



Grow NJ Kids Streamlined Re-rating Protocol

For center-based, in-district DOE, NAEYC-accredited and FCC programs

Rationale

Programs and providers requesting a Grow NJ Kids Star Re-rating have previously been required to complete the full, non-streamlined Star Rating process, including the resubmission of all evidence for the Grow NJ Kids standards which the program has elected to complete. The Streamlined Re-rating process will allow Grow NJ Kids Rating to verify that quality has been maintained or increased, and programs and providers will only be required to submit evidence for select time-sensitive standards.

Eligibility

Most center-based, in-district Department of Education (DOE), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)-accredited and family child care (FCC) programs with an Official Star Rating will be eligible for the Streamlined Re-rating process. Programs that may not be eligible for Streamlined Re-rating include:

- Programs or providers who are unable to provide time-sensitive documentation or evidence that formal curriculum training or other training has been continued should submit for full, non-streamlined re-rating
- Programs that are no longer NAEYC-accredited and whose prior rating was a NAEYC-accredited Star Rating must submit for full, non-streamlined re-rating
- Programs and providers whose Star Rating Readiness Checklist or Rating Summary Report are not available *may not be eligible* for Streamlined Re-rating. Technical Assistance Specialists should contact CREEHS at GNJKRating@montclair.edu for more assistance if a program cannot locate one or both of these documents
- Programs that have had a change in name, ownership, license # and/or location *may not be eligible* for Streamlined Re-rating
- Rating for Head Start programs is now available. However, Head Start programs *are not* eligible for Streamlined Re-rating.

Additionally, **all programs must complete the full, non-streamlined re-rating process every six years**, so that all documentation is fully reviewed to ensure the program has maintained or improved quality. Streamlined re-rating is available to programs three years after completion of a full, non-streamlined rating, and programs are not eligible for consecutive Streamlined Re-rating (i.e., twice in a row). For example:

1. A program enrolls in Grow NJ Kids in March 2023
2. The program receives technical assistance and submits *for an initial Star Rating in September 2024 via the full, non-streamlined rating process*. Evidence of all standards for which the program is choosing to submit will be reviewed along with formal curriculum training, and rating observations are conducted
3. The program receives their Star Rating in November 2024 and works on continuous quality improvement with their Technical Assistance Specialist
4. The program submits *for re-rating in September 2027 via the streamlined re-rating process*. Evidence of time-sensitive standards are reviewed along with formal curriculum training, and rating observations are conducted



Eligibility (cont.)

5. The program receives their Star Rating in November 2027 and works on continuous quality improvement with their Technical Assistance Specialist
6. The program submits *for re-rating in September 2030 via the full, non-streamlined rating process*. Evidence of all standards for which the program is choosing to submit will be reviewed along with formal curriculum training, and rating observations are conducted

Components

As with the full, non-streamlined process, there are three components to Streamlined Re-rating:

- Hours of formal curriculum training
- Grow NJ Kids Standards evidence/documentation points
- Scores from a rating observation(s) completed using the applicable Environment Rating Scale(s)

Process

All programs submitting for Streamlined Re-rating will be assigned to a Quality Rating Coordinator (QRC), who will review the following. Programs or providers that are unable to provide any of the applicable documentation below should submit for full, non-streamlined rating.

- Current formal curriculum training records for **all staff** or records from training on Developmentally Appropriate Practices for FCC providers
- Current training records for the training standards for which the program submitted evidence during the previous Star Rating (e.g., center-based standards 4.3.2, 4.3.5, 4.4.3, etc.)
- Evidence for select time-sensitive standards (not applicable for NAEYC-accredited programs requesting a Star 3 Rating)
- NAEYC accreditation documentation (if applicable)

The QRC will review the Star Rating Readiness Checklist and/or Rating Summary Report from the program's prior rating submission to determine the time-sensitive standards for which the program submitted previously. The QRC will then randomly select time-sensitive standards for which the program will be asked to re-submit current evidence (if applicable). All documentation should be uploaded to the program's NJCCIS File Cabinet using the appropriate GNJK category as the Document Type.

In addition to evidence for select time-sensitive standards, **programs and providers seeking a higher star rating than they received during their previous Star Rating may submit new documentation from any level or category to receive points towards meeting the threshold for the requested new Star Rating.** Documentation points are calculated cumulatively using the point total from the previous rating submission and new documentation points earned during Streamlined Re-rating. Technical Assistance Specialists working with programs that have questions about whether points were awarded for specific standards during the previous rating process should email GNJKRating@montclair.edu.

In addition to the QRC, at the time of rating submission, the program will also be assigned to an Independent Rater(s) who will conduct the observation(s). Once the observation is completed and all training records and documentation have been reviewed and approved, the program's Streamlined Re-Rating Summary Report is drafted and the final Star Rating is shared with the program. Star Ratings awarded via the Streamlined Re-rating process are good for three years.



Expectations for Expired/Expiring Star Ratings

Programs with an Official Star Rating that is due to expire must submit for re-rating at least two months prior to their rating expiration date to ensure their Star Rating does not lapse.

Requirements

The table on the next page includes the Streamlined Re-rating Requirements for each program type. **Note:** In addition to submitting evidence for time-sensitive standards and training records, NAEYC-accredited programs submitting for streamlined-re-rating must submit *any NAEYC accreditation documentation received by the program since the last Star Rating*, such as:

- Current NAEYC Accreditation Certificate
- Most recent NAEYC Accreditation Decision Report
- Completed NAEYC Annual Reports for years 1-3 as appropriate



Streamlined Re-rating Requirements by Program Type* and Star Rating			
Star Rating	Center-based and In-district DOE Programs	NAEYC-accredited Programs	Family Child Care Centers
	- ITERS-3 and/or ECERS-3 average of 3.75, no subscale below 3.0 - Staff have attended minimum of 5 hours of training on selected research-based curriculum Same Star Rating: Evidence for 5 time-sensitive standards and training records for all staff	- No ERS observation required - Staff have attended minimum of 5 hours of training on selected research-based curriculum Same Star Rating: Current NAEYC accreditation documentation and training records for all staff	- FCCERS-3 average of 3.75, no subscale below 3.0 - Provider has attended 5 hours of training in at least two Core Knowledge Areas focused on FCC Developmentally Appropriate Practices**. See standard 2.3.2 Same Star Rating: Evidence for 3 time-sensitive standards and provider training records**
	- ITERS-3 and/or ECERS-3 average of 4.5, no subscale below 4.0 - Staff have attended minimum of 10 hours of training on selected research-based curriculum Same Star Rating: Evidence for 10 time-sensitive standards and training records for all staff Higher star rating: Evidence for 5 time-sensitive standards, training records, and 60 – 85 cumulative documentation points***	- ITERS-3 and/or ECERS-3 average of 4.5, no subscale below 4.0 - Staff have attended minimum of 10 hours of training on selected research-based curriculum Same Star Rating: Current NAEYC accreditation documentation, evidence for 3 time-sensitive standards, and training records for all staff Higher star rating: NAEYC accreditation documentation, training records, and 60 – 85 cumulative documentation points***	- FCCERS-3 average of 4.5, no subscale below 4.0 - Provider has attended 10 hours of training or more in at least three Core Knowledge Areas focused on FCC Developmentally Appropriate Practices**. See standard 2.4.1 Same Star Rating: Evidence for 6 time-sensitive standards and provider training records** Higher star rating: Evidence for 3 time-sensitive standards, training records, and 30 – 40 cumulative documentation points***
	- ITERS-3 and/or ECERS-3 average of 5.0, no subscale below 4.25 - Staff have attended minimum of 20 hours of training on selected research-based curriculum Same Star Rating: Evidence for 15 time-sensitive standards and training records for all staff Higher star rating: Evidence for 5 or 10 time-sensitive standards, training records, and 86 – 100 cumulative documentation points***	- ITERS-3 and/or ECERS-3 average of 5.0, no subscale below 4.25 - Staff have attended minimum of 20 hours of training on selected research-based curriculum Same Star Rating: Current NAEYC accreditation documentation, evidence for 6 time-sensitive standards, and training records for all staff Higher star rating: 3 time-sensitive standards and/or NAEYC accreditation documentation, training records, and 86 – 100 cumulative documentation points***	- FCCERS-3 average of 5.0, no subscale below 4.25 - Provider has attended 20 hours of training or more in at least ten training topics, with at least 10 training hours completed in topics listed under Core Knowledge Areas: “Learning Environment and Curriculum” and “Child Growth and Development**,” and a curriculum reflective of current research and best practice is used. See standard 2.5.1 Same Star Rating: Evidence for 9 time-sensitive standards and provider training records** Higher star rating: Evidence for 3 or 6 time-sensitive standards, training records, and 41 – 50 cumulative documentation points***

*Head Start programs are not eligible for Streamlined Re-rating.

**The training requirements and records outlined above apply to the provider, an alternate provider, and an assistant if working at the program regularly.

***The cumulative documentation points are the total of the points from the prior Star Rating and the points from Streamlined Re-rating combined.