Documentation Review Protocol for In-district DOE Programs
(See Star Rating Readiness Checklist for additional details on required documentation)

Please Note: An in-district DOE program is a program that does not have a childcare license and is located within a district building. If the program is a DOE-contracted center, refer to the Documentation Review Protocol for Center-based Programs. Head Start or NAEYC-Accredited Programs, see the Documentation Review Protocol for Head Start and/or NAEYC-Accredited Programs.

1-Star Rating
(Standards 1.1.1; 2.1.1; 3.1.1; 4.1.1; 5.1.1)
● GNJK Quality Improvement Plan based on GNJK Self-Assessment
● Office of Licensing Certificate

2-Star Rating
● Self-Assessed ECERS-3/ITERS-3 for each classroom (1.2.1; 2.2.1)
● Policy and Procedure that reflect national health and safety standards and Completed Let’s Move Child Care Checklist (1.2.2)
● Copies of Universal Health Record and evidence of correspondence with parents (1.2.3)
● Documentation demonstrating teacher/parent involvement in the research and selection of an appropriate research-based curriculum; Standards Alignment Documentation (2.2.2)
● Evidence of communication in children’s home language: Labeling, materials, books in home language (to be examined on site) (2.2.3)
● Documentation of communication with parents sharing child observations (daily for infants and toddlers, weekly for preschool) (2.2.4)
● Strengthening Families Self-Assessment Tool (including SF Quality Improvement Plan) (3.2.1)
● Parent Signatures of receipt documenting they have received a copy of the Community Resource Handbook/materials (3.2.2)

GNJK Training Standards
(Standards 4.2.1; 4.2.2; 4.2.3)

3-, 4-, 5-Star Ratings

Category 1: Safe, Healthy Learning Environment
● Outdoor Play Area Inspection Logs (1.3.1; 1.4.4)
● Breastfeeding Policy and Documentation of Staff Orientation to the Breastfeeding Policy (Infant/Toddler Programs Only) (1.3.2)

Waived for In-district DOE Programs with no Infant/Toddler Classrooms
● Sample menus (1.3.3)
● Flyers/Sign-In sheets from health and safety workshops and signed receipts for the Parent Handbook (1.3.4)
● Copy of developmental screening tools, completed screenings and protocol/policy (1.3.6)
● Policy of age-appropriate oral health care for all children including documentation of parent consent (1.4.2)
● Valid First Aid & CPR: 50% of all teaching staff in each classroom (1.4.3) and 100% of all teaching staff in each classroom (1.5.2)
● Evidence that vision, hearing and dental screenings are offered and results are shared with families (1.5.1)

Category 2: Curriculum and Learning Environment
● Signed receipt teachers and teacher assistants have received a copy of the NJ Birth-Three Standards and/or NJ Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards (2.3.1)
● Copy of policies for completed structured classroom observation/assessment tool(s) (e.g. ECERS; SELA; PCMI; PRISM; QBCC; ITERS; CLASS; TPOT; TPITOS) (2.3.2; 2.4.2)
● Evidence of performance-based assessment used: sample portfolios, observation forms, completed rubrics; evidence of data summaries from performance-based assessment with descriptions of how it is used to inform program practices/individual student growth;
aggregated classroom data summaries of comparative progress over 5-10 months from 50% of classrooms (2.3.3; 2.4.3; 2.5.2)
- Evidence of how results from performance-based assessment are used to modify/accommodate children’s specific needs and abilities (Submit one week of lesson plans from 50% of classrooms with descriptions of how PBA results are used in the submitted lesson plans) (2.3.4)
- Documentation of results from performance-based assessment shared with families (2x in a 10-month program) (2.3.5)
- Documentation of screening and referral policy and copies of completed referrals (4.4.4)
- Child’s Transition Folders and Transition Policy (2.4.5)

**Category 3: Family and Community Engagement**
- Documentation of Strengthening Families Protective Factor (SFPF) Framework used in program and collated survey results; annually updated Quality Improvement Plan and Self-Assessment; evidence of program fully integrating SFPF (3.3.1; 3.4.1; 3.5.1)
- Parent/Family Group Meeting sign-in sheets, agendas and/or minutes (3.3.2; 3.4.2)
- Family Education workshop agendas and sign-in sheets/minutes (3.3.3)
- Documentation of offered home visits with evidence they are completed up to 2x a year (letter to families, policy, etc.) (3.3.4; 3.4.4)
- Evidence that parents are encouraged to participate in community organizations, list of community organizations with parent representatives and meeting minutes/agendas (3.3.5; 3.4.5)
- Documentation of Absenteeism Policy (3.3.6)
- Examples of communication strategies with families (3.4.3)
- List of ethnic demographics of student population and annual current calendar of culturally relevant dates and activities reflecting student demographics (3.5.2)

**Category 4: Work/Professional Development**
- Description of the annual staff performance evaluation process, including copy of evaluation, self-assessment, family surveys and Individual Professional Development Plans, as applicable (4.3.4)
- Copy of completed curriculum implementation/Fidelity instrument from 50% of Preschool and Infant/Toddler classrooms (4.4.5)
- Copy of staff meeting schedule and agendas (4.4.6)
- Evidence of aggregated classroom/program/child level data reports used 2x in 50% of classrooms and Program Improvement Plan (4.4.7)
- Signed receipts showing non-instructional staff have received documentation of school practices (4.4.8)
- Agency Training Plans (4.5.1)
- Score sheets from completed assessments from each classroom: Pyramid Model TPOT and/or TPITOS (4.5.2)

**Category 5: Administration and Management**
- Self-Assessed PAS score sheet (5.3.1; 5.4.1; 5.5.1) **In-district DOE Programs can submit SAVS**
- Written definition of roles and responsibilities of the governing body (if non-profit/public) (5.3.2) **Waived for In-district DOE Programs**
- Written policy/manual that includes financial operating procedures (5.3.3) **Waived for In-district DOE Programs**
- Marketing plan addressing increasing enrollment (5.3.4) **Waived for In-district DOE Programs**
- Current operating budget including statement of income and expenditures (5.3.5) **Waived for In-district DOE Programs**
- Evidence of parent/staff feedback used to evaluate program (5.3.6)
- Evidence of at least three internal communication strategies with staff within past three years of notification of ratings (5.3.7)
- Benefit policy describing the benefit(s) employees receive (Employee Handbook) (5.3.8; 5.5.2)
- Advisory council meeting minutes or sign-in sheets (5.4.2)
- Business/Strategic Plan (5.4.3)
- Written description of system for tracking teacher turnover with evidence with at least three years of turnover tracked (5.4.4)
- Annual report for previous year with financial system information (5.4.5) **Waived for In-district DOE Programs**
- Quarterly accounting review report from independent third party (5.4.6) **Waived for In-district DOE Programs**
- Signed contract with CPA and most recent audit (5.4.7) **Waived for In-district DOE Programs**
- Written policy of the program fully integrating SFPF (3.3.1; 3.4.1; 3.5.1)
- Written definition of roles and responsibilities of the governing body or organization (5.3.2)
- Written description of system for tracking teacher turnover with at least three years tracked (5.4.4)
- Annual report for previous year with financial system information (5.4.5)
- Quarterly accounting review report from independent third party (5.4.6)
- Signed contract with CPA and most recent audit (5.4.7)

**GNJK Training Standards**
(Standards 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 4.3.3; 4.3.5; 4.3.6; 4.3.7; 4.3.8*; 4.3.9*; 4.4.1; 4.4.2*; 4.4.3; 4.4.4; 4.5.3*) **Waived for In-district DOE Program administrators/lead teachers**

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## Requirements for Star Ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Star Rating</th>
<th>ERS (ECERS-3/ITERS-3)</th>
<th>Implementation of Curriculum (GNJK Standard 2.4.1)</th>
<th>Range of Points for required documentation (Points are given for waived standards)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Stars</td>
<td>Average of 3.75</td>
<td>Staff have attended minimum of 5 hours of training on selected research-based curriculum</td>
<td>30-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Stars</td>
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<td>Staff have attended minimum of 10 hours of training on selected research-based curriculum</td>
<td>60-85</td>
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<td>5 Stars</td>
<td>Average of 5.0</td>
<td>Selected research-based curriculum is fully implemented</td>
<td>86-100</td>
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<td>No subscale below a 4.25</td>
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