

Accreditation Benefits Analysis Sheet

ITEM	COST	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Initial Cost of Accreditation:		Enrollment + Verification Fee
Award Maintenance Fees:		EX: Annual Renewal Fee x 2 for NECPA
Training for Staff:		EX: 24-30 Hours for Continuing Education for NECPA
Time Spent Completing Verification Instrument:		EX: 1-6 Months, Depending on Director Experience and Program Readiness

ITEM	BENEFIT	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
State Funding for Accreditation Fees:		<i>Review State Benefits Webpage at www.necpa.net.</i>
Additional State Benefits Towards Higher Quality:		EX: Staff Training Fees Paid by State
Bonus Award from State:		EX: \$1,000+ Award from State
State Subsidy Rate Increase:		EX: Up to 25% Increase in Subsidy Reimbursement Rates
Increased Enrollment Estimate:		EX: 20-30 New Enrollments

GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES TO CONSIDER:

1. Increased recognition, both online and offline, of your program's high quality care.
2. Increased enrollments and family retention.
3. Increased profitability, longevity of your program(s), and a potentially higher selling point for your retirement.



Accreditation Comparison Sheet

Accreditation Fee Comparison

Fees (based on license capacity)	NECPA – 4 Capacity Ranges (7-60 up to 241+)	NAEYC – 5 Capacity Ranges (1-60 up to 360+)	ELL – 6 Capacity Ranges (15-50 up to 500)
Enrollment	\$385-\$550	\$745-\$1,370+	\$400-\$650
Verification	\$1,155-\$1,485	\$825-\$1,425+	\$1,200-\$2,075
Annual Report/Renewal	2X \$275 for all capacities	4X \$550-885+	3X \$400-\$500
Overall cost including maintenance fees	\$2,090-\$2,585 for three year award	\$3,770-\$6,335+ for five year award	\$2,800-\$4,225 for four year award

All fee schedules may be reviewed online:

NECPA – <https://necpa.net/page/Fees/>

NAEYC – <https://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/early-learning/fees>

ELL - <https://www.earlylearningleaders.org/accreditation/accreditation-fees/>

Major Differences in Accreditation– NECPA vs NAEYC

ITEM	NECPA	NAEYC
Office Support	NECPA offers free program consultation and documentation review.	Programs may be required to pay additional consultation fees.
Number of Standards and % of Required Assessment Items	NECPA requires programs to meet all 219 standards and 100% of classrooms will be observed. All required documentation is outlined in Part A of the instrument. No portfolios are required.	Programs will need to meet 80% of the criteria assessed within each Standard. They will also need to meet at least 70% of all the criteria assessed in each classroom. Programs must prepare a portfolio of evidence for 144 indicators, meet 394 on-site items and create individual classroom portfolios.
Program Visit Date	NECPA notifies programs of their specific verification visit date.	Programs are provided a two week window when a visit may occur.
Result Timeline	NECPA notifies programs of their accreditation results within 2 months of their visit date.	Programs will receive their accreditation decision within 3 months of the date of their onsite visit.



NECPA
National Early Childhood
Program Accreditation

Top 5 Common Mistakes During the Accreditation Process

1. Underutilizing Teaching Staff

- Teachers are a key part of successfully implementing accreditation standards. Meet often with teachers and have them complete a self-evaluation of their classrooms to see where improvements or changes can be made. This extra help alleviates unnecessary stress on the Director and assists them in focusing on the most important areas for improvement.

2. Misabeled or Unlabeled Documentation

- For a fast and efficient verification visit, programs should utilize the provided documentation labels to note each individual policy or procedure required of a standard item. Verifiers may end a visit early if documentation is not properly labeled and ready for review.

3. Incorrect Visit and Review Timelines

- Ensure you have allotted enough time to complete the verification instrument and receive your award within your desired timeline. Planning for enough scheduling and review time will alleviate unnecessary stress throughout the process.

4. Using Substitute Teachers on the Visit day

- If the substitute teachers are not totally familiar with the children, routine and program policies, this will reflect in the verifier's observations and comments. If your program follows state guidelines for ratios and you are able to meet accreditation standards for teacher:child interactions and developmental program, it is best to use only those regularly scheduled teachers to ensure a 'normal day' at your program.

5. Incomplete Instrument Answers

- Each question in the verification instrument requires a 'Yes' or 'No' answer. Answering each question prior to the verification visit will help ensure a fast and efficient visit.

BONUS - Take Advantage of FREE Office Resources:

The NECPA Team is your go-to resource for help with interpreting accreditation standards and to ensuring proper implementation. Our goal is your success and the accreditation team is readily available for regular conference calls and documentation review.



Top 5 Things Verifiers Look for on a Verification Visit

1. Teacher:Child Interactions

- Do teachers address each child by name? _____
- Are teachers often seen actively engaged in children's learning? _____
- Do teachers welcome children's ideas and suggestions for activities? _____
- Are teachers sensitive to children's feelings and needs? _____
- Do teachers practice positive guidance, redirection, and provide children with concise limits they can understand? _____
- Do teachers modify activities and the routine based upon the children's mood? _____

2. Supervision

- Do teachers practice positive and active supervision? _____
- Are all children always in view of a qualified teacher, indoors and out? _____
- Do teachers use name-to-face attendance throughout the day? _____

3. Transitions

- Are the following transitions smooth and timely?
 1. Going to and coming from outside play: _____
 2. Changing learning activities: _____
 3. Lunch and snack: _____
 4. Nap time: _____
- Are children occupied during transitions? _____

4. Indoor Learning Space

- Are rooms/areas arranged to meet the needs of each age group enrolled? _____
- Do the separate areas provide a variety of experiences and learning opportunities? _____
- Do children have ample space to maneuver, work and play? _____

5. Handwashing and Diapering

- Do all teachers follow the posted handwashing procedure? _____
- Do teachers help children in proper handwashing procedure? _____
- Do all teachers and children wash hands at the following times:
 1. Before and after any food service activity; _____
 2. Before and after eating meals or snacks; _____
 3. Before toileting or changing diapers/pull-ups (for staff ONLY); _____
 4. After toileting or changing diapers/pull-ups (for staff AND children); _____
 5. After assisting a child with toilet use or toileting accidents; _____
 6. After having any contact with bodily fluids (including mucous); _____
 7. Upon arrival to the classroom, including coming in from outdoors; _____
 8. After handling and feeding any animals (including fish, insects and reptiles)? _____
- Do teachers follow the posted diapering procedure? _____

