



grow  
nj kids

# 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

**Q**

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

**R**

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

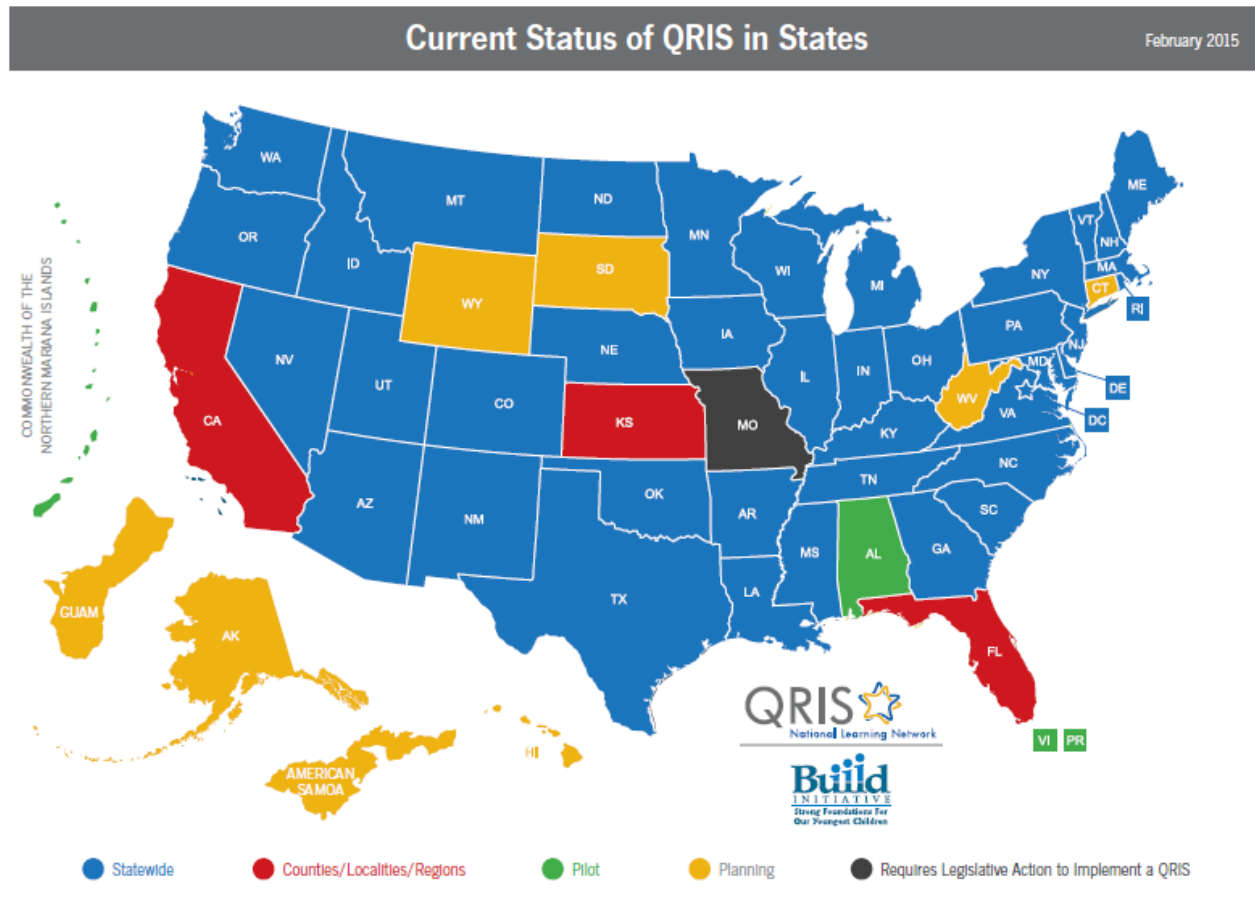
**I**

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

**S**

**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



# 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?

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**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

# Grow NJ Kids Enrollment available on [www.pinjregistry.org](http://www.pinjregistry.org)



STATE OF NEW JERSEY'S QUALITY RATING IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM  
ENROLLMENT FORM  
Child Care Center/Head Start/School District

Program Profile Information		
First Name:	Last Name:	Title:
License ID#: (if Applicable)	License Capacity:	License Expiration:
Program/School Name:		
Program/School Address:		
City/Town:	Zip Code:	County:
Phone:	Email:	
Accredited: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name of Accreditation:		Accreditation Valid Until: MM / DD / YY
Active Member in Professional Impact of New Jersey (PINJ) Registry: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
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		
Check all that apply:		
Head Start:	<input type="checkbox"/> Subsidized Program via CCR&R:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early Head Start:	<input type="checkbox"/> Private School for Children with Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preschool in a former Abbott (school-based):	<input type="checkbox"/> Private, non-profit:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preschool in a former Abbott (provider):	<input type="checkbox"/> Private, for-profit:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other district preschool:	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuition-based (some or all children):	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Program is in good standing with Office of Licensing: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> License Exempt <input type="checkbox"/>		
Program is in good standing with State/Federal Programs (DHS, DOE, HS): Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Are you using a nationally-recognized or state DOE-approved curriculum: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name of curriculum: _____		
Are you using the NJ Birth to Three Early Learning Standards/Preschool Standards: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Participating in or have participated in the Strengthening Family Initiative: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Participating in the USDA Food Program: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Does your program serve English language learners? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> How many? _____		
Does your program serve children with disabilities in:		
Self-contained classrooms? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Inclusion classrooms? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

# Professional Impact New Jersey (PINJ) register at [www.pinjregistry.org](http://www.pinjregistry.org)

**professional IMPACT NJ**  
advocating growth for early childhood educators

Return Home Login Now  
Powered by RegistryOne™

**Awaiting Login...**

- Letter of Welcome
- About the Registry
- NJ Registry Career Lattice
- Submit Documentation
- Instructors/Consultants Sponsoring Agencies
- Directors and Administrators
- Find Training
- Find Instructors
- Terms of Use
- CDA Assessment Fee
- Financial Assistance Information
- 2013 Teacher Scholarship Information
- Privacy Policy
- Appeals Policy
- Fraud Policy
- Register Now**

**CLICK HERE**  
To Find Workshops conducted by **Family Strength Associates**

**CLICK HERE**  
To Find Workshops conducted by **Community Coordinated Childcare of Union County**

### User Registration

\*Required Field

Salutation: \*

First Name: \*

Last Name: \*

Former Last Name:

Email Address: \*

Re-Type Email Address: \*

Password (at least 6 characters, including 1 letter and one digit): \*

Re-Type Password: \*

Address 1: \*

Address 2:

Zip: \*

City: \*

State: \*

County: \*

Daytime Phone: \*

Evening Phone:

I have read and agree to provide my contact information in accordance with the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

**Request Enrollment Now**

# 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.**

# Grow NJ Kids – Rating

*“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](http://www.pinjregistry.org)
3. Check [www.GrowNJKids.com](http://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:**



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