflect the interactions that matter for students' social and academic development.
- **Reliable**—Trained observers will see the same things across different settings.



Why Is CLASS Validity Important?

CLASS scores predict student learning gains across content areas, both on state standard and general achievement tests.

The CLASS tool also predicts student engagement, effort, motivation, and social competence.

Experimental studies show PD focused on the CLASS tool not only improves teacher-student interaction but also improves student scores on state standards tests

Validity is Important in ANY Tool

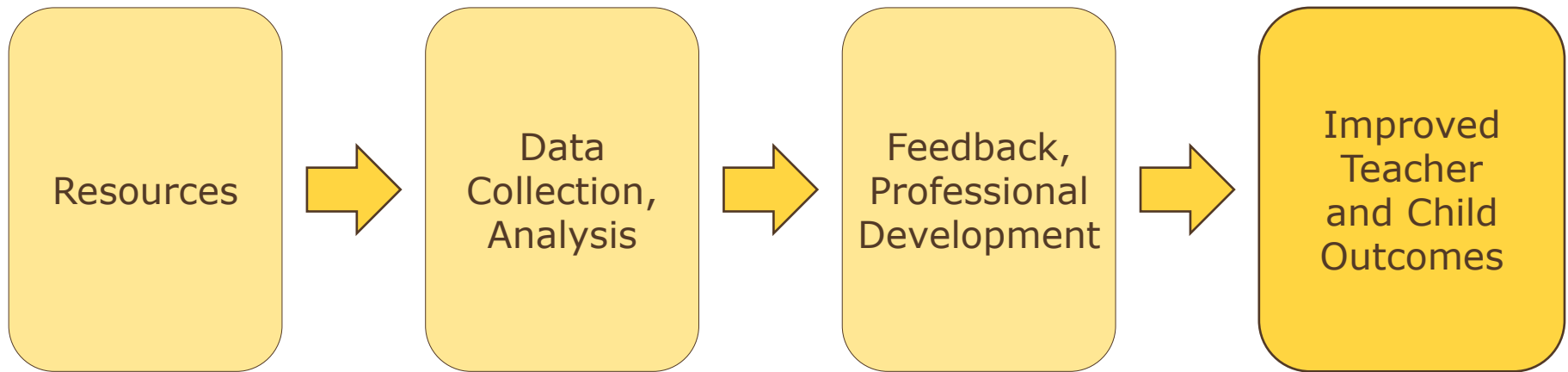
A valid tool measures teacher behaviors that matter in classrooms.

Tools used to evaluate teachers must be sensitive to high-quality professional development.

Why Is CLASS Reliability Important?

- In implementation at scale, consistency in ratings is essential for confidence in results. High stakes decisions (hiring, tenure, probation) must be backed by reliable assessments.
- Professional development options are often matched to teachers' CLASS profiles; profiles must be accurate for the interventions to be effective.
- CLASS reliability has been proven, tested, and scaled in thousands of Pre-K through 12 classrooms and hundreds of districts.

Why Is Reliability Important for ANY Tool?

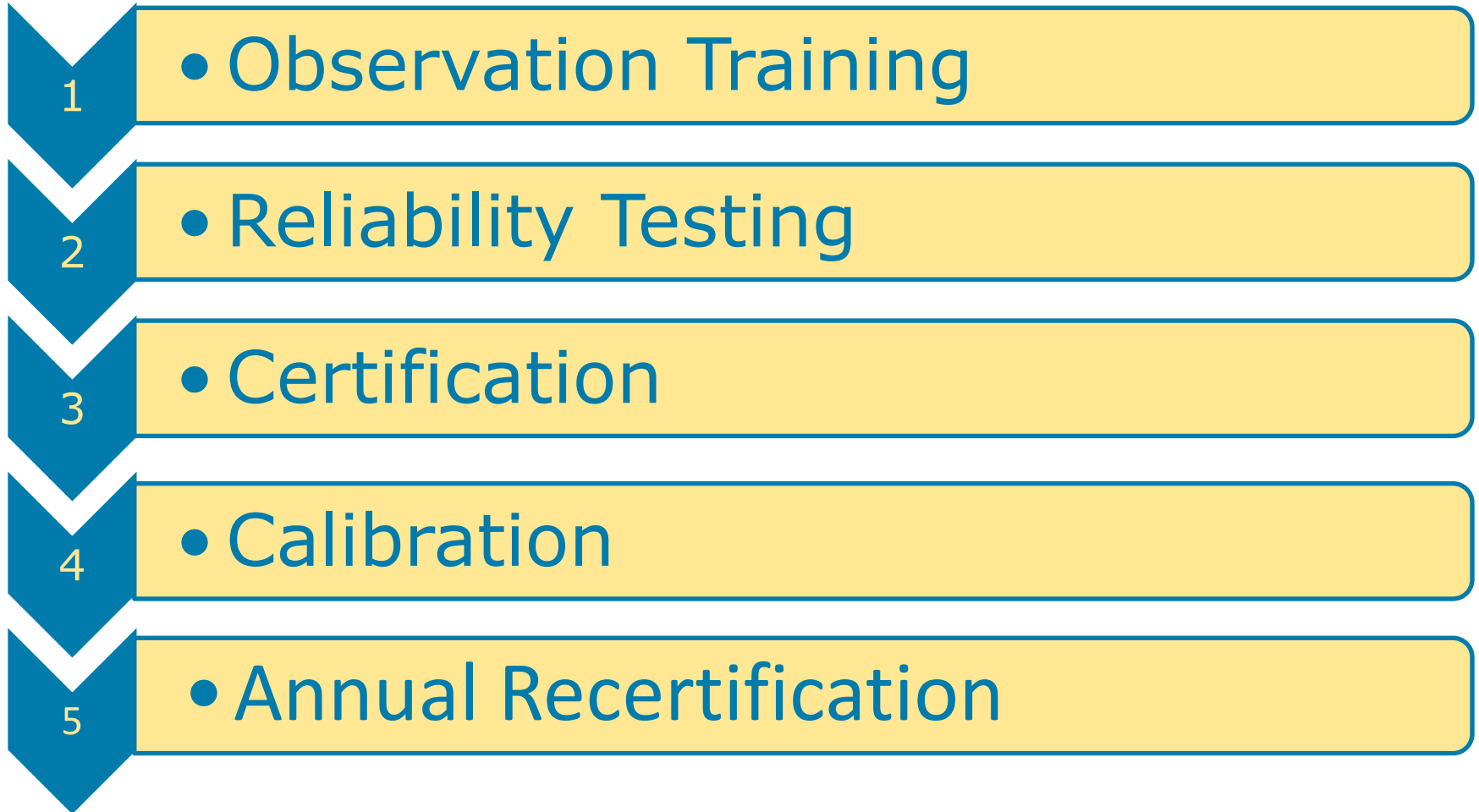


Reliability is necessary for alignment.

Ensuring Reliability: Our Process

Observing and coding reliably with the CLASS tool is more like learning a new language than learning how to ride a bike—it takes ongoing practice and training to retain the skill.

Ensuring Reliability: Our Process



1

• Observation Training

2

• Reliability Testing

3

• Certification

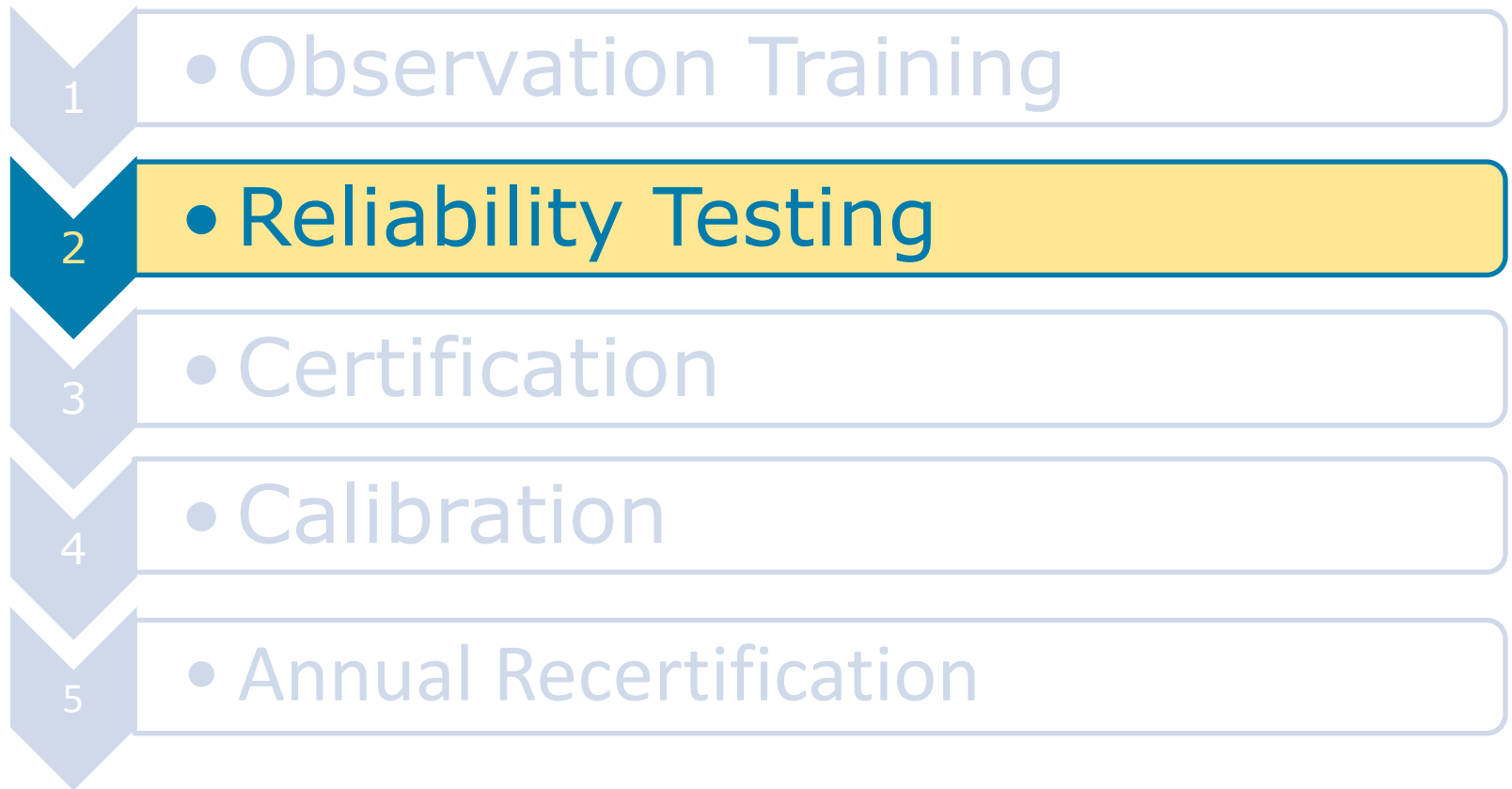
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• Calibration

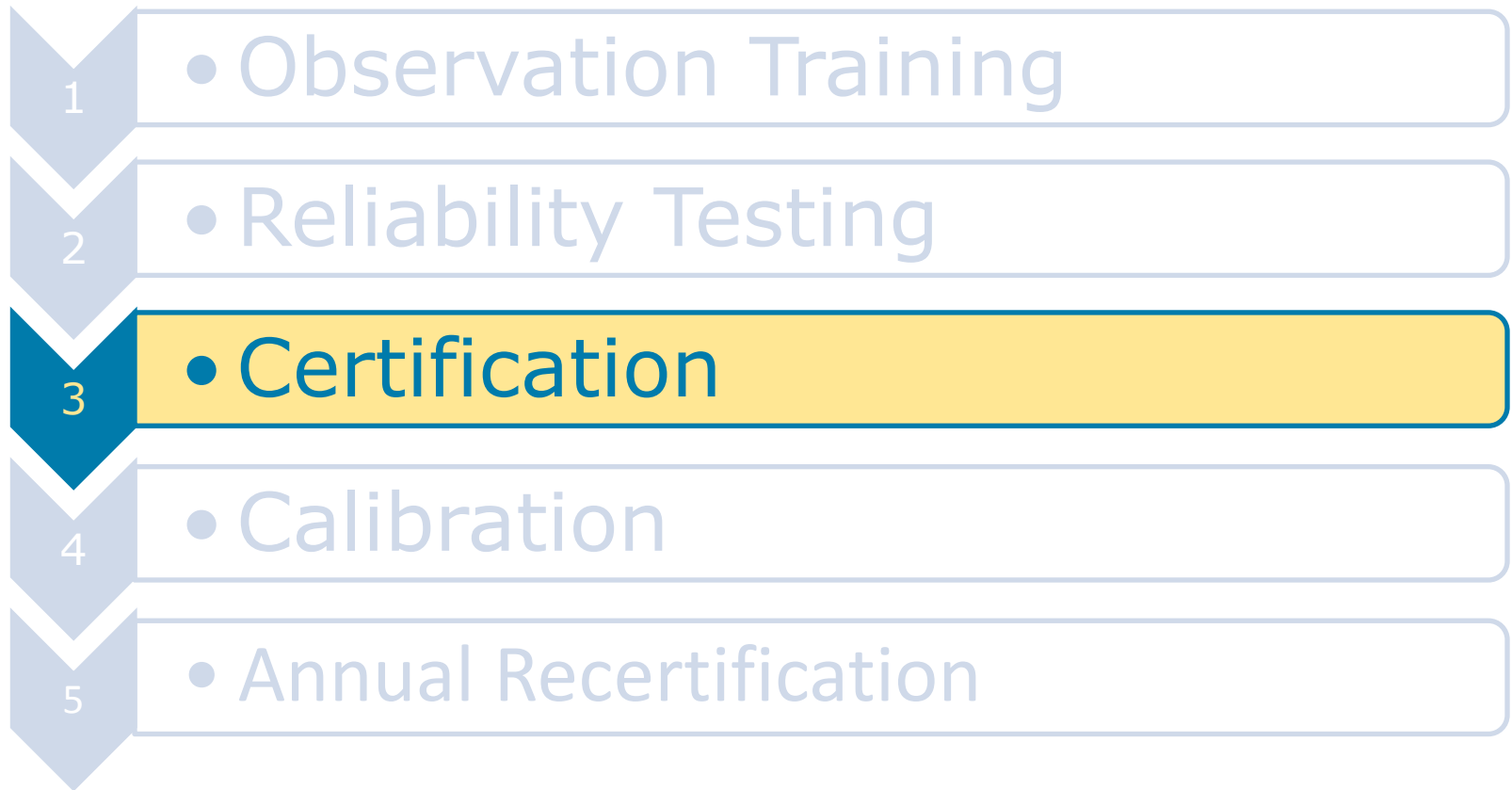
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• Annual Recertification

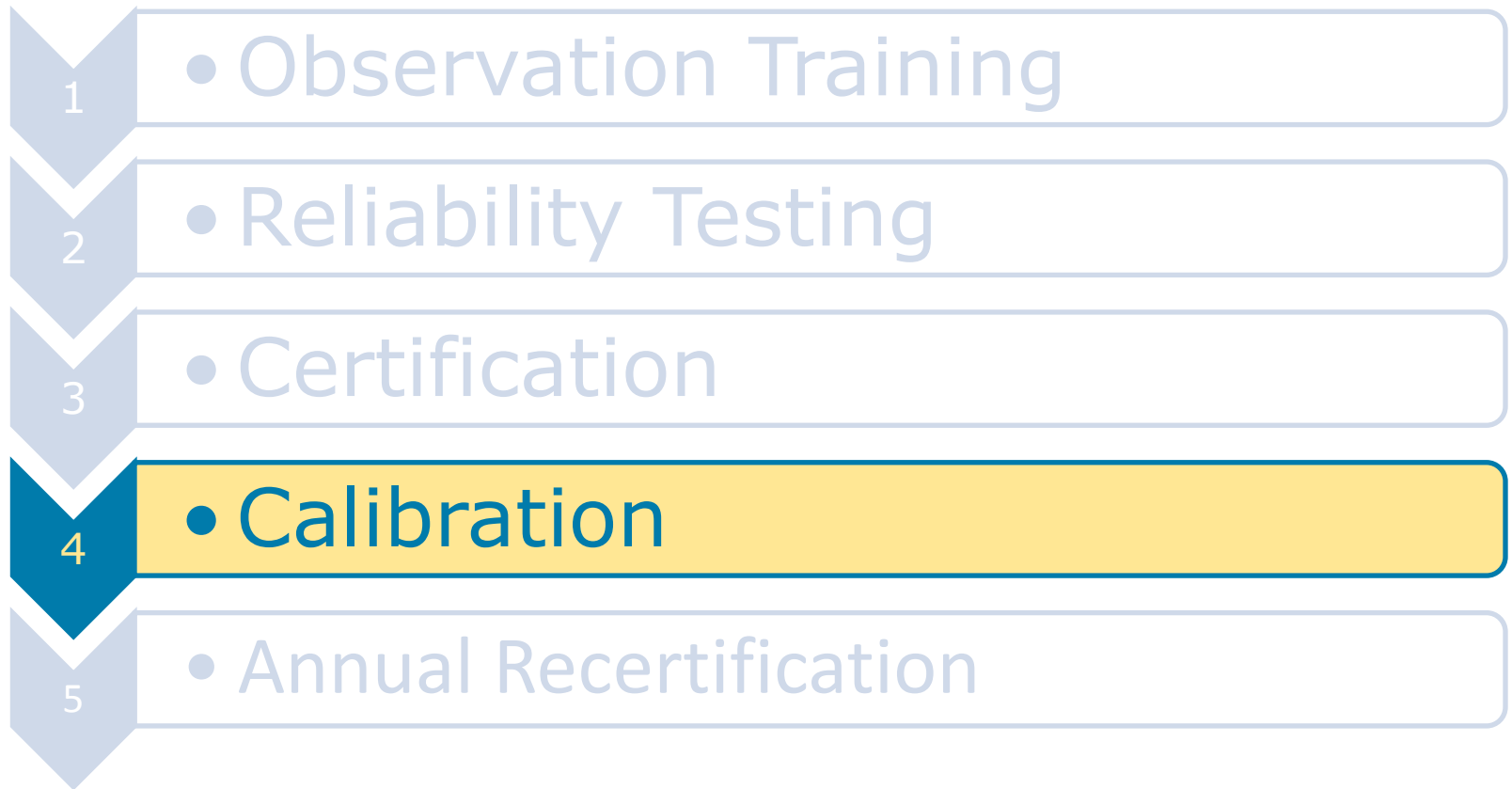
A two-day training for observers provides a deep understanding of CLASS domains, dimensions, and indicators. Trainees view and discuss video exemplars and practice coding classroom video.



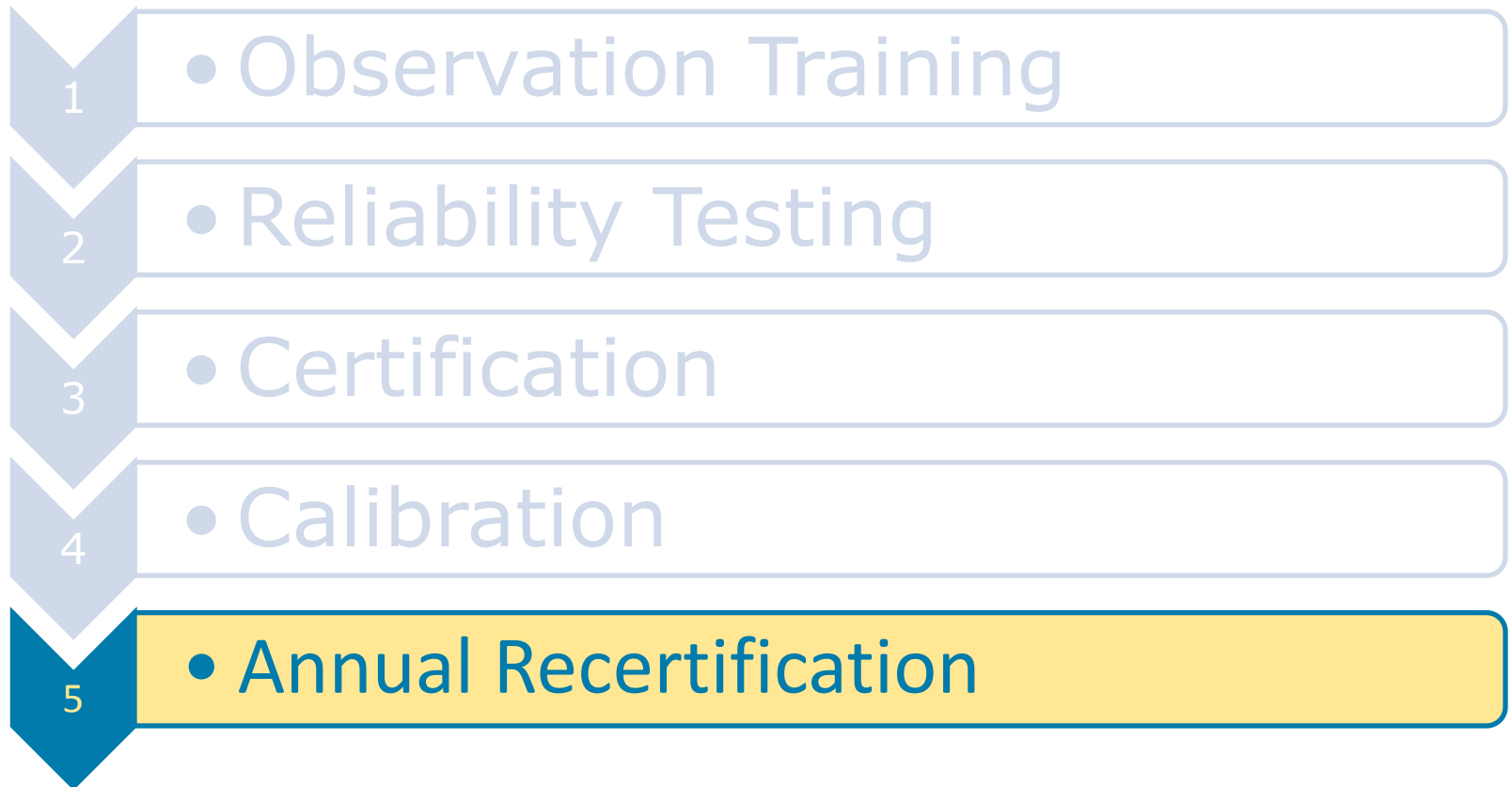
After observer training, trainees take a test by independently coding classroom video segments online.



Observers whose codes match the master codes (with a predetermined range) are granted certification to use the CLASS tool.



Periodically (often quarterly), observers code classroom video and compare their scores to a set of master codes to check their reliability.



Observers' initial certification applies for one year. They must pass another reliability test to renew their certification.

Observing Teacher Effectiveness

- **Standardization:** Are protocols established and monitored to ensure that all observers are interpreting and using the tool in the same way?
- **Feasibility:** Is the time required for training and observation feasible for your organization? Are the requirements for who can observe reasonable?
- **Sensitivity to Change:** Does the protocol have evidence that it is sensitive to assessing change (e.g., based on intervention such as participation in professional development)?
- **Links to Improvement:** Does the observation include guidelines and support for using findings for professional development purposes?

For more information about the CLASS
and related professional development
tools, contact:

Laurie McCullough

Teachstone

434-293-3909

laurie.mccullough@teachstone.org