



Star Rating Readiness Checklist for Head Start Programs

Please fill out the following information and upload to your USB of documentation to the New Jersey Center for Quality Ratings. Send USB to: Attn: NJCQR, William Paterson University (Valley Road Campus), 1600 Valley Road, Room 3016, Wayne, NJ 07470

About the Star Rating Readiness Checklist: The Readiness Checklist (RC) is designed to help centers/schools after they have completed all Grow NJ Kids requirements for 1 and 2 star ratings with their Quality Improvement Specialist (QIS) or Technical Assistant Specialist (TAS) and decide to seek a 3, 4 or 5-Star Rating. The cover sheet of information and Classroom Information List is required to be filled out completely and submitted with the Readiness Checklist with any additional documents as requested and for their program as applicable.

The GNJK Notification of Rating Readiness should also have been e-mailed to Andrea Breitwieser at Andrea.Breitwieser@dhs.state.nj.us.

Date:	<u></u>				
Center/School Address:					
Primary Contact Name:					
		Primary Contact Email:			
School Closing Phone Number and/or W	ebsite:				
Type of Program: Head Start N					
Applying for star rating of: 3 4			ceived:		
Parking Available? Y N	If no, please check the days	of alternate side parking (if applicable): M \square T \square	W 🔲 Th	ı 🗌 F
Location of Parking:					
	Arrival time for chil		Building Hours:		
Number of children enrolled in program	:				
Number of classrooms per age group:	Preschool Programs: 3yr old:	4yr old:	Mixed 3/4yr old:		
	Infant/Toddler Programs: Infant (under	18 months):	Toddler (18 months – 2 ½ years):	:	
Licensing Certificate Number:					
Notification of Rating Readiness e-maile	d to GNJK: Y 🔲 N 🔲				

Two-Month Window: Please provide a window of two months during which an on-site rating visit can occur. Please list any dates of exclusion within this time (i.e. holidays, in-service days, meetings, days of special events, etc.). Up to 10 dates of exclusion within your selected two-month window are permitted. Once documentation has been reviewed, NJCQR will contact you with a 10-day time period within the requested two-month window of which during the rating visit will occur. Please note: The 10-day window assigned by NJCQR may not necessarily be on consecutive days. Requested Two-Month Rating Window: 10 Days of Exclusion: **Additional Items Required from All Head Start Programs:** Please send the following items on the USB as applicable with the Readiness Checklist: Staff Hire Dates for all administrators, head/group/lead teacher and paraprofessionals/teacher assistants. If a staff member is part/time (14 hours or less), please note that information. Birthday Lists for all Infant/Toddler Classrooms Classroom Schedules for all classrooms **Documentation Review Waiver for Head Start Programs** Based on the monitoring reviews submitted to NJCQR, Head Start programs will need to submit additional documentation in order to reach the points required for the star rating they are seeking. A program may submit any documentation that is under other reviews that were not within two years, or other documentation from any star rating, in order to ensure they reach the required number of points for the star rating they are seeking. All Head Start Programs must submit: Copy of most recent Federal Review(s) letters from within past two years Copy of ongoing monitoring system evidence

Head Start Monitoring Reviews in which items are waived upon satisfactory reviews:

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EnvHS	Environmental Health & Safety Review
LGMS	Leadership, Governance & Management Systems Review
FIS/ERSEA	Fiscal Integrity & ERSEA Review
CSSR	Comprehensive Services & School Readiness Review

Please Note: If you are a Head Start Program that is NAEYC Accredited: Please be sure to send all Head Start documents and NAEYC Accreditation certificates/reports. Documentation requirements for Head Start Programs that are also NAEYC Accredited will be considered in the Star Rating you are seeking.

Copy of most recently completed OHS monitoring report, plus any additional aligned monitoring reports and copies of correct to any noted code violations within last 12

months

Classroom Information List

Please fill out the following information for each classroom in your program. Indicate Head/Group/Lead Teacher with a (T).

Classroom Name/Number	Names of instructional staff members	Age range of children	Primary language of instruction	Inclusion/ Self-contained	Number of children enrolled in class	Days of operation (If not open M-F) Indicate here if Half-Day Session AM/PM

Classroom Information List

Please fill out the following information for each classroom in your program. Indicate Head/Group/Lead Teacher with a (T).

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Summary Sheet for 3, 4 & 5 Star Ratings

The summary sheet lists documentation by GNJK Criteria #. According to the star rating sought, please upload documents to USB drive, check off box, and write the file name inside each box. Items waived for Head Start Reviews are noted accordingly for each item. Head Start Monitoring Reviews are noted accordingly:

EnvHS	Environmental Health & Safety Review
LGMS	Leadership, Governance & Management Systems Review
FIS/ERSEA	Fiscal Integrity & ERSEA Review
CSSR	Comprehensive Services & School Readiness Review

GNJK Criteria #	Evidence/Documentation Required	公公公	公公公公	公公公公公
1.3.1; 1.4.4	Outdoor Play Area Inspection Logs	Completed outdoor play area inspection logs for each playground from prior 3 months	Completed outdoor play inspection logs for each playground from prior 6 months	
		Head Start EnvHS	Head Start EnvHS	
1.3.2	Breastfeeding Policy & Documentation of Staff Orientation to the Breastfeeding Policy (EHS Programs Only)	Copy of the breastfeeding policy (or as noted in Parent Handbook) File Name: Copy of documentation of staff orientation to the breastfeeding policy		
		File Name:		
1.3.3	Sample menus	Sample menus for 3 months for each infant/toddler and preschool classroom as appropriate Head Start EnvHS		

GNJK Criteria #	Evidence/Documentation Required	公公公	公公公公	公公公公公
1.3.4	Flyers/Sign-In sheets from health and safety workshops	Copies of flyers/sign-in sheets from health and safety workshops from within past year (about 2-3 different workshops) Head Start CSSR		
1.3.6	Copy of developmental screening tool; protocol/policy	Copy of developmental screening tool; protocol/policy Head Start EnvHS		
2.3.2; 2.4.2	Copy of policies for completed structured classroom observation/assessment tool(s) (e.g. ECERS; SELA; PCMI; PRISM; QBCC; ITERS-R; CLASS; TPOT; TPITOS)	Copy of policy for one structured classroom observation/assessment tool used	Copies of each additional policy for structured classroom observation/assessment tool used Head Start CSSR	
2.3.4	Evidence of how results from performance-based assessment* are used to modify/accommodate children's specific needs and abilities (e.g. lesson/activity plans or materials for different abilities/interests with description that supports how these small group experiences/activities were planned using data from PBA) *If not TS Gold, COR or Work Sampling, submit same amount of copies of what is currently used to document student growth/progress.)	Evidence and descriptions of how results from performance-based assessment are being used to modify or accommodate children's specific needs and abilities Submit 1 weeks' worth of lesson plans with descriptions from 50% of all classrooms / NJCQR will review the plans & descriptions on-site		

GNJK Criteria#	Evidence/Documentation Required	公公公	ឋេជជ	公公公公公
2.4.3	Evidence of data summaries from performance-based assessment* with descriptions of how it is used to inform program practices/individual student growth *If not TS Gold, COR or Work Sampling, submit same amount of copies of what is currently used to document/aggregate individual student growth/progress.		Data summaries from performance-based assessment and a description of how it is being used in the program to inform program practices/individual student growth (i.e. trainings planned, experiences/activities, materials ordered to support content learning in areas of need, etc.) Head Start CSSR	
2.4.4	Documentation of screening and referral policy		Copy of screening and referral policy Head Start EnvHS	
2.5.2	Aggregated classroom data summaries of comparative progress over 5-10 months from 50% of classrooms		Aggregated classroom data summaries of comparative results showing progress over 5-10 months from performance-based assessment for 50% of classrooms Submit electronically, or this can be reviewed on-site through hard copies or electronic database. Head Start CSSR	
3.3.1; 3.4.1; 3.5.1	Documentation of Strengthening Families Protective Factor (SFPF) Framework used in program; collated survey results; annually updated Quality Improvement Plan and self-assessment; evidence of program fully integrating SFPF Head Start Programs use PFCE Framework in your Program: Markers of Progress	Collated summary sheet with number of families enrolled and number of surveys returned from families. Copy of any/each survey(s) completed in prior 12 months should be submitted Head Start Programs use PFCE Framework in your Program: Markers of Progress Head Start CSSR	Evidence that SF Quality Improvement Plan* is based on self-assessment and annually updated *Head Start Programs use PFCE Framework in your Program: Markers of Progress Head Start CSSR	Evidence that SFPF* principles and strategies are fully implemented into the program *Head Start Programs use PFCE Framework in your Program: Markers of Progress Head Start CSSR

GNJK Criteria #	Evidence/Documentation Required	公公公	公公公公	公公公公公
3.3.2; 3.4.2	Parent/Family Group Meeting agendas and/or minutes	Agenda and/or Sign-In Sheets from 2 meetings within 1 year (current school year; unless date of ratings notification is early school year; agenda from last school year is acceptable) Head Start CSSR	Agenda and/or Sign-In Sheets and/or Minutes from 3 meetings within 1 year (current school year; unless date of ratings notification is early school year; agenda from last school year is acceptable) Head Start CSSR	
3.3.3	Family Education workshop agendas; and sign-in sheets/minutes (Topics should include: early / adult literacy, positive parent interactions, cultural awareness, developmental issues, or any other that identify needs/interests of families)	Family Education workshop agendas and Sign-In Sheets or minutes from 2 workshops within 1 year (current school year; unless date of ratings notification is early school year; agenda from last school year is acceptable) Head Start CSSR		
3.3.5; 3.4.5	List of community organizations with parent representatives	List of community organizations where parent representatives are involved/participate File Name:	List of community organizations parents are involved and identify which organizations have at least 1 parent representative. Also submit meeting minutes or agendas from at least 2 meetings File Name:	
3.3.6	Documentation of Absenteeism Policy	Copy of policy as noted in Parent Handbook Head Start FIS/ERSEA		
3.4.3	Examples of communication strategies; e.g. newsletters, letters, workshops, flyers		Samples of communication strategies; e.g. newsletters, letters, workshops, flyers from past 6 months (3-4 examples) (Examples can be electronic, paper and/or in multiple languages) Head Start LGMS	

GNJK Criteria #	Evidence/Documentation Required	公公公	公公公公	ឋេជជជជ
3.5.2	List of ethnic demographics of student population; Annual current calendar of culturally relevant dates and activities reflecting student demographics			Calendar of current school year with activities noted and list of school demographics with represented ethnicities File Name:
4.3.4	Description of the annual performance evaluation process and copy of evaluation, self-assessment/family surveys	Description of annual performance evaluation process; copies of evaluation, self-assessment form and family surveys if used Head Start CSSR		
4.4.5	Copy of completed curriculum implementation/Fidelity instrument If a program is seeking a 5-star rating, this item MUST be submitted/reviewed to meet curriculum requirements for ALL classrooms and age groups as part of the 5-star rating full implementation requirements		Copy of completed curriculum implementation/fidelity checklist/instrument used from 50% of Preschool and Infant/Toddler classrooms (if applicable) Head Start CSSR	
4.4.6	Copy of staff meeting schedule and/or agendas		Schedule/Staff Meeting Agendas File Name:	
4.4.7	Evidence of aggregated classroom/program/child level data reports and program improvement plan		Evidence demonstrating aggregated data used 2x in a 10 month program from 50% of classrooms with Program Improvement Plan Head Start CSSR	
4.5.1	Agency Training Plans			Evidence of agency training plans Can include plans for workshops, conferences & trainings Head Start LGMS
4.5.2	Score sheets from completed assessments: Pyramid Model TPOT and/or TPITOS			Copy of completed assessment score sheets from each classroom (TPOT and TPITOS as appropriate for each classroom's age group) File Name:

GNJK Criteria #	Evidence/Documentation Required	公公公	다다다다	公公公公公
5.3.1; 5.4.1; 5.5.1	Self-Assessed PAS score sheet	Score sheet: Required minimum score of 3 Head Start LGMS	Score sheet: Required minimum score of 4 Head Start LGMS	Score sheet: Required minimum score of 5 Head Start LGMS
5.3.2	Written definition of roles and responsibilities of the governing body (if non-profit/public)	Copy of the written definition of roles and responsibilities of the governing body Head Start LGMS		
5.3.3	Written policy/manual that includes financial operating procedures	Copy of written description of financial operations/procedures Head Start FIS/ERSEA		
5.3.4	Marketing Plan addressing increasing enrollment	Copy of Marketing Plan Head Start FIS/ERSEA		
5.3.5	Current operating budget including statement of income and expenditures	Copy of current year's operating budget including statement of income and expenditures Head Start FIS/ERSEA		
5.3.6	Evidence of parent/staff feedback used to evaluate program	Evidence of parent/staff feedback used to evaluate program (i.e. surveys or other written communications) Head Start LGMS		
5.3.7	Evidence of internal communication strategies Ex: regularly scheduled staff meetings, written procedures of policies, handbook, staff bulletin board, in-house newsletters, memos, verbal communication, e-mail	Samples from at least 3 types of strategies currently utilized within past 3 years of notification of ratings Head Start LGMS		
5.3.8; 5.5.2	Benefit policy describing the benefit(s) employees receive (Employee Handbook)	Evidence of at least one benefit offered Head Start LGMS		Evidence of at least two benefits offered Head Start LGMS

GNJK Criteria#	Evidence/Documentation Required	ななな	公公公公	公公公公公
5.4.2	Advisory council meeting minutes/sign-in sheets		Meeting Minutes or Sign-In Sheets from meeting from current school year (if early in school year, acceptable to submit from last school year) Head Start LGMS	
5.4.3	Business/Strategic Plan		Written description of Business/Strategic Plan Head Start LGMS	
5.4.4	Written description of system for tracking teacher turnover with evidence		Written description of system with evidence (i.e. an Excel graph indicating percentage of teacher turnover each year and their reason for separation) – at least 3 years of turnover tracked Head Start LGMS	
5.4.5	Annual report with financial system information		Copy of annual report Head Start LGMS	
5.4.6	Quarterly accounting review report		Copy of quarterly accounting review report Head Start LGMS	
5.4.7	Signed contract with CPA and most recent audit		Signed contract with a CPA and most recent audit Head Start FIS/ERSEA	

GNJK Criteria #	Evidence/Documentation Required	公公公	公公公公	ななななな
5.5.3	Documentation of ongoing reflective practice opportunities/ Head Start Programs: Practice- Based Coaching Document			Evidence of ongoing reflective practice opportunities or evidence of coaching/ mentoring using the reflective cycle from minimum of 4 staff files or 25% of staff files (whichever is greater) Head Start CSSR
5.5.4	Documentation of professional development plans; incentive programs			Minutes from Professional Learning Community within 6 months and evidence of incentive program If staff is formally recognized at a staff meeting, meeting minutes could be used as documentation File Name:

On-Site Documentation

On-Site Documentation: During the on-site documentation review, NJCQR staff will be pulling samples of listed on-site documentation *at random*. Therefore, please provide clear detail of where NJCQR staff will be able to find the mass amount of documentation that is listed (e.g. where all children's folders are located together, where all staff folders are located together).

GNJK Documentation and Standard Number	On-Site Location of Documentation
Signed receipts for the Parent Handbook (1.3.4) Head Start CSSR Copies of completed developmental screening tools (should be completed according to program screening policy; ESI-R; ASQ; Brigance) (1.3.6) Head Start EnvHS	Children's Intake Folders NJ Center for Quality Ratings will randomly select minimum of 10% of the children's intake folders or a minimum of 10 folders for review (whichever is greater) Location:
Policy of age-appropriate oral health care for all children including documentation of parent consent (1.4.2) Head Start EnvHS	Location.
Evidence that vision, hearing and dental screenings are offered and results are shared with families (1.5.1) Head Start EnvHS	
Evidence of performance-based assessment* used: sample portfolios, observation forms, completed rubrics (2.3.3) *If not TS Gold, COR or Work Sampling, submit same amount of copies of what is currently used to document student growth/progress.	Children's Classroom Folders NJ Center for Quality Ratings will randomly select minimum of 10% of the children's classroom (transition) folders or a minimum of 10 folders for review (whichever is greater)
Documentation of results from performance-based assessment* shared with families (2x in a 10 month program) (2.3.5) *If not TS Gold, COR or Work Sampling, submit same amount of copies of what is currently used to document student growth/progress. Head Start CSSR	Location:
Copies of completed referrals (2.4.4) Head Start EnvHS	
Child's Transition Folders and Transition Policy (2.4.5) Head Start CSSR	
Documentation of offered home visits with evidence they are offered up to 2x a year (newsletter, letter home, etc.) (3.3.4; 3.4.4) Head Start CSSR	

GNJK	Documentation and Standard Number	On-Site Location of Documentation
<u> </u>	t teachers and teacher assistants have received a copy of hree Standards and/or NJ Preschool Teaching and Learning 3.1)	Staff Folders NJ Center for Quality Ratings will randomly select minimum of 25% of the instructional staff files or a minimum of 4 files for review (whichever is greater) For 4.4.8, non-instructional folders will be reviewed.
Individual Prof	fessional Development Plans (4.3.4; 5.3.9)	Location:
Signed receipt school practic	ts from non-instructional staff receiving documentation of ces (4.4.8)	

Professional Development and Trainings

Please check off the standards you would like NJCQR to review.

	4.3.1	4.3.2 4.3.7	4.3.3	4.3.5	4.3.6	4.4.1	4.4.3	4.4.4
	Formal Training In Curriculum This additional curriculum training should be beyond	Performance-Based Assessment T	Evaluation/ observation instruments D/S	Special Dietary Needs (allergies, feeding issues) T + TA	Developmental Screening Tool T (ASQ; ESI-R;	PD on children w/ special needs (should include inclusion)	PD on Pyramid, S/E, I/T EC Mental Health (e.g. challenging	PD on: Special Needs, teacher- child interactions, ELL, cultural
Staff Member T = Head/Group/Lead Teachers from every classroom TA = 1 FT Teacher Assistant/paraprofessional	what is required for star rating that the program applied for and will be counted in addition to the formal training for curriculum required for the star rating sought. T, TA, D/S T= 5h TA= 3h D/S= 5h PT = 1h	(Teaching Strategies Gold, High Scope COR, Work-Sampling) T = 5h *Random Sample *If a program is seeking a Star Rating of 5, all head/group/lead teachers must have	D/S ONLY= 3h (Formal and/or informal training tools may include: checklists, ECERS, ACHIEVENJ, Danielson, etc.) *Random Sample	T= 2h TA=1h PT = .5h *Random Sample HS CSSR	(ASQ; ESI-R; Brigance) T ONLY=3 h *Random Sample	T+TA T=5h TA=3h PT = 1h *Random Sample HS CSSR	te.g. challenging behaviors; temperament) T + TA T=5h TA=3h PT = 1h *Random Sample HS CSSR	competence& transition and SFPF T + TA T=60h over 3y TA=30h over 3y PT = 3h over 3y *Random Sample
/aides per classroom D/S = Director/Supervisors	*Random Sample	10 hours of this training.						
TS= Teaching Staff (T's + TA's from each classroom) PT = Part-time staff h = hours	1.4.3 – 50% TS in each classroom have current CPR + First Aid training 1.5.2 – 100% TS in each classroom have current CPR & First Aid Training HS EnvHS	CDA+ 4.3.8-20% TS 4.4.2-35% TS 4.5.3-50% TS HS CSSR 4.3.9-D/S		enically submitted ertificates eets al development p year (only accept	certificates/sign-in lans for any staff in able if staff has bee	sheets, during the program outlining the program outlining the program united to the pro	ne on-site review, N	NJCQR will ask to
			 All training Evidence of TA's, PT) at CPR & Firs 	gs must be from <u>v</u> of meeting training are <i>randomly seled</i>	within 3 years to da g standard requiren cted by NJCQR staff .4.3; 1.5.2) and CD/	nte of ratings to r nents for each gr (25% or minimu	oup of listed staff r m of 4 folders; whi	nembers (i.e. T's, chever is greater)

Requirements for Grow NJ Kids Star Ratings CLASS: Emotional CLASS: Instructional Range of Points Implementation of Support and Support/ for required **Star Rating** ERS (ECERS-3/ITERS-R) **Curriculum (GNJK** Classroom **Engaged Support for** documentation **Standard: 2.4.1)** Organization Learning ECERS-3 – average of 3.75 Staff have attended ITERS-R - average of 3.75 minimum of 5 hours of N/A N/A 30-59 training on selected No subscale below a 3 (ECERS-3) research-based curriculum. No subscale below a 3.5 (ITERS-R) ECERS-3 – average of 4.5 Preschool Classroom -Preschool Classroom - N/A Staff have attended ITERS-R - average of 5 N/A minimum of 10 hours of 60-85 Toddler Classrooms training on selected No subscale below a 4 (ECERS-3) Toddler Classrooms -Score of 3 research-based curriculum. No subscale below a 4 (ITERS-R) Score of 5 ECERS-3 — average of 5 Preschool Classroom -ITERS-R – average of 6 Preschool Classroom - N/A Selected research-based N/A curriculum is fully 86-100 No subscale below a 4.25 (ECERS-3) Toddler Classrooms -Toddler Classrooms implemented. No subscale below a 5 (ITERS-R) Score of 3.3

Score of 5.5

Last Updated 5-11-17



Star Rating Readiness Certification for Head Start Programs

I have identified the star rating my program is seeking and worked with my Quality Improvement Specialist/ Technical Assistant Specialist to successfully prepare my center/school prior to and during the rating visit as required for the star rating I am seeking. I have noted all documentation on the Star Rating Readiness Checklist that has been submitted electronically and the on-site documentation to be reviewed and considered towards the final rating decision.

	Date	
Signature of Quality Improvement Specialist/Technical Assistant Specialist	Date	