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)

3-, 4-, 5-Star Ratings

Category 1: Safe, Healthy Learning Environment
- Outdoor Play Area Inspection Logs (1.3.1; 1.4.4)

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; TPIOS) (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)

- 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)
● 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 (2.4.4)
● 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)
● Evidence that the program is enrolled as a Pyramid Model Implementation Site (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 (5.3.9)
● 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
● Documentation of ongoing reflective practice opportunities within the program (5.5.3)
● Evidence of Professional Learning Community and incentive programs (5.5.4)

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
# 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★★★</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>★★★★★</td>
<td>Average of 4.5</td>
<td>Staff have attended minimum of 10 hours of training on selected research-based curriculum</td>
<td>60-85</td>
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<tr>
<td>★★★★★★★</td>
<td>Average of 5.0</td>
<td>Staff have attended minimum of 20 hours of training on selected research-based curriculum</td>
<td>86-100</td>
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