

## **Change to Policy/Procedure Memo**

**Date:** 11/3/25

**Policy:** Grow NJ Kids FCCERS-3 rating thresholds

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**Rationale:** Effective February 1, 2026, all *center-based programs* submitting for a Grow NJ Kids (GNJK) rating will be required to meet updated Environment Rating Scale (ERS) thresholds to achieve a Star 3, 4, or 5 Rating.

In collaboration with DFD, the **GNJK Rating Team will update the FCCERS-3 rating thresholds for family child care (FCC) providers to align with other program types**. The new thresholds will apply to FCC programs submitting for rating on or after **December 1, 2025**. This update promotes transparency and consistency across settings while maintaining clear quality expectations within the GNJK initiative.

**Existing policy/procedure:** The following FCCERS-3 thresholds must currently be met by FCC providers seeking a GNJK Star Rating:

- Star 3: Average of 3.75; no subscale average below 3.00
- Star 4: Average of 4.50; no subscale average below 4.00
- Star 5: Average of 5.00; no subscale average below 4.25

**Change to policy/procedure:** Effective **December 1, 2025**, FCC providers seeking a GNJK Star Rating must meet updated FCCERS-3 thresholds aligned with the new ERS thresholds established for center-based programs using the 2025 GNJK Quality Standards.

The updated thresholds are:

- Star 3: Average of 3.75; no more than one subscale average below 3.00
- Star 4: Average of 4.50; no more than one subscale average below 4.00
- Star 5: Average of 5.00; no more than one subscale average below 4.25

To reflect these changes, GNJK Rating documents for FCC providers will be updated, and a new FCC Star Rating Readiness Checklist will be developed. Links to these materials will be posted on the GNJK Rating website at [montclair.edu/gnjk-rating](https://montclair.edu/gnjk-rating).

For questions regarding the GNJK rating process for FCC providers, please contact the GNJK Rating Team at [GNJKRating@montclair.edu](mailto:GNJKRating@montclair.edu).