Grow NJ Kids
Early Care and Education Programs
Self-Assessment Tool



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Introduction:

Grow NJ Kids is New Jersey's program to raise the quality of early care and education (children from birth through pre-school) across the state. New Jersey's Departments of Children and Families, Education, Health and Human Services, have collaborated to create a program with two goals: to help all types of early care and education to continuously improve and to provide parents with information to help them select a high quality program.

Programs interested in participating in Grow NJ Kids will be required to complete the following self-assessment, but you won't be doing it alone. A Quality Improvement Specialist will provide an overview of the process and then will help you complete the self-assessment.

To learn more about the self-assessment process and Grow NJ Kids, visit www.GrowNJKids.com.

Early Care and Education Programs are defined as center-based, school-based, district-funded, as well as private schools for Special Education students.

Category 1: Safe, Healthy Learning Environment

A high quality learning experience can only be facilitated in a safe and healthy environment. An enriching environment must use appropriate classroom furnishings, maintain sanitary conditions, promote a healthy lifestyle, and have a teaching/caregiving team that works from a meaningful plan based on the developmental abilities and capacities of the children.

Level 1 Safe, Healthy Learning Environment

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
1.1.1	Early Head Start, Head Start and Center-based sites have a one-year license from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Office of Licensing (OOL). School-based sites have appropriate Department of Education (DOE) plan approval.	License in good standing or program meets Licensing Standards (for non- licensable and license exempt programs)	Office of Licensing (OOL) Certificate DOE approved plan	1304.53(a)(6) Monitoring Protocol Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #3 Safe Physical Environments	NAEYC: Leadership & Management NECPA: Program Administration & Staff Relations	☐ Yes

Level 2 Safe, Healthy Learning Environment

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
1.2.1	Demonstrates healthy, safe and clean indoor and outdoor environments through a formal assessment.	Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) self-assessed score average of 4 with no subscale below 3	Appropriate Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) Score for age group (Protocol)	1304.53(a) 1304.53(b) Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #3 Safe Physical Environments	NECPA Self-Assessment Tool NAEYC Self-Assessment Tool	☐ Yes ☐ No
1.2.2	The program implements national health and safety standards and embeds practices into the daily routine.	Healthy and Safety Policies & Procedures And Let's Move Child Care Checklist	Policy and Procedure that reflect national health and safety standards. And Completed Let's Move Child Care Checklist	1304.53 (a)(b) 1306.35(b)(2)(i-ix) Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #3 Safe Physical Environments	NECPA II-50	☐ Yes
1.2.3	Parents are educated on the importance of having a medical home.	Healthy and Safety Policies & Procedures	Evidence of correspondence with parents And Copies of Universal Health Record			☐ Yes

Level 3 Safe, Healthy Learning Environment

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
1.3.1	Program has health and safety checks for outdoor areas and has a system to identify/address health and safety concerns.	Safety policy and procedure related to standard	Outdoor Play Area Inspection Log	1304.53(a)(10)(viii) Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #3 Safe Physical Environments	NECPA: School/Center Building, Supplies, Equipment & Transportation	Yes No
1.3.2	Programs serving infants and toddlers must have a policy that supports breastfeeding friendly principles, including accepting and storing breast milk and providing a comfortable place for breastfeeding.	Breastfeeding Policy	And Documentation of staff orientation to the Breastfeeding Policy	45 CFR 1304.40© (3) Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #4 – Child Health & Safety Indicator #4 – Healthy Practices and Routines		☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
1.3.3	Nutritious meals and snacks are encouraged and/or provided and are respectful of religious and dietary restrictions.	Policy on Food Service, including program adherence to religious and dietary restrictions as defined by US Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines & Child Adult Care Food Program	Sample Menus	1304.23(b)(1) Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #4 – Healthy Practices and Routines	NAEYC: Health	☐ Yes
1.3.4	Families are provided health and safety workshops and/or resources annually in topics that include: preventive health care, mental/behavioral health issues, nutrition and obesity, medication administration policies and procedures, oral health practices, communicable disease prevention.	Parent Handbook that includes all topics listed	Sample Flyers of workshops and sign-in sheets And Signed receipts for the parent handbook	1304.40(b)(1)(ii) Program Governance Key Indicator #2 Roles, Responsibilities, and Training Family & Community Engagement Key Indicator #2 Parent – Child Relationships	NECPA: Health Protection & Promotion	☐ Yes

Level 3 Safe, Healthy Learning Environment

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
1.3.5	Demonstrates healthy, safe and clean indoor and outdoor environments through a formal assessment.	ERS reliable rater score average of 5 with no subscale below 4	Appropriate ERS Score for age group (Protocol)	1304.53(a) 1304.53(b) Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #3 Safe Physical Environments	NECPA Self-Assessment Tool NAEYC Self-Assessment Tool	☐ Yes
1.3.6	A research-based developmental screening tool is used to identify children who may need additional evaluation and/or intervention strategies.	Screening Results Note: State-funded Preschool programs use Early Screening Inventory-Revised (ESI-R). Other preschool and infant/toddler programs may use Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), Ages and Stages Social Emotional Questionnaire (ASQ- SE) and/or Brigance Screening	Copy of Screening Tool And Developmental Screening Protocol/Policy	1308.6(a)(1,2,3) 13086(e)(1) 1304.20(f)(2)(ii) Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #2 Screening & Referrals	NAEYC: Assessment of Child Progress	☐ Yes

Level 4 Safe, Healthy Learning Environment

			Evidence/	Head Start Program	Accreditation Standards	Meets
Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Documentation Required	Performance Standards & Act	NAEYC	Standard?
1.4.1	Demonstrates healthy, safe and	ERS reliable rater	Appropriate ERS Score	1304.53(a)	NECPA Self-Assessment	
	clean indoor and outdoor	score average of 5	for age group (Protocol)	1304.53(b)	Tool	☐ Yes
	environments through a formal	with no subscale		Child Health & Safety		
	assessment.	below 4		Key Indicator #3	NAEYC Self-Assessment	☐ No
				Safe Physical	Tool	
				Environments		
1.4.2	The program has a system for	Policy and or	Health Tracking System	1304.23(b)(3)	NAEYC 9.B.07	
	daily age-appropriate oral health	Documentation of the	aligns with child's files	1304.20©(3)(i) & (ii)		☐ Yes
	care for all children.	oral health care		Child Health & Safety Key		
		system	Parent Consent	Indicator #1 - Access to		☐ No
				Health and Dental Care		

Level 4 Safe, Healthy Learning Environment

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
1.4.3	One teacher or teacher assistant in each room has a pediatric First Aid & Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certificate.	Training as indicated in PINJ Registry or First Aid & CPR Certificate	PINJ Training records for staff	1304.53(a)(10)(x) Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #3—Safe Physical Environments	NECPA: Health Protection & Promotion	☐ Yes
1.4.4	Play areas are inspected annually to assure that play equipment is safe and accommodates abilities, needs and interest of each age group served.		Completed Outdoor Play Inspection Form	1304.23(b)(3) 1304.20©(3)(i) & (ii) Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #1- Access to Health and Dental Care		☐ Yes

Level 5 Safe, Healthy Learning Environment

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
1.5.1	With parental consent, vision, hearing, and dental screenings are completed and results are shared with families.	Evidence of Health Screenings provided to parents/program And Copy of Consent Form	Interview two parents or Parent log with parent signature	1304.20(b)(1) Health & Safety Key Indicator #1—Access to Health and Dental Care	NAEYC: Health	☐ Yes
1.5.2	All staff, identified as part of the adult: child ratio, have a certificate of completion in Pediatric First Aid and CPR.	Training as indicated in PINJ Registry or First Aid & CPR Certificate	PINJ Training records for staff	1304.22(d)(1) 1304.22(d)(2)	NECPA: Health Protection & Promotion	☐ Yes
1.5.3	Demonstrates healthy, safe and clean indoor and outdoor environments through a formal assessment.	ERS reliable rater score average of 6 with no subscale below 5	Appropriate ERS Score for age group (Protocol)	1304.53(a) 1304.53(b) Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #3 Safe Physical Environments		☐ Yes

Category 2: Curriculum and Learning Environment

A research-based curriculum, when used with fidelity, provides a road map for teachers/caregivers to use in their rooms/classrooms. Teachers/Caregivers need to be formally trained in the program's chosen curriculum to ensure that the components are effectively being implemented. Training teachers/caregivers in appropriate assessment, whether through observation or using an assessment tool, is equally as important. Quality programs that implement a chosen curriculum with fidelity typically have the child outcome data to support it.

Level 1 Curriculum and Learning Environment

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
2.1.1	Early Head Start, Head Start and Center-based sites have a one-year license from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Office of Licensing (OOL). School-based sites have appropriate Department of Education (DOE) plan approval.	License in good standing or program meets Licensing Standards (for non- licensable and license exempt programs)	Office of Licensing (OOL)Certificate DOE approved plan	1304.53(a)(6) Monitoring Protocol Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #3 Safe Physical Environments	NAEYC: Leadership & Management NECPA: Program Administration & Staff Relations	☐ Yes

Level 2 Curriculum and Learning Environment

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
2.2.1	A structured observation instrument is used to assess the general classroom learning environment.	ERS self-assessed score average of 4 with no subscale below 3	Appropriate ERS Score for age group (Protocol)	1307.3(b)(2)(i) 1307.3(b)(2)(ii) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #1 School Readiness		☐ Yes
2.2.2	Program is preparing to adopt a research-based, validated curriculum that is aligned to the NJ Birth to Three Standards and/or the NJ Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards.	Identify research- based curriculum of choice	Documentation that demonstrates teacher and parent involvement in the research and selection of an appropriate research-based curriculum And Standards Alignment Documentation	642(f)(3)(C)(E) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #2 School Readiness		☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Level 2 Curriculum and Learning Environment

			Evidence/	Head Start Program	Accreditation Standards	Meets
Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Documentation Required	Performance Standards & Act	NAEYC	Standard?
2.2.3	Children whose first language	Home Language Policy	Labeling in home	1304.21(a)(1)(i)	NECPA 111-40	
	isn't English are encouraged to		language	Child Development &	& 111-54	Yes
	use home language, gestures,			Education		
	communication devices, sign		And	Key Indicator #1 & 3		☐ No
	language, and pictures to		Materials, books, etc. in	School Readiness		
	communicate when needed.		home language			
2.2.4	System in place to communicate	Communication Policy	Documentation of	1304.20(f)(1)		
	and document child observations		communication with	1304.40(e)(5)		Yes
	to families (daily for infants and		parents	Family & Community		
	toddlers and weekly for			Engagement Key Indicator		□No
	preschool).			#3-Parents as their Child's		
				Educators		

Level 3 Curriculum and Learning Environment

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
2.3.1	Children's individual differences are supported when developing individual activities and/or lesson plans and are reflective of the NJ Birth to Three Standards and or the NJ Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards.	Lesson/Activity Plans	Signed receipt teachers and teacher assistants have received a copy of the Standards	1304.21(a)(1)(i) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #3 Individualizing	, we consider the constant of	☐ Yes
2.3.2	Structured Classroom observation tools are used to focus on curricular areas such as literacy, math, science and diversity. (e.g., Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale- Extended, Supports for Early Literacy Assessment, Preschool Classroom Mathematics Inventory, Preschool Rating Instrument for Science and Math, Quality Benchmark for Cultural Competence tool)	Completion of a scored structured tool to focus on curricular areas And Professional Development Plan based on rating scale results	Structured Observation Policy/Protocol	1307.3(b)(2)(i) 1307.3(b)(2)(ii) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #1 School Readiness		☐ Yes

Level 3 Curriculum and Learning Environment

			Evidence/	Head Start Program	Accreditation Standards	Meets
2.3.3	A performance-based assessment aligned to the curriculum is used to address all developmental domains.	Measurement Performance-Based Assessment (e.g., The Ounce Scale, Working Sampling Systems, High Scope's Child Observation Record Advantage, Teaching Strategies GOLD)	Sample portfolios, observation forms, completed rubrics	Performance Standards & Act 1307.3(b)(1)(i) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #1 School Readiness	NAEYC NECPA 11-80	Standard? Yes No
2.3.4	Appropriate teaching and learning modifications and/or accommodations are made based on findings from performance-based assessments, and information gathered from observations to address children's specific needs and strengths.	Lesson/Activity Plans And Materials for different abilities and interests	Screening Results	Child Development & Education Key Indicator #1 School Readiness #3 Individualizing ACF-PI-HS-11-04 School Readiness	NECPA 11-96 NAEYC: assessment of child progress	☐ Yes ☐ No
2.3.5	Performance-based assessment results are shared with parents/families.	Screening and Assessment Policy, Lesson/Activity Plans And Parent reports	Documentation of results shared with parents (2 times in a 10-month program)	1304.20(e) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #1 School Readiness	NECPA 11-95 (Curriculum)	☐ Yes

Level 4 Curriculum and Learning Environment

			Evidence/	Head Start Program	Accreditation Standards	Meets
Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Documentation Required	Performance Standards & Act	NAEYC	Standard?
2.4.1	A comprehensive, research-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum is fully implemented and teaching strategies are used to ensure positive classroom environment, engage children in learning and promote critical thinking skills.	ERS reliable rater average score of 5 or higher with no single subscale below a 4 And CLASS reliable rater score of 5 in Emotional Support and Classroom Organization domains and score of 3 in the Instructional Support Domain And Curriculum Implementation Check-list/Fidelity	Appropriate ERS Score for age group (Protocol)	Head Start Act Section: 642(f)(3)(C) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #2-Curriculum Selection and Implementation	NAEYC NAEYC: Assessment of Child Progress NECPA: Curriculum (assessment only)	Standard? Yes No
2.4.2	Additional structured observation/assessment instruments are used to focus on specific instructional supports and interactions to further inform quality improvement and inform instruction and determine overall trends in children's development and learning.	Assessment Results from structured observations And Data summary reports of children's development and learning And Lesson/Activity Plans	Observation and Assessment Policy/Protocols	1307.3(b)(2)(i) 1307.3(b)(2)(ii) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #2 Curriculum Selection and Implementation	NAEYC: Assessment of Child Progress NECPA: Curriculum (No research-based tool) & Staff-Parent-Community Partnerships	☐ Yes
2.4.3	Data from Performance-based assessments are used to inform program practices and individualized child supports.	Description of program's process of using data to inform program practices, student progress and Professional Development Plans	Summary of Data	ACF-PI-HS-1104 1304.21(c)(2) Head Start Act Section:642(f) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #1 School Readiness	NECPA 11-63 NAEYC: Community Relationship	☐ Yes ☐ No

Level 4 Curriculum and Learning Environment

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
2.4.4	A system is in place to link families to services needed to address the developmental and behavioral concerns of children identified through developmental screening and performance-based assessments.	Screening and Referral Policy And Formal agreements	Documentation of the policy and copies of referral forms	1304.20(b)(1) 1304.20(b)(2&3) Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #2 –Screening and Referrals		☐ Yes
2.4.5	Transition planning for all children going to preschool or kindergarten including successful interventions strategies for children who exhibit challenging behaviors is documented and shared with the child's parent/family, as well as next placement.	Documentation plans (e.g. Behavioral support plans)	Transition Folder	1308.4(g) Head Start Act Section: 642A 1304.41(c) Family & Community Engagement Key Indicator #4 Parents in Transition	NECPA 11-98	☐ Yes

Level 5 Curriculum and Learning Environment

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
2.5.1	Teaching strategies are used to engage children in learning and meaningful conversations.	ERS reliable rater score average of 6 with no subscale below 5 And CLASS reliable rater score of 5 .5 in Emotional Support and Classroom Organization domains and score of 3.3 in the Instructional Support Domain	Lesson Plans and/or Activity Plans	Head Start Child Development & Early Learning Framework Head Start Act Section: 648A(d)(2) 1304.21 (a)(b)(c)	NAEYC: teaching standard NECPA: Developmental Program	☐ Yes
2.5.2	Program shows evidence of improving child outcomes	Demonstration of progress over time using results of performance assessments or other measures	Aggregated data demonstrating progress across the year, relative to widely held expectations, or other appropriate comparison	642(f)(3)(E) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #2-Curriculum Selection		☐ Yes

Category 3: Family and Community Engagement

Children develop in the context of their families. For some children, the term "family" includes a large number of people and for other children; family consists of just a parent or grandparent. In either scenario, family and community have significant influences on young children through cultural background and local values. Each community is unique and filled with many different cultures, religions, and languages. In order to support infants and young children to the fullest extent, their family and community need to be involved in the program design and implementation. Programs can provide children with quality learning experiences by connecting local values in their program design. The support that families rely upon must be considered as a vital piece in the effort to provide quality experiences to infants and young children.

Level 1 Family and Community Engagement

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
3.1.1	Early Head Start, Head Start and Center-based sites have a one-year license from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Office of Licensing (OOL). School-based sites have appropriate Department of Education (DOE) plan approval.	License in good standing or program meets Licensing Standards (for non- licensable and license exempt programs).	OOL Certificate DOE approved plan	1304.53(a)(6)	NAEYC: Leadership & Management NECPA: Program Administration & Staff Relations	☐ Yes

Level 2 Family and Community Engagement

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
3.2.1	The Strengthening Families Protective Factor Framework is used to assess engagement of and interactions with parents and families.	Strengthening Families Self-Assessment Tool	SF Quality Improvement Plan that includes strengths and areas of growth and includes input from staff, and parents/families in the process	1304.40(a)(1) 1304.40(a)(4)&(5) Note: HS programs use Parent/Family Engagement Framework		☐ Yes
3.2.2	A community resource handbook or materials are available to all parents/families yearly that include: community and school-based resources and/or direct services to promote child/family safety, health, and stability.	Community Resource Handbook/materials	Parent signatures on receipt	1304.40(b)(1) 1304.41(a)(2) Family & Community Engagement Key Indicator #5		☐ Yes

Level 3 Family and Community Engagement

			Evidence/	Head Start Program	Accreditation Standards	Meets
Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Documentation Required	Performance Standards & Act	NAEYC	Standard?
3.3.1	All newly enrolled families are offered the Strengthening Families (SF) Protective Factor Survey to complete.	SF Protective Factors Survey	Survey results are tallied, summarized and aggregated to inform program policies and procedures regarding parents/families.	1304.40(a)(1) 1304.40(a)(5) 1304.40(b)(1) Family & Community Engagement Key Indicator #1 Partnerships with Families		☐ Yes
3.3.2	A parent/family group is established to engage enrolled families and support their participation in the education of their children and includes activities to promote multicultural learning.	Group meets at least two times per year	Parent/Family Group Meeting Agendas And Group sign-in sheet	1304.50(b)(1)-(b)(7) 1304.50(e)(1),(2) & (3) Family & Community Engagement Key Indicator #3 Parents as their Child's Educators		☐ Yes
3.3.3	Education workshops are held at least two (2) times per year on topics such as: early literacy, adult/family literacy, positive parent-child interactions, cultural awareness, developmental issues, and/or other topics that address the identified needs and interests of enrolled parent/families. Note: Translation/Interpreters are provided for English Language Learners (ELL) parents/families.	Communications of the workshops	Family Education workshop agendas And Sign-in sheet	1304.40(d)(1) 1304.40(e)(3)		☐ Yes

Level 3 Family and Community Engagement

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
3.3.4	Home visits are offered to all	Home Visit policy and	Number of completed	1304.40(e)(5)	NECPA: Staff-Parent-	
	enrolled families using standard	procedure	home visits/Number of	1306.32(b)(8)	Community	☐ Yes
	guidelines.		enrolled families	Family & Community	Partnerships	
				Engagement Key Indicator		☐ No
			And	#3 Parents as Their Child's		
			Documentation of the	Educator		
			visit			
3.3.5	Participation of parents on a	Evidence of parent	List of community	1304.50 (a)(1)		
	local or regional community	participation on the	organizations where	1304.40(g)(1)&(2)		☐ Yes
	advisory council is encouraged	advisory	parent representatives	Program Governance Key		
	(i.e. this could be the County	committee/council	are involved	Indicator #1-Structure and		☐ No
	Council for Young Children).			Participation		
3.3.6	The program tracks and	Absenteeism policy	Policy contains	1305.8(a)		
	monitors absences of individual		information on how	1305.8(b)		☐ Yes
	children and contacts families		absenteeism is	ERSEA Key Indicator #4-		
	when children are absent more		addressed	Attendance and		☐ No
	than three (3) consecutive days.			Participation		

Level 4 Family and Community Engagement

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
3.4.1	The Strengthening Families Protective Factor Framework is used to assess engagement of and interactions with parents and families.	Annual update of the Strengthening Families Self- Assessment	Annual update SF Quality Improvement Plan that includes strengths and areas of growth and includes input from staff, and parents/families in the process	1304.40 (a)(1) 1304.40(a)(5) Family & Community Engagement Key Indicator #1		☐ Yes
3.4.2	A parent/family group is established to engage enrolled families and support their participation in the education of their children, provide input and advise on the program's policies, procedures and practices.	Group meets at least three times per year	Parent/Family Group Meeting Agendas And Group sign-in sheet And Meeting minutes	1304.50(a)(1)(2) Family & Community Engagement Key Indicator #2 Parent-Child Relationships		☐ Yes ☐ No

Level 4 Family and Community Engagement

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
3.4.3	A variety of methods are used to communicate with parents/families about curriculum objectives, early care educational goals, other issues and effective strategies to support learning at home.		Evidence of communication strategies, e.g., newsletters, letters, parent workshops, flyers	Head Start National Parent, Family & Community Engagement Framework 1304.21(a)(2)	NAEYC: Families Standard NECPA: Staff-Parent- Community Partnerships	☐ Yes
3.4.4	Home Visits are offered to all enrolled families at least two (2) times per year using standard guidelines.	Home Visit policy and procedure	Number of completed home visits/Number of enrolled families And Documentation of the visits	1304.40(e)(5) 1306.32(b)(8) Family &Community Engagement Key Indicator #3-Parents as Their Child's Educators		☐ Yes ☐ No
3.4.5	Representation and participation of at least one (1) parent on a local or regional community advisory council (i.e., this could be the County Council for Young Children).	Evidence of parent participation on the advisory committee/council	List of community organizations where parent representatives are involved	1304.50 (a)(1) 1308.21(a)(6) Family & Community Engagement Key Indicator #3-Parents as Their Child's Educators		☐ Yes

Level 5 Family and Community Engagement

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
3.5.1	Strengthening Families principles and seven core strategies are fully integrated into the work of the center/program.		Note: HS programs use The Head Start Parent, Family & Community Engagement Framework in your program: Markers of Progress	1304.(c)(1)(i),(ii)&(iiii) Family & Community Engagement Key Indicator #1 Partnerships with Families		☐ Yes
3.5.2	Program fully collaborates with community partners to create a supportive system that responds appropriately to the needs of parents/families and is inclusive and respectful of cultural and linguistic differences for all enrolled parents/families.	Partnership agreements and/or consultant agreements And Transition Folder	Annual Calendars of culturally relevant dates, Schedule of cultural activities	Family & Community Engagement Key Indicator #1 Partnerships with Families 1304.41(a)(1)	NECPA: 11-98 Staff-Parent-Community Partnerships	☐ Yes

Category 4: Workforce/Professional Development

Effective professional development provides staff with high quality learning opportunities that is differentiated, similar to the quality learning that is provided for children. Training plans and in service opportunities should be provided using the identified needs and strengths of staff coupled with the goals of the program/agency. Staffs who participate in designing their own training plans are more effective.

Level 1 Workforce/Professional Development

Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards	Meets Standard?
Early Head Start, Head Start and Center-based sites have a one-year license from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Office of Licensing (OOL). School-based sites have appropriate Department of Education (DOE)	License in good standing or program meets Licensing Standards (for non-licensable and license exempt programs)	OOL Certificate DOE approved plan	1304.53(a)(6)	NAEYC: Leadership & Management NECPA: Program Administration & Staff Relations	Yes No
	Center-based sites have a one- year license from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Office of Licensing (OOL). School-based sites have appropriate	Early Head Start, Head Start and Center-based sites have a one- year license from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Office of Licensing (OOL). School-based sites have appropriate Department of Education (DOE) License in good standing or program meets Licensing Standards (for non- licensable and license exempt programs)	Early Head Start, Head Start and Center-based sites have a oneyear license from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Office of Licensing (OOL). School-based sites have appropriate Department of Education (DOE) Measurement Documentation Required License in good standing or program meets Licensing Standing or program on meets Licensing DOE approved plan DOE approved plan DOE approved plan Example 1 (For non-licensable and license exempt programs)	Early Head Start, Head Start and Center-based sites have a one-year license from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Office of Licensing (OOL). School-based sites have appropriate Department of Education (DOE) Measurement Documentation Required OOL Certificate 1304.53(a)(6) DOE approved plan DOE approved plan DOE approved plan DOE approved plan The programs of Children and Standards (for non-licensable and license exempt programs)	Early Head Start, Head Start and Center-based sites have a one-year license from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Office of Licensing (OOL). School-based sites have appropriate Department of Education (DOE) Standard Measurement Documentation Required OOL Certificate OOL Certificate 1304.53(a)(6) NAEYC: Leadership & Management DOE approved plan NECPA: Program Administration & Staff Relations

Level 2 Workforce/Professional Development

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
4.2.1	All classroom staff is enrolled in the workforce registry.	Evidence of Registry Membership	NJ Registry verification	1307.3(b)(2)(i)		☐ Yes
4.2.2	All teaching staff and supervisors have received an overview of the NJ Birth to Three Standards and or NJ Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards, and topics specific to child development, appropriate teacher-child interaction and Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP).	Formal professional development as indicated by Registry And/or Program Professional Development Plan	NJ Registry verification	1307.(b)(1)(i) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #1 School Readiness		☐ Yes
4.2.3	All teaching staff members have received training on the benefits of home visits and how to plan for a home visit.	Formal professional development as indicated by Registry And/or Program Professional Development Plan	NJ Registry verification Professional Development Schedule	Family & Community Engagement Key Indicator #1-Partnership with Families 1304.40		☐ Yes

Level 3 Workforce/Professional Development

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
4.3.1	All teaching staff and administrators/directors have received formal training in the selected curriculum.	Formal professional development as indicated by Registry And/or Program Professional Development Plan	NJ Registry verification	Child Development & Education Key Indicator #2 Curriculum Selection & Implementation	NALIC	☐ Yes
4.3.2	Teaching staff have received professional development in the selected performance-based assessment.	Formal professional development as indicated by Registry And/or Program Professional Development Plan	NJ Registry verification	642(f)(3)(C) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #4-Quality Teaching and Learning		☐ Yes
4.3.3	Directors/Supervisors have received training in evaluating and observing teachers both formally and informally (with walkthrough instruments), (e.g., using structured observation instruments)	Formal professional development as indicated by Registry And/or Program Professional Development Plan	NJ Registry verification	648A(f) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #4-Quality Teaching and Learning		☐ Yes
4.3.4	All teaching staff receives an annual written performance evaluation, conducted by their supervisor.	Self-evaluations completed by program administrator and teachers And/or Feedback from families	Description of the annual performance evaluation process And Copy of evaluation, self-assessment. family surveys, and Individual Professional Development Plan	648A(f) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #4 Quality Teaching & Learning 1304.52(i) Note: All staff members must have performance appraisals Child Development & Education Key Indicator #4 Quality Teaching & Learning		☐ Yes

Level 3 Workforce/Professional Development

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
4.3.5	Staff is trained to work with children with special diets, allergies and specialized feeding issues.	Training as indicated in PINJ Registry	PINJ Training Records for staff	1304.23(a)(2) 1304.2(c)(6) Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #4—Healthy Practices and Routines	NAEYC: Health NECPA: Staff-Parent- Community Partnerships	☐ Yes
4.3.6	All teachers have received training in the administration of the adopted developmental screening.	Formal professional development as indicated by Registry And/or Program Professional Development Plan	NJ Registry verification	Child Health & Safety Key Indicator #2 Screening and Referrals 45 CFR 1304.52(j) 648A(a)(5)		☐ Yes
4.3.7	All teachers have received training in the administration of the adopted performance-based assessment.	Formal professional development as indicated by Registry And/or Program Professional Development Plan	NJ Registry verification	Child Development & Education Key Indicator #1 School readiness Note: Mentions use but not training on the tool		☐ Yes
4.3.8	Child care teaching staff has a CDA or equivalent nine (9) credits in field related to child growth or development or are in the process of attaining a CDA.	20% of teaching staff have a CDA	NJ Registry or CDA Certificate Note: Infant/toddler teaching staff can have a NJ Infant/toddler Credential	648A(a) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #4-Quality Teaching and Learning	NECPA 11-14 Note: No mention of Individual Professional Development Plan	☐ Yes

Level 3 Workforce/Professional Development

			Evidence/	Head Start Program	Accreditation Standards	Meets
Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Documentation Required	Performance Standards & Act	NAEYC	Standard?
4.3.9	Supervisor(s) of teaching staff must have, at a minimum, a CDA or equivalent nine (9) credits in	Formal professional development as indicated by Registry	NJ Registry verification Note: Head Start programs -Early	648A(B)(i) 648A(f) Child Development &	NECPA 11-14 Note: No mention of	☐ Yes
	Early Childhood in the age group that the program serves.		Childhood Education Coordinators must have Baccalaureate or advanced degree in Early Childhood Note: School district administrators should attend the NJ Department of Education-sponsored early childhood leadership track	Education Key Indicator #4-Quality Teaching and Learning	Individual Professional Development Plan	□No

Level 4 Workforce/Professional Development

			Evidence/	Head Start Program	Accreditation Standards	Meets
Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Documentation Required	Performance Standards & Act	NAEYC	Standard?
4.4.1	All teaching staff has	Formal professional	NJ Registry verification	Child Development &		
	professional development or	development as		Education		☐ Yes
	college level course work that	indicated by Registry		Key Indicator #1		
	prepares them to work with			School Readiness		☐ No
	young children who have special	And				
	needs. These should include	Program Professional				
	strategies for supporting	Development Plan				
	inclusion.					
4.4.2	Child care teaching staff has a	35% of teaching staff	NJ Registry or CDA	648A	NECPA 11-14	
	CDA, in the age group of the	have a CDA	Certificate	Child Development &		☐ Yes
	children in their			Education Key Indicator	Note: No mention of	
	room/classroom or are in the		Note: Infant/toddler	#4-Quality Teaching and	Individual Professional	☐ No
	process of attaining a CDA.		teaching staff can have a	Learning	Development Plan	
			NJ Infant/toddler		-	□ N/A
			Credential			,

Level 4 Workforce/Professional Development

			Evidence/	Head Start Program	Accreditation Standards	Meets
Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Documentation Required	Performance Standards & Act	NAEYC	Standard?
4.4.3	Professional development is offered to program staff that includes the following topics: Pyramid Model, Social and Emotional Development, and Infant Early Childhood Mental Health.	Professional Development Plan specific to the areas listed	NJ Registry verification	1304.21(a)(1)(i) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #4 Quality Teaching and Learning		☐ Yes
4.4.4	Professional development is offered to program staff that includes: special needs, supporting teacher-child interactions, supporting English Language Learners (ELL), cultural competence, transition, and the Strengthening Families' Protective Factors.	60 hours of professional development in the topics listed obtained in 3 years	NJ Registry verification	1304.21(a)(1)(i) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #4 Quality Teaching and Learning		☐ Yes
4.4.5	The Professional Development Plan includes the use of a curriculum implementation or fidelity checklist/instrument to ensure implementation of the curriculum.	Curriculum Implementation check-list/fidelity assessment	Copy of completed curriculum implementation/ Fidelity checklist/instrument	1304.52(i) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #3-Curriculum Selection and Implementation		☐ Yes
4.4.6	Teachers have planned opportunities to share collected child anecdotes and work samples with each other to improve and maintain their reliable use to the performance-based assessment.	Number of times the opportunities occurred	Copy of Schedule And/or Staff meeting agendas	1307.3(b)(2)(i) 1307.3(b)(2)(ii) 1304.21(a)(4)(i) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #1 School Readiness		☐ Yes
4.4.7	Directors/supervisors provide aggregated classroom and child data to teachers to collaboratively develop a plan to improve program quality in specific areas.	Evidence of aggregated room/classroom level data And Evidence of program planning using room/classroom data	Child level data reports & Classroom/program level data reports And Program Improvement Plan	Child Development & Education Key Indicator #1 School Readiness		☐ Yes

Level 4 Workforce/Professional Development

			Evidence/	Head Start Program	Accreditation Standards	Meets
Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Documentation Required	Performance Standards & Act	NAEYC	Standard?
4.4.8	Non-instructional staff receives	Signed receipt of	Signed receipts	1304.23(b)(4)		
	information on: developmentally	information		Head Start Transportation		☐ Yes
	appropriate practices, diversity,			Regulations		
	an overview of age-appropriate					□No
	standards, and appropriate					
	adult-child interactions.					
	Note: Non-instructional staff					
	include: lunch assistants, bus					
	drivers, maintenance staff and					
	volunteers					

Level 5 Workforce/Professional Development

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
4.5.1	Ongoing formal professional development and supervision are received by staff to support positive and responsive relationships and interactions that are warm and nurturing.	CLASS reliable rater score of 5 .5 in Emotional Support and Classroom Organization domains and score of 3.3 in the Instructional Support Domain	CLASS Protocol/Policy And Individual Professional Development Plans or Agency Training Plans Formal professional development as indicated by PINJ	1304.21(a)(3)(i)(A) Child Development & Education Key Indicator #4 Quality Teaching and Learning		☐ Yes
4.5.2	Program has fully implemented a research-based system that provides teaching staff, in particular, with strategies that promote social-emotional competence and effectively address challenging behaviors.	Completed Pyramid Model TPOT and/or TPITOS assessment for each classroom	Completed assessments	1304.20(f)(1) 1304.20(f)(2)(i) Child Development & Education Key Indicator#3- Individualizing		☐ Yes ☐ No
4.5.3	Child care teaching staff has a CDA, in the age group of the children in their room/classroom or are in the process of attaining a CDA.	50% of teaching staff have a CDA And/or Professional Development Plan	NJ Registry or CDA Certificate Note: Infant/toddler teaching staff can have a NJ Infant/toddler Credential	648A Child Development & Education Key Indicator #4 Quality Teaching and Learning	NECPA 11-14 Note: No mention of Individual Professional Development Plan	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Category 5: Administration and Management

High quality leaders are essential to an effective program. A purposeful program design will allow the staff and children to reach their full potential. High quality administrators design the program to provide appropriate training opportunities to staff, promote joint planning sessions, effectively involve families and the local community in program activities, and create a welcoming environment for all.

Level 1 Administration and Management

			Evidence/	Head Start Program	Accreditation Standards	Meets
Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Documentation Required	Performance Standards & Act	NAEYC	Standard?
5.1.1	Early Head Start, Head Start and	License in good	OOL Certificate	1304.53(a)(6)	NAEYC: Leadership &	
	Center-based sites have a one-	standing or program			Management	☐ Yes
	year license from the	meets Licensing	DOE approved plan			
	Department of Children and	Standards (for non-			NECPA: Program	□No
	Families (DCF) Office of	licensable and license			Administration & Staff	
	Licensing (OOL). School-based	exempt programs)			Relations	
	sites have appropriate					
	Department of Education (DOE)					
	plan approval.					

Level 2 Administration and Management

			Evidence/	Head Start Program	Accreditation Standards	Meets
Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Documentation Required	Performance Standards & Act	NAEYC	Standard?
5.2.1	Appropriate business and administrative practices are demonstrated.	Program Administration Scale (minimum self- assessed score of 2)				☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Level 3 Administration and Management

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
5.3.1	Appropriate business and administrative practices are demonstrated.	Program Administration Scale (minimum self- assessed score of 3)			NAEYC: Leadership & management NECPA: Program Administration & Staff Relations	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
5.3.2	Programs led or governed by a Board of Directors, Board of Education, advisory council other similar group, have written policies defining their roles and responsibilities.	Documentation of bylaws and or policies	Written definition of roles and responsibilities of the governing body	1304.50(a)(1) Program Governance Key Indicator #1 Structure and Participation	NAEYC: Leadership & Management	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Level 3 Administration and Management

Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
5.3.3	Financial policies and procedures are established based on professional accounting standards.	Description of financial operations procedures	Documentation Required	74.21(b)(3) 1301.32(a)(1) Fiscal Integrity Key Indicator #1 Financial Management Systems	NAEYC: Leadership & Management	Yes No
5.3.4	The program has a marketing/recruitment plan to maximize full enrollment.	Marketing Plan	Marketing Plan that addresses increasing enrollment	1305.5 ERSEA Key Indicator #1- Recruitment and Selection	NAEYC: Leadership & Management (Program Improvement)	☐ Yes
5.3.5	A projected one-year operating budget, including a statement of income and expenditures is developed.	1 Year operating budget	Operating budget and includes statement of income and expenditures	Head Start Act Section 647A Records & Audits Fiscal Integrity Key Indicator #2 Reporting		☐ Yes
5.3.6	Annually, input is solicited from staff and families to evaluate the program. Results are used to develop/inform a comprehensive written program improvement plan.	Annual feedback and results tallied	A comprehensive written program improvement plan	1304.51(a) 642©(2)(B)(i) Program Governance Key Indicator#2 Roles, Responsibilities and Training	NAEYC: Leadership & Management NECPA: Program Evaluation	☐ Yes
5.3.7	At least three (3) types of internal communication to inform staff of program activities, policies, etc. is used.	Evidence of internal communication strategies		1304.51(b) Management Systems Key Indicator #4- Communication	NECPA: Program Administration & Staff Relations NAEYC: Leadership & Management	☐ Yes
5.3.8	At least one benefit (paid vacation time, sick time, health insurance, tuition/professional development reimbursement or retirement plan option) is provided to staff.	Employee Handbook Or Employee benefit policy	Employee handbook or benefit policy describing the benefit(s) employees receive.	1301.31 Personnel Policies Management Systems Key Indicator #3: Human Resources	NECPA: Program Administration & Staff Relations NAEYC: Leadership & Management	☐ Yes
5.3.9	Based on the career lattice, there is a system to support staff career development.	Individual Professional Development Plans		1304.52(i)		☐ Yes

Level 4 Administration and Management

			Evidence/	Head Start Program	Accreditation Standards	Meets
Criteria #	Standard	Measurement	Documentation Required	Performance Standards & Act	NAEYC	Standard?
5.4.1	Appropriate business and administrative practices are demonstrated.	Program Administration Scale (PAS) score self				☐ Yes
	demonstrated.	assessed of 4				□ No
						□ N/A
5.4.2	An advisory council is established which includes diverse community	Roster of members with affiliations	Meeting Minutes/Sign-in sheets	1304.50(b)(1)-(b)(7) Program Governance Key Indicator-Structure and	NAEYC: Leadership & Management (no timeframe)	Yes
	representatives who meet regularly to assist with the program improvement.			Participation	-	□No
5.4.3	The program has a strategic or business plan that is reviewed and updated, at a minimum,	Strategic Plan Or		1304.51(a)Program Governance Key Indicator #2-Roles, Responsibilities	NECPA: Program Administration	☐ Yes
	every three (3) years.	Business Plan		and Training	NAEYC: Leadership & Management	□ No
5.4.4	Teacher turnover is documented and tracked.	Description of system for tracking teacher turnover and plan for		1305.51(a)(1)(iii) Management Systems Key Indicator #1 Program		Yes
		addressing teacher turnover		Planning		□No
5.4.5	The program's financial system includes an annual budget and/or annual report.	Annual Budget And/or Annual Report	Annual report contains financial system information	1304.51(h)(1) Head Start Act Section 644 Program Governance Key Indicator #3-Reporting	NECPA: Program Administration & Staff	Yes
					Relations NAEYC: Leadership &	□No
				. 0	Management	
5.4.6	The program has quarterly review conducted of the accounting records by an	Quarterly review report to ensure fiscal integrity and inform		Head Start Section Act 647 Program Governance Key		Yes
	independent party who has accounting or bookkeeping expertise.	the business plan		Indicator #3 Reporting to the Governing Body and Policy Council		□ No
5.4.7	An inside and outside audit is conducted annually by a	Signed contract with a CPA		1301.13 Fiscal Integrity Key		☐ Yes
	Certified Public Accountant (CPA).	And Most recent audit		Indicator #1 Financial Management Systems		□ No

Level 5 Administration and Management

Criteria#	Standard	Measurement	Evidence/ Documentation Required	Head Start Program Performance Standards & Act	Accreditation Standards NAEYC	Meets Standard?
5.5.1	Appropriate business and administrative practices are demonstrated.	Program Administration Scale (PAS) score self assessed of 5				☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
5.5.2	The program offers two benefits that include vacation, sick time, and health insurance.	Employee Handbook Or Employee benefit policy	Employee handbook or benefit policy describing the benefit(s) employees receive	1301.31 Personnel Policies Management Systems Key Indicator #3: Human Resources		☐ Yes
5.5.3	Systematic opportunities are offered for teachers to engage in reflective teaching practices through the use of peer groups, coaches, and/or mentors.	Documentation of ongoing reflective practice opportunities	Note: Head Start uses Practice-Based Coaching document	1307.3(b)(1)(i) Child Development & Education Key #1 School Readiness		☐ Yes
5.5.4	Programs have incentive processes that reward educators that achieve the next steps on the NJ Registry Career Lattice.	Minutes from Professional Learning Community And Documentation of Incentive program			NECPA: Program Administration & Staff Relations	☐ Yes ☐ No