

Self-Assessment Validation System (SAVS)

Purpose:

As noted in [N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-8.1](#), *Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs*, districts are required to participate in a process of continuous quality improvement. The Self-Assessment Validation System (SAVS) has been developed to help districts identify areas of improvement in the overall preschool program implementation. The SAVS is completed each year and should help to inform the development of the districts submitted annual preschool program plan. A validation visit by the SAVS team shall occur at least once every three years.

Types:

1. **Self-reporting SAVS:** Districts use the self-reporting SAVS document to guide the Office of Preschool SAVS team through a look at the past years' practices. Districts rate themselves and provide a narrative for each criterion. The narratives should explain what the district implemented in the past year as it relates to that criterion and plans for growth over the next year. Districts should have adequate evidence on file to justify rating. The Self-reporting SAVS document is submitted to the Office of Preschool Education in the spring. Documentation evidence of the district ratings are not submitted to the department. An on-site district visit does not occur for the self-reporting district unless The Office of Preschool Education determines a visit is warranted.
2. **Validation visit SAVS:** Districts use the Validation Visit document to guide the Office of Preschool SAVS team through a look at the past years' practices during an on-site district visit. Districts rate themselves and provide a narrative for any criterion rated as *in progress* or *not met*. The narrative should explain what the district implemented in the past year as it relates to that criterion. Required evidence for each indicator is listed in the document. The SAVS team reviews the documentation and determines if the evidence the district provided validates the rating. During the SAVS Validation Visit, the team meets with the district administration to report their findings and discuss potential areas of improvement.

For more information, please reach out to the Office of Preschool Education at doeearlychild@doe.nj.gov.