

# Guidance for Programs Transitioning to the Revised Grow NJ Kids Quality Standards

July 1, 2025



The Grow NJ Kids Quality standards have been revised effective July 1, 2025. Please review the information below to understand how this will impact your program:

**Programs planning to file for rating/re-rating by January 30, 2026:** Programs may continue applying for rating using the 2015 standards until Friday, January 30, 2026. Grow NJ Kids will no longer accept rating applications on the 2015 GNJK standards after that date. Beginning on 2/1/2026, Grow NJ Kids will fully adopt the revised 2025 standards and retire the previous version.

**Programs that WILL NOT file for rating before January 30, 2026.** All licensed center-based and public preschool (school-based) programs should begin using the newly revised 2025 Grow NJ Kids standards immediately.

**NOTE:** Please note that there are no changes to the GNJK Family Child Care standards at this time.

**All Licensed Center-Based and DOE Preschool programs currently enrolled in Grow NJ Kids must follow one of the paths below**

**My program WILL apply for rating/re-rating using the 2015 standards and our current QIP by 1/30/2026**

- Continue working towards your quality goals.
- Leave your current QIP open (do not click "complete QIP" in NJCCIS) until you are ready to file for rating
- Gather documentation and file for rating on or before 1/30/2026.
- Once your rating process is complete, begin using the revised 2025 standards moving forward. To do this, start a new self-assessment in NJCCIS and the form will automatically generate with the revised standards.

**My program WILL NOT apply for rating/re-rating using the 2015 standards and our current QIP by 1/30/2026**

- ON OR AFTER JULY 14, 2026, IF YOU CURRENTLY:**
- **Have an open Self-Assessment**  
You will need to close out the current self-assessment and QIP form in order for the revised standards to generate in a new self-assessment. Please complete (close out) the self-assessment and QIP forms, then start a new self-assessment.
  - **Have an open Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)**  
You will need to close out your current QIP form in order for the revised standards to generate in a new self-assessment. Please complete (close out) your current QIP, then start a new self-assessment and QIP.
  - **Do not have an Open Self-Assessment or QIP**  
When you are ready to begin your self-assessment in NJCCIS, the form will generate automatically with the revised standards
  - **Are applying for rating with the 2025 Revised GNJK Standards.** Programs may begin applying for rating with the revised standards on or after October 1, 2025. Revised rating guidance and instructions will be released later this summer.

*Unsure of which path to take? Please consult your QIS or TAS for further guidance.*

Important Dates	
July 1, 2025	Grow NJ Kids Revised 2025 Standards for Early Care and Education Programs Announced and Effective Date (with the exception of programs applying for rating with their current QIP before 1/30/2026)
Summer 2025	Resources, standards training module, NAEYC and Head Start Alignment information, and GNJK Rating Guidelines for 2025 Standards to be released
October 1, 2025	Programs may begin applying for rating using the revised 2025 GNJK Standards
January 30, 2026	Last day for programs to file for rating using the original 2015 standards
February 1, 2026	2015 Standards will be retired. Full statewide implementation of 2025 GNJK Standards.

# Guidance for Programs Transitioning to the Revised Grow NJ Kids Quality Standards

July 1, 2025



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q1: I will not be applying for rating before 1/30/26 but I already have a self-assessment and QIP completed. Why do I need to complete a new self-assessment and QIP?**

*A: While the revised standards contain many of the same quality elements as the original standards, the structure, format, and content of the standards are very different from the 2015 standards. To fully align your program's quality improvement goals to the new quality standards, it will be necessary to complete a new self-assessment and QIP.*

**Q2: My program recently enrolled in Grow NJ Kids and we are working with our QIS. We have not yet completed a self-assessment. What should we do?**

*A: Please begin reviewing the revised standards document. If you are newly enrolled in GNJK and/or working with a QIS, you will complete your self-assessment and QIP after you are assigned a TA Specialist.*

**Q3: When can I complete a self-assessment in NJCCIS on the revised standards?**

*A: The GNJK Self-Assessment in NJCCIS will be updated on July 14, 2025. All programs may start a new self-assessment on or after that date. Programs should start a new self-assessment and QIP if they will not be applying for rating using the 2015 standards. Programs planning to file for rating with the 2015 standards should wait until they have filed for rating and received their new star rating to complete a new self-assessment on the revised standards.*

**Q4: What resources are available for programs transitioning to the revised standards?**

*A: Please visit [www.GrowNJKids.gov/providers](http://www.GrowNJKids.gov/providers) to find all resources available. Currently you can find:*

- The 2025 GNJK Revised Quality Standards Document
- 2025 Self-Assessment Tool
- At-a-Glance: Professional Development Requirements and Options by Domain
- At-a-Glance: 2025 GNJK Quality Standards for ECE Programs
- 2015/2025 Standards Crosswalk Tool

**Q5: What is the 2015-2025 Crosswalk Tool and how can it be used?**

*A: This tool compares the new 2025 standards to the previous 2015 standards and indicates where there may be full, partial, or no alignment between the standards. Programs that have previously completed a self-assessment and/or QIP can reference this tool as they complete their new self-assessment to easily identify which standards they may already be meeting.*

**Q6: Will there be training available on the new standards?**

*A: Yes, coming soon. A self-paced, online training will be available this summer. Please check [www.GrowNJKids.gov](http://www.GrowNJKids.gov) regularly for updates.*

# Guidance for Programs Transitioning to the Revised Grow NJ Kids Quality Standards

July 1, 2025



## **Q7: Are any other resources available as we transition to the new standards?**

*A: Yes, Grow NJ Kids will be releasing a comprehensive resource guide later this summer. Additionally, we are working to create a video resource library on the new standards that will be launched later this year.*

## **Q8: Will there be new or updated Professional Development offered related to the new standards?**

*A: Yes, Grow NJ Kids Training Services will be releasing new and refreshed professional development options aligned to the revised standards throughout the year. Check out our [Course Catalog](#) to learn more about the PD options currently available and coming soon.*

## **Q9: When can my program file for rating with the revised standards?**

*A: Programs may begin filing for rating with the new standards on or after October 1, 2025.*

## **Q10: Where can we find updated information on the rating process for the newly revised standards?**

*A: Grow NJ Kids Rating at CREEHS will be publishing rating guidelines and instructions later this summer and will offer live-virtual webinar opportunities to review rating guidelines.*

## **Q11: My program is NAEYC-accredited. Will there be standard/rating waivers for NAEYC-accredited programs?**

*A: Yes, a NAEYC alignment document will be released later this summer.*

## **Q12: My program is a Head Start center. Will there be standard/rating waivers for Head Start programs?**

*A: Yes, a Head Start alignment document will be released later this summer.*

## **Q13: Who do I consult if I have immediate questions?**

*A: Please first consult your assigned QIS or TAS, as they may be able to quickly answer your questions. All other questions can be directed to [DFD.GrowNJKids@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DFD.GrowNJKids@dhs.nj.gov) and we will respond to you within 72 hours.*

*Have a question you would like to see added to the FAQ above? [Submit it here](#) and we will update the FAQ regularly to include questions submitted by providers*