GNJK Rating Extensions Tip Sheet

October 2026

GNJK Rating Extensions

A Grow NJ Kids (GNJK) rating extension is issued by program administrators (NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development) when a program's standards evidence, training records, and/or Environment Rating Scale (ERS) observation scores do not meet the minimum requirements for a Star 3 Rating. It is a one-time opportunity that provides six additional months to collect documentation, complete required training, or make ERS improvements prior to new observations. Programs with an existing Star Rating will have that rating extended for six months to allow time to meet at least a Star 3 Rating.

My program just received a rating extension, now what?

If your program received a rating extension, it's an opportunity to recognize the progress you and your staff have made in strengthening quality. This additional time allows your team to build on existing strengths while continuing to grow. Consider meeting with your Technical Assistance Specialist (TAS) to review your Rating Summary Report, highlighting areas of success and opportunities for improvement. Together, you can develop a plan to implement recommendations over the next six months and continue progressing toward a GNJK Star Rating. ***Note: To allow adequate time for improvement, a minimum of 60 days must lapse between the issuance of an extension and any subsequent observations.***

Programs that operate on a 10-month/school-year calendar and have an extension that overlaps with summer months should contact DFD and CREEHS for information on next steps.

Next Steps Towards a GNJK Star Rating

1. Partner with your TAS to determine readiness to move forward with the rating process
2. Complete the **Documentation Review/Observation Request Form** on the ***Extension information – All program types*** page of the **GNJK Rating website**
3. Email **GNJKRating@montclair.edu** to notify GNJK Rating of the request
4. If the extension is due to ERS observation scores, submit the **Two-Month Observation Window Request Form** to indicate your preferred observation window

Questions? Email the GNJK Rating Team at GNJKRating@montclair.edu