



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 30, 2023  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
Route To: Early Childhood Directors/Supervisors, Directors of Curriculum and Instruction  
From: Cary A. Booker, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Early Childhood Services

## Kindergarten to Third Grade Self-Assessment Validation System (SAVS)

The voluntary Kindergarten to Third Grade Self-Assessment Validation System (K-3 SAVS) is grounded in a framework of criteria and indicators of a high-quality kindergarten through third grade educational program. The K-3 SAVS allows interested local educational agencies (LEAs) to self-assess evidence of practice as it aligns with quality indicators, thereby guiding a continual improvement cycle. The K-3 SAVS has been piloted in stages from 2019 to 2023 to include research and development, pilot tool application, protocol implementation, final tool development, and release.

The K-3 SAVS provides early childhood education communities with a quality framework of criteria and indicators, implementation tools, and sample protocols to support in voluntarily raising the quality and alignment of kindergarten to third grade early childhood education programs.

The [K-3 SAVS system](#) has three main tools:

**A Guide to the K-3 SAVS** – An overview of the philosophy, purpose, guidance, sample protocols, agendas, and supporting references contributed by early childhood experts and stakeholders.

**The Framework and Plan for a High-Quality K-3 Education Program** – The criteria, indicators, Analytic Rubric, Growth Plan Templates, and related protocols. Additional protocols support LEAs in communicating growth plans to strengthen alignment between evidence of current practice and the quality indicators.

**Optional K-3 SAVS Feedback Tool** – Opportunity to provide feedback on use of the K-3 SAVS.

Please visit [the K-3 SAVS webpage](#) to access this voluntary self-assessment and improvement system, K-3 SAVS.

Please visit the New Jersey Department of Education [Calendar of Events webpage](#) to sign up for the **K-3 SAVS Office Hours**: October 26, 2023; December 7, 2023; or February 1, 2024 from 3:15 – 4 p.m.

### Contact Information

Please contact the K-3 Office of Education at [K-3Office@doe.nj.gov](mailto:K-3Office@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
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