

**Connecting Learning Assures Successful Students**  
**A Study of the C.L.A.S.S. Program**  
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***Design***

In a research study, the Bloomington office of the Indiana Education Policy Center investigated how C.L.A.S.S. has been implemented in schools and classrooms and how it has been received by administrators, teachers, students, and parents. The researchers visited three participating C.L.A.S.S. schools where they made classroom observations and interviewed teachers, administrators and parents. Telephone interviews were also conducted with four fifths of the 44 principals and superintendents involved in C.L.A.S.S., and written surveys were sent to all participating teachers and to parents at two schools.

***Results***

Indiana Education Policy Center found that C.L.A.S.S. was an effective professional development program for teachers. C.L.A.S.S. also appears to increase students' enthusiasm for school, foster the development of social skills such as cooperation, and improve higher-order thinking skills.

Overall, the data suggest that C.L.A.S.S. makes students more enthusiastic about learning, that it fosters social skills such as cooperation and caring, and that it contributes to an improvement in higher-order thinking skills. Additionally, C.L.A.S.S. appears to be an effective professional development program, renewing and empowering teachers, instilling pride, and creating a sense of ownership. C.L.A.S.S.'s success as a teacher development program is due in part to its process-oriented approach to innovation, particularly the extensive follow-up coaching.

Results from the Teacher Survey (152 teachers completed surveys from C.L.A.S.S. schools)

- 78% agreed that C.L.A.S.S. had greatly increased students' academic motivation.
- 75% agreed that C.L.A.S.S. had greatly increased students' social skills development.
- 85% agreed that C.L.A.S.S. had a positive effect on their professional development.

Results from the Parent Survey (335 parents completed surveys from C.L.A.S.S. schools)

- 75% agreed that their child's critical-thinking skills had improved as a result of C.L.A.S.S.
- 71% agreed that C.L.A.S.S. had improved their child's social skills.
- 72% agreed that their child's enthusiasm for school had increased.