

VIDEO 16: Program Evaluation



New Jersey Preschool Expansion Webinar Series: Program Evaluation



In this video, we'll discuss the Program Evaluation section of the New Jersey Department of Education's Preschool Education Aid application for districts applying to be part of New Jersey's state-funded preschool program. Note that Program Evaluation is often addressed in a larger section of the application called Program Evaluation and Professional Development, so you'll want to check out our companion video on Professional Development when writing this part of your application.



Chapter 16A, Division of High-Quality Preschool Programs
Title of section

Subchapter 1. General Provisions
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-1.1 Purpose and authority of division
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-1.2 Definitions
Subchapter 2. Eligibility, Enrollment, and the Contents of Preschool Programs
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-2.1 Eligibility
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-2.2 Enrollment
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-2.3 Contents of preschool programs
Subchapter 3. Program Quality
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-3.1 Program standards
Subchapter 4. Assessment and Reporting
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-4.1 Assessment and reporting
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-4.2 Assessment and reporting
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-4.3 Assessment and reporting
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-4.4 Data and statistics
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-4.5 Data and statistics
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-4.6 Data and statistics
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-4.7 Data and statistics
Subchapter 5. Compliance and Enforcement
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-5.1 Definitions
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-5.2 Compliance and enforcement
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-5.3 Compliance and enforcement
Subchapter 6. Transition
N.J.A.C. 16A:12-6.1 Definitions

Program Evaluation

- Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Student Services (CREDES) at Monmouth State University
- Early Learning Institute (ELI) at Pennsylvania State University (PSU)
- State of NJ
- and Assessment and Reporting System
- 2014-2015 EARLY EDUCATION AID
- 2014-2015 EARLY EDUCATION AID

DECS Preschool Website:
<https://www.nj.gov/education/earlychildhood/preschool>
NJDOE Administrative Code Website:
<https://www.nj.gov/education/code/current/index.shtml>

Program evaluation is an integral aspect of New Jersey's state-funded preschool program. To familiarize yourself with the requirements, you'll need to read through the preschool chapter of administrative code, which is 6A:13A Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs. Specifically, you should familiarize yourself with the subchapter on Program Evaluation. There is also a section on Program Evaluation on the DECS website that includes helpful resources to help you develop your plan.



Program Evaluation

Refer to the section on *Program Evaluation* in N.J.A.C. 6A: 13A and in the Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines.

1. Describe measurable methods of program evaluation, including the structured observation tool(s), that will be implemented in the initial year of the program. Include a rationale for the selection of the tool(s) along with the anticipated impact on the program.

2. Outline how data will be used to inform program planning and improvement.

3. Outline the LEA's plan to participate in Grow NJ Kids. In-district programs and all contracted provider and Head Start sites will be expected to enroll in Grow NJ Kids, and complete the program self-assessment, develop and utilize a quality improvement plan, and then proceed through the rating process after one year of program implementation.

On this slide are examples of questions typically asked in the application, where you'll need to outline your plan for your methods of program evaluation. Child-level data includes data from the performance-based child assessment that is aligned with your chosen curriculum. For more information about child assessments, see our video on Curriculum Implementation & Child Assessment.

Classroom-level data should include information from your structured observations of classroom quality, including the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale – Third edition (or ECERS-3), curriculum fidelity checklists, the Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT), and any others that you utilize. This data should also include any teacher evaluation and parent surveys.

Data collected must be utilized to inform program planning at the child-, classroom- and program-level. Be as specific as possible about how you will use the data for continuous quality improvement.



Grow NJ Kids:

<https://www.childcarenj.gov/GrowNJKids>

Finally, you need to plan to enroll all in-district sites and contracted private provider sites in Grow NJ Kids, New Jersey's Quality Rating and Improvement System. Grow NJ Kids is a program administered through the Department of Human Services that is designed to provide early childhood programs with critical resources to assess and improve program quality. The goal of Grow NJ Kids is to create a system that encourages

ongoing improvement. Typically, you must enroll during the following school year and begin the rating process the year after. However, exact dates are included in the application.



You've reached the end of Program Evaluation

Video Library:

<https://nieer.org/new-jersey-preschool-expansion-webinar-series>

This brings our video on how to address Program Evaluation in your PEA application to a close. Again, the PEA application will likely require you to address Program Evaluation in a broader section on Program Evaluation and Professional Development, so be sure to check out our companion video on Professional Development as well. Also, for information on the other sections of the PEA application, see our library of other videos on a variety of useful topics.