New Jersey’s Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
Race to the Top
Early Learning Challenge

• New Jersey joins 19 other state grantees who secured funding from the U.S. Departments of Education and Health & Human Services.

• At the heart of the grant is the identification and implementation of common standards across our agencies to create a Quality Rating Improvement System.
New Landscape of Early Learning and Development Programs

- Significant federal investment in early learning and development programs.
- More than $1 billion in Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge projects in 20 states.
- In addition, $500 million in federal funds for Early Head Start and Child Care Partnerships.
- New rules to raise quality across all federally funded programs.
Quality Rating Improvement System

**QUALITY:** Evidence-based quality efforts, activities, and support designed to help programs continuously advance from good, to better, then BEST!

**RATING:** Easy to understand visual symbol that indicates high quality programs

**IMPROVEMENT:** Activities, efforts, supports, resources, and assessments working together to yield positive child outcomes

**SYSTEM:** Process and framework of interrelated parts working together to support healthy development and school readiness
40 States in the nation have a Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS):
Introducing Grow NJ Kids
New Jersey’s QRIS
Grow NJ Kids – Core Elements

- Standards for each category
- System of Support
- Professional Development
- Incentives
- Technical Assistance
- Marketing to Families
Grow NJ Kids

• Grow NJ Kids launched its pilot phase in Spring 2013 in three counties and one city.

• Based on lessons learned, we refined the program.

• Now, our goal is to enroll over 400 sites each year.
Who can enroll in Grow NJ Kids?

You!
Self-Assessment

Standards

Safe, Healthy Learning Environment
Curriculum and Learning Environment
Family and Community Engagement
Workforce/Professional Development
Administration and Management
Grow NJ Kids Process

1) Register with Professional Impact New Jersey (PINJ) and complete the enrollment form

2) Online Orientation

3) Self-Assessment

4) Quality Improvement Plan

5) Rating
### STATE OF NEW JERSEY’s QUALITY RATING IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM
**ENROLLMENT FORM**
Child Care Center/Head Start/School District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Profile Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Name:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Last Name:</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accreditation Valid Until:</strong> MM/DD/YY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Active Member in Professional Impact of New Jersey (PINJ) Registry:</strong> Yes ☐ No ☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Umbrella Organization/Lead Agency Contact Information (If applicable)

| **Organization/School District Name:** |
| **Address:** |
| **City/Town:** |
| **Zip Code:** |
| **First Name:** |
| **Last Name:** |
| **Title:** |
| **Phone:** |
| **Email:** |

### Program Information

- **Head Start:**
- **Early Head Start:**
- **Preschool in a former Abbott (school-based):**
- **Preschool in a former Abbott (provider):**
- **Other district preschool:**

Program is in good standing with Office of Licensing: Yes ☐ No ☐ License Exempt ☐
Program is in good standing with State/Federal Programs (OWS, DOE, HIV): Yes ☐ No ☐
Are you using a nationally-recognized or state DOE-approved curriculum: Yes ☐ No ☐
Name of curriculum:
Are you using the NJ Birth to Three Early Learning Standards/Preschool Standards: Yes ☐ No ☐
Participating in or have participated in the Strengthening Family Initiative: Yes ☐ No ☐
Participating in the USDA Food Program: Yes ☐ No ☐
Does your program serve English language learners? Yes ☐ No ☐ How many?
Does your program serve children with disabilities in: Self-contained classrooms? Yes ☐ No ☐ Inclusion classrooms? Yes ☐ No ☐
Professional Impact New Jersey (PINJ) register at www.pinjregistry.org
Directors’ Orientation

• Orientation provides framework and clearer explanation of Grow NJ Kids
• The orientations are intended for directors and administrators only
• It allows you to ask questions and learn from your peers
Grow NJ Kids –
Quality Improvement Plan

• Develop a Quality Improvement Plan after you complete the Self-Assessment.

• Apply for incentives to address areas to be strengthened.

• You will be provided with support through the development and implementation of your Quality Improvement Plan.
“Rating is not the destination; it is the set of benchmarks along a pathway of ongoing improvement” - Anne Mitchell

- Identify your level of quality.
- Serve as a “Consumer Reports” for families.
Ratings

- Will be a combination of portfolio review and assessment scores completed by NJ Center for Quality Ratings at William Paterson University

- Rating of 3, 4, or 5 Star will have assessment score requirements, curriculum training and CLASS Assessment in the higher levels (4 and 5) plus a range of points to achieve

- Each standard will be given a point value-range of points to obtain the star rating
Ratings cont.

- A brief summary will be provided to the programs of the findings from the outside Rater
- The time for the rating process will vary depending on program size
- Final rating will be provide by Grow NJ Kids Administrators
What are the benefits of enrolling now?

We provide:

– *Free Professional development training* *

– Scholarships for teachers, assistants and directors/administrators

– Classroom enhancement grants

*Professional development training is free now, may not be free in the future.*
Incentives – Classroom Enhancement Grants

• Formal request form
• Verification of the request that it is related to quality improvement plan is required
• Requests can be done in stages
• Acceptable items are, but not limited to:
  • *Educational Materials/Supplies*
  • *Formal Program Assessment*
Incentives – Scholarships

• Directors, teachers, assistants, and family child care directors are eligible to apply.

• Scholarships are dependent upon educational goals identified in the quality improvement plan.

• The scholarships are first come first serve.

• Application are available through PINJ and payments will go directly to the college or university.

• Scholarships maybe used for CDA, AA, infant-toddler AA, BA, or alternate route P-3.

• For those who complete their credential or degree with the support of the Grow NJ Kids Scholarship will receive a merit award of $500.
Trainings

- Rutgers University-Center for Effective School Practices is the entity implementing the Training Academy
- They are partnering with 2 community colleges: Atlantic Cape and Passaic County Community College
- Trainings will be offered regionally
- Continue to access trainings at your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
- Trainings will be offered in:
  - CLASS, ITERS/ECCERS
  - Strengthening Families
  - Home Visiting
  - Curriculum
Additional Benefits for School Districts and Head Start

- Check and balance – to ensure compliance with Head Start Performance Standards
- Non-Abbott Districts will be able to look deeper at the quality of their programs
- Access to the free professional development
Reasons to love Grow NJ Kids!

Grow NJ Kids will:

• Help you stand out amongst your peers.
• Help you promote your high quality program to families.
• Benefit children by helping them be ready for kindergarten.
Next Steps

1. Complete enrollment form on PINJ
2. Register in Professional Impact New Jersey’s (PINJ) Registry at www.pinjregistry.org
3. Check www.GrowNJKids.com regularly for new information/announcements
Recap

Grow NJ Kids is a powerful tool for all programs to move toward good, then better, then BEST!

And remember, you are not in this alone.
Q & A

You have questions?

We have answers!
For Additional Questions Contact:

Andrea Breitwieser
Division of Family Development
info@grownjkids.com