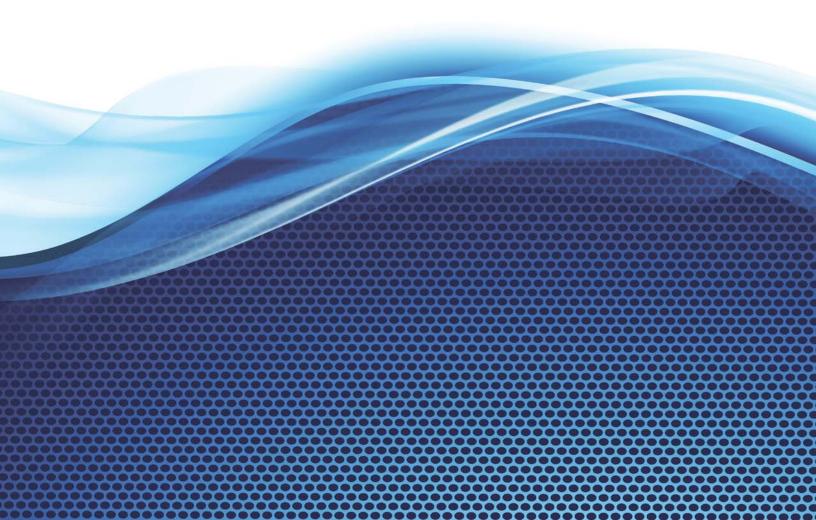


ePAR USER GUIDE



Questions Please contact



e-mail ePARHelp@csc.nj.gov or (609) 777-2225



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Helpful Hint – The State Seal, located on the left side in the ePAR system, serves as a "home" key and returns you to the Dashboard page.

Getting Started

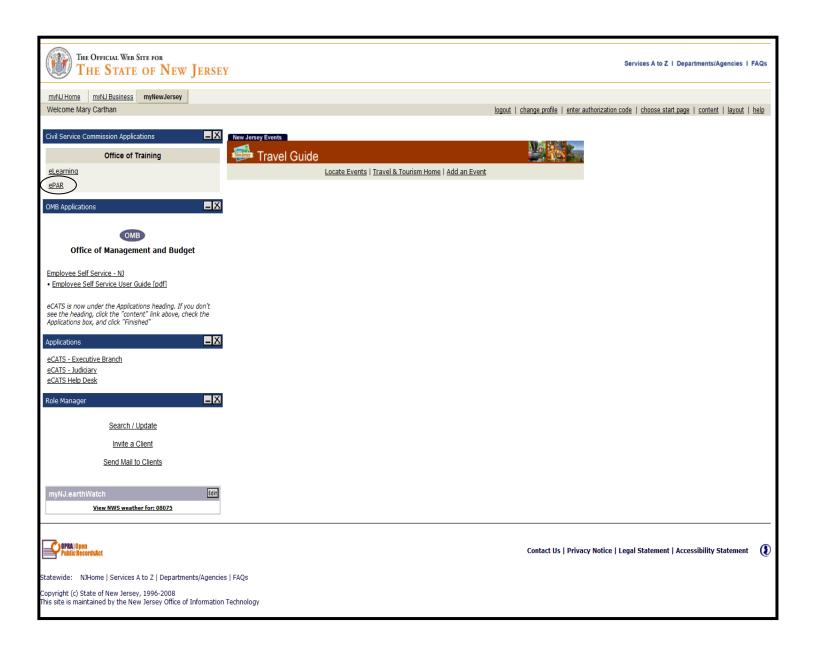
Log in to the myNewJersey using the URL: https://portal01.state.nj.us

Input your log on ID and password. All state employees are automatically enrolled by the portal team as part of the agency activation process as of the initial implementation. New employees will need to use the Self-Registration process.

My new jersey	lersey Home Page
Log On to My New Jersey Log On ID: Password: Log On Experiment of the Company	ersey Home Page

Getting Started

Click ePAR link to enter the system. If you do not see it, use the Self-Registration process.



Getting Started

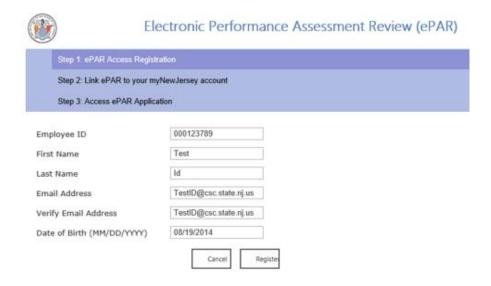
ePAR Self-Registration

Below are the required steps to activate the ePAR link on the myNewJersey Portal page. All state employees are automatically enrolled by the portal team as part of the agency activation process.

For new employees who do not have an existing myNewJersey Portal account *OR* for employees hired **after** an agency is activated, a self-registration mechanism is in place to enable the link on the portal.

Please follow the directions below:

- Navigate to the self-registration page below: https://wwwnet1.state.nj.us/NJ/NJ ePar Reg/SelfRegistration.aspx.
- 2. Fill in Step 1 with your employee information and click Register. If you need your EID you can either find the information on your paystub or contact your HR department.

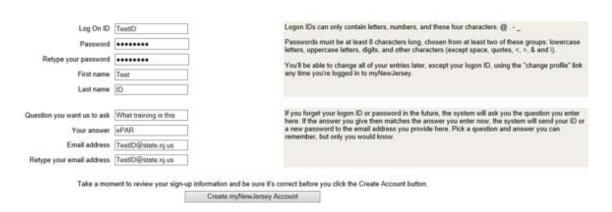


3. On Step 2 enter the myNewJersey Portal account you have associated with paystub, or create a new one if you do not have one.

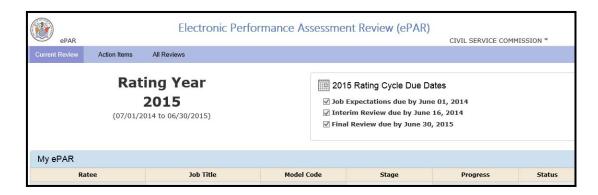
Link ePAR to Your myNewJersey Account Do you have a myNewJersey Logon ID? Yes No Information about your existing myNewJersey account myNewJersey Logon ID: myNewJersey Password:

a. If you chose to create a new myNewJersey Portal account, you'll fill out a similar page like the screenshot below.

Next



- b. Complete the required information for your portal logon and then click "Create myNewJersey Account".
- 4. Once you have completed the steps you will automatically be brought to the ePAR dashboard.

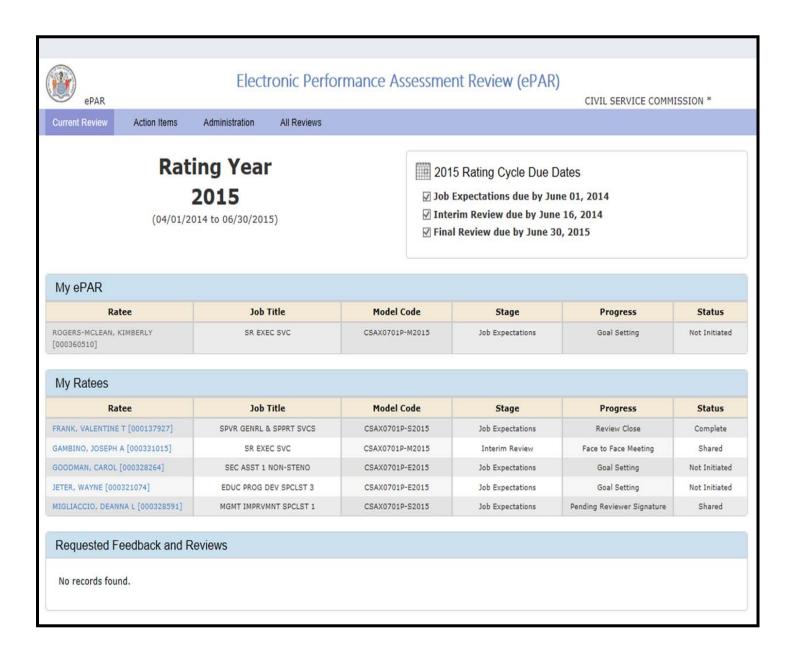


- 5. To make sure everything works, close all browsers, then open a new browser, and try to log back in to the myNewJersey Portal by navigating to http://nj.gov.
- 6. Your portal account should now correctly show the ePAR application under the Civil Service Commission Application section.

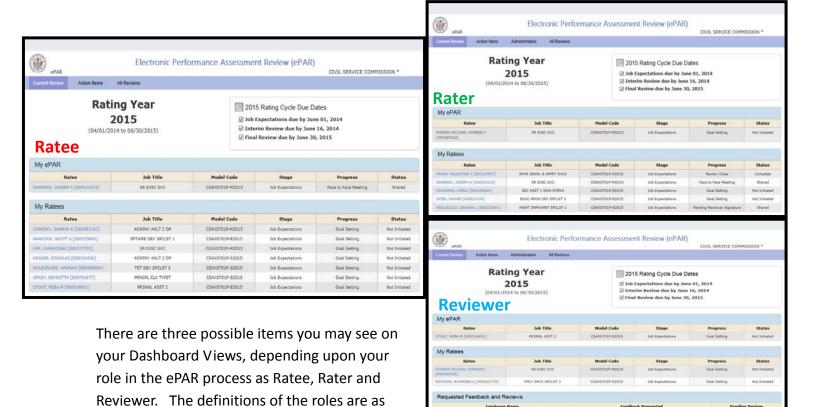


Dashboard Screen

This will bring you to the ePAR Dashboard screen.



Dashboard Views



Ratee -The employee receiving the evaluation is the Ratee. Everyone is a Ratee. This person is the focus of the assessment. As in any other communication process, there must be an exchange of ideas in the PAR process. Both the Ratee and the Rater are responsible for working together in the development of job expectations and the provision of open and honest feedback about job expectations, the interim and final assessments and the development plan.

follows:

Rater- The immediate supervisor of the Ratee is the Rater. Immediate supervisor is the person who receives and/or dispenses the work. The Rater has the responsibility of conducting the performance assessment and giving open and honest feedback to the Ratee about performance throughout the rating cycle. In the ePAR process, the Rater role has primary responsibility of controlling and informing the other roles about their responsibilities. All parts of the process begin with the Rater.

Reviewer-The Rater's supervisor (or manager) who is responsible for ensuring appropriate administration of the PAR Process is the Reviewer. Reviewers are also responsible for setting goals and expectations for the organization, unit or division. The Reviewer is strongly encouraged to take an active role in all parts of the PAR process. This may include managing performance management meetings and conflict resolution meetings. It is highly recommended that Raters meet with or provide feedback to Reviewers prior to conducting interim or final assessment meetings with their Ratees.

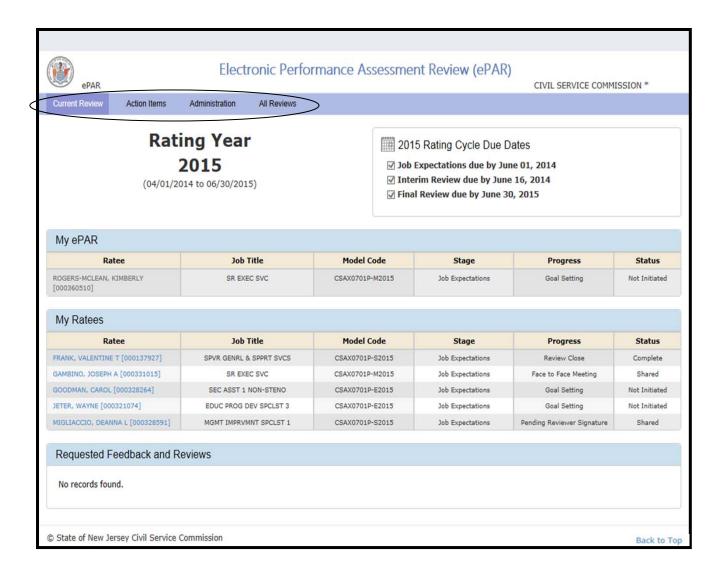
Rater's Dashboard

Dashboard

The Dashboard will display information about you under **My ePAR** as well as information about all of your subordinates under the heading **My Ratees**.

The ribbon at the top right corner of the Dashboard has 4 buttons. The ribbons are: Current Review, Action items, Administration, and All Reviews.

The majority of this training will utilize The **Current Review** button. When the **Current Review** button is highlighted, items included will be information on the current rating cycle, important dates, current ePAR for both yourself and your employees, and requested Feedback and Reviews. **Action Items** display items that require attention. It displays title of action, message, action triggers and the creation date. The **Administration button** is for administrative use only. Finally, **All Reviews** button displays ePAR reviews for self and employees in reporting lines.



Rater's Dashboard

Dashboard

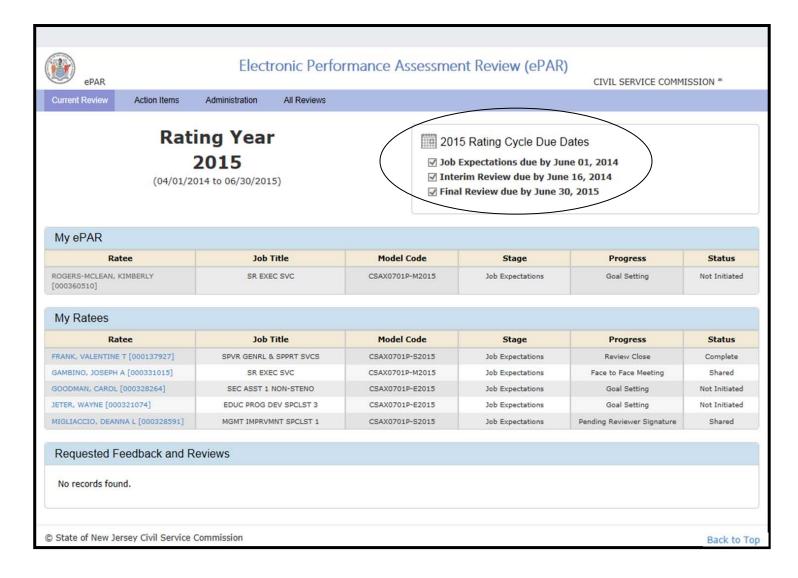
The State Seal acts as a "Home" button and may be used at any time to return to the Dashboard.

The top right box outlines important due dates for the Rating Cycle. The PAR process is the same as the paper process.

The first part is **Job Expectations** – when the employee and supervisor establish the major goals, job responsibilities and essential criteria for the position.

Followed by the **Interim Review**, which occurs six months into the rating cycle. The purpose of the Interim Review is to provide the ratee an indication of their work performance and progress for the first six months of the cycle.

Then, **Final Review**, which occurs at the end of the rating cycle and is an evaluation of overall performance for the entire rating cycle. The Final Review rating is recorded in the employee's record and is the rating that triggers or supports the other personnel actions associated with the PAR.



Rater's Dashboard

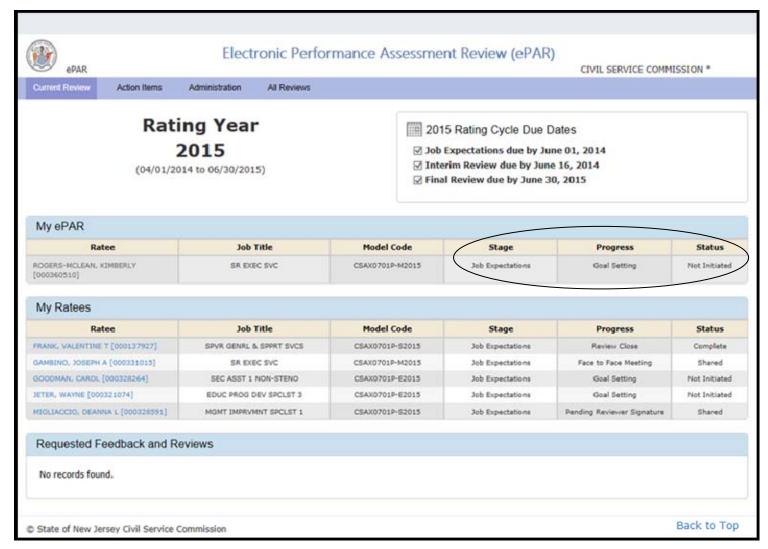
Dashboard

While most of the column headers are self-explanatory, pay special attention the column indicators labeled **Stage**, **Progress**, **and Status**.

Stage defines the part of the ePAR process that is due. The Stages that you will see in this section are Job Expectations, Interim Review, or Final Review.

Progress details the elements of the Stage process pending in ePAR. For example, one might see in the Job Expectations sections – Goal setting, Face-to-Face meeting, and Pending Ratee signature.

Status defines what has happened in the Stage section. For example, *Initiated* – indicates that Progress has begun on ePAR; *Not Initiated* –indicates that nothing has begun; *Draft*- means that items are being worked on; *Shared* – verifies that ePAR has been sent to others in the process; *Complete* – indicates when all parties have signed off.

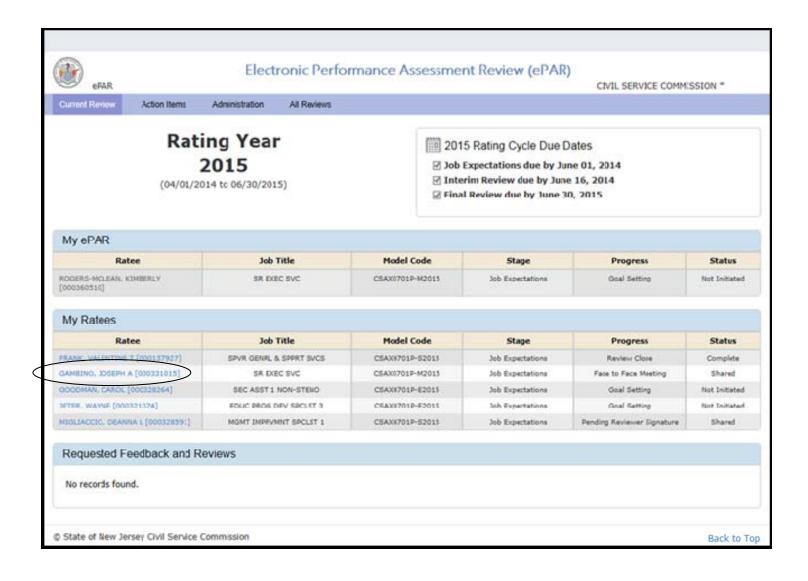


Rater's Dashboard

Job Expectations

Creating an ePAR:

From the dashboard, select an employee by clicking on their name.





Once you click the employee's name, the Job Expectations screen displays.

The row of buttons below the ribbon outlines more actions. From the left, **Cancel** –Does not save changes made. **Save Draft** – Allows Rater to save an incomplete ePAR without sending it to any other parties. If desired, Rater may request feedback from Reviewer.

Submit – Allows Rater to complete the PAR and forward to all parties including human resources.

Notes – Appears only on the Rater's screen and allows one to keep track of notes during the rating cycle.

Rater's notes are not part of the ePAR record and deletes automatically at the end of the cycle.

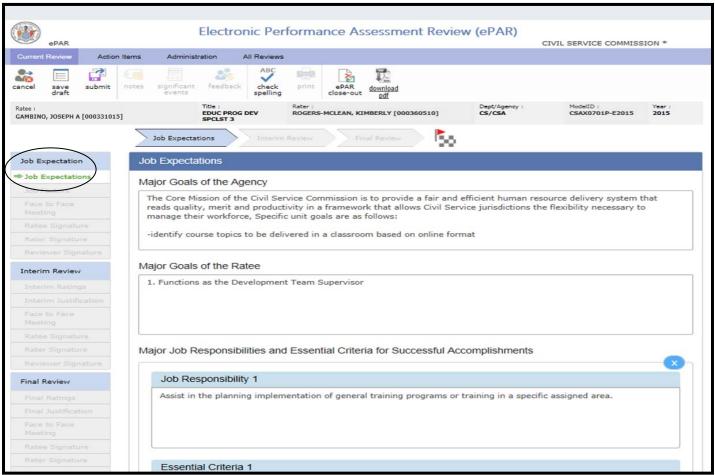
Significant event will be explained later in the **Tools** portion of the book.

Feedback – Rater can request feedback from the Reviewer during all stages of the ePAR. This button sends the request to Reviewer and prompts him/her to view ePAR. If there are any issues, discrepancies or questions, the Feedback button should be used to discuss. The Reviewer's comments are confidential between Rater and Reviewer.

Check Spelling - Checks for spelling errors.

Print – Gives ability to print entire document or any individual section of the ePAR; may print when the document is in **Shared** or **Complete** Status. All parties have the ability to print.

ePAR Close-out – The button is used to complete a "closeout" ePAR Review which occurs under certain conditions. The conditions include when the supervisor changes for a unit or when the employee changes supervisors without any title or appointing authority changes. The former supervisor would complete the closeout. The Closeout is really a closeout of the record for the Rater and there are no signatures required. **Ability to Download PDF version of the form**- the PDF icon appears throughout the screens and allows all parties to download the form at any stage. The download is of the complete form regardless of whether that part of the process is complete.





Job Expectations screen details.

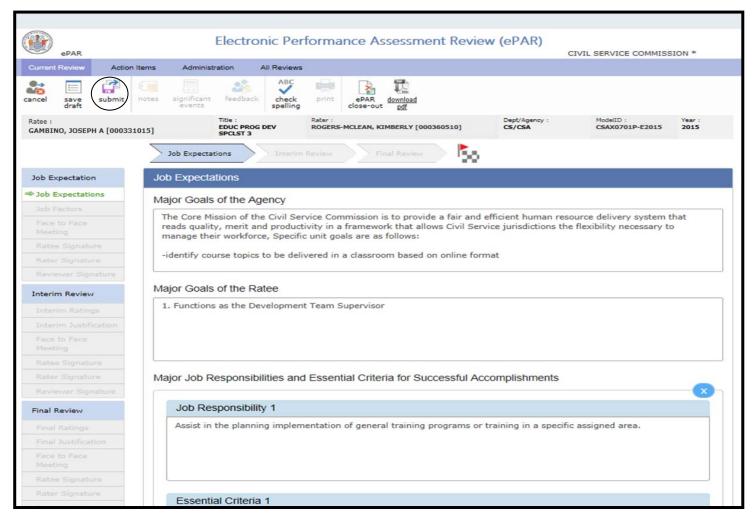
To add information into and begin this section, click in the box, type, cut or paste information into the **Major Goals of the Agency** and the **Major Goals of the Ratee**.

Under Major Responsibilities and Essential Criteria for Successful Accomplishments, click +add new, and a box will appear.

Type or cut and paste information into the **Job Responsibility 1** and **Essential Criteria 1** fields. Click **+add new** again for each additional job responsibility.

Reminder: Save Draft allows one to save changes without proceeding in the process. Note: When saving in draft, both sections need to have information inputted (at-least one character) before saving successfully, (ex. Major Goals of the Agency and Major Goals of the Ratee, Job Responsibility and Essential Criteria). If one begins a Job Responsibility, but does not put at least 1 character in Essential Criteria, Information will be lost upon saving.

Once Job Expectations are finalized, click **Submit**, so that Job Expectations are shared with Ratee. You may print in the "share" or "complete" status.



Rater's Dashboard

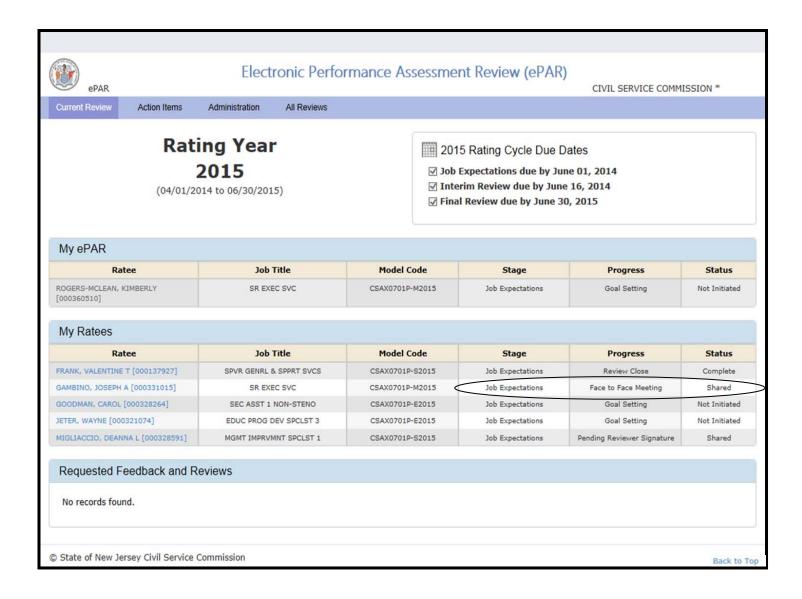
Job Expectations

After **submitting** the Job Expectations, the system will take the Rater back to the dashboard.

Shared means ePAR sent to others for review.

Note: Progress section updates to reflect "Face-to-Face Meeting." Status updates to "Shared."

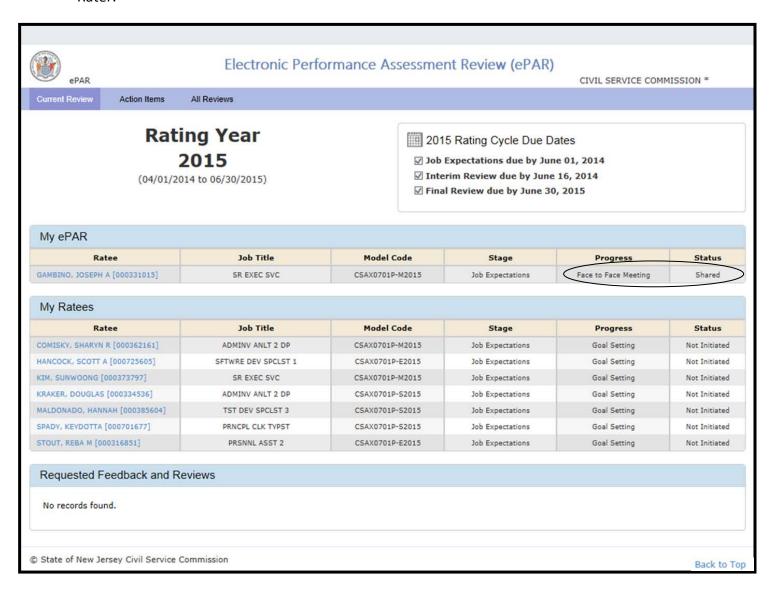
This is an indication that the Rater needs to schedule the Face-to-Face meeting OUTSIDE of the ePAR system. Raters may use an email or calendar system like Outlook to schedule the meeting about the Job Expectations.





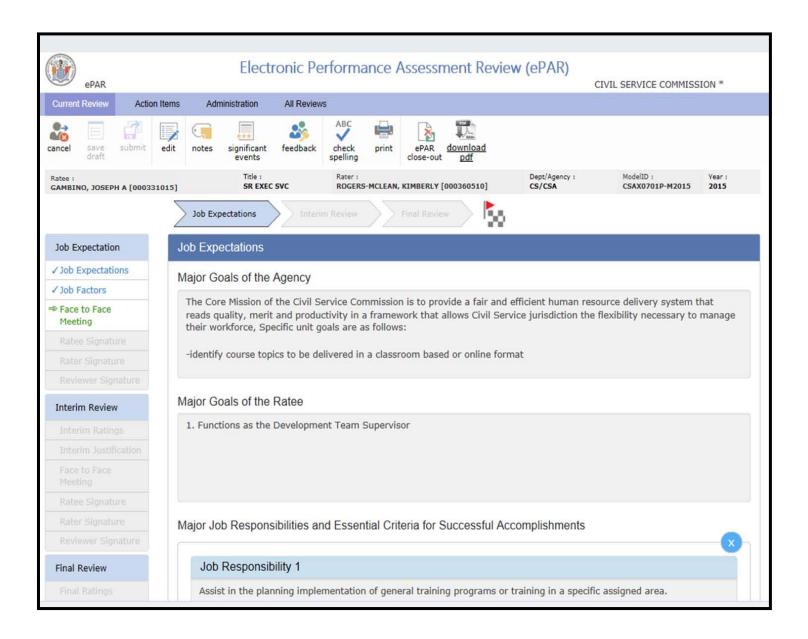
If Notifications are enabled, the Ratee will receive an email prompting him/her to review the ePAR.

The Ratee needs to click on his/her own name to view the Job Expectations completed by the Rater.





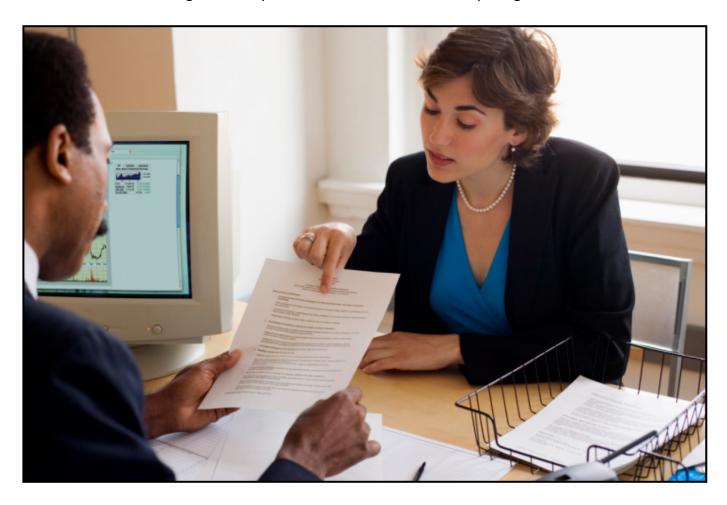
The Job expectations will be grayed out so the Ratee may view it.





Face to Face Meeting

The Face to Face meeting must be scheduled off line. Utilize email, Outlook or other tools to schedule the meeting. Rater may initiate modifications to ePAR by using the "Edit" button.



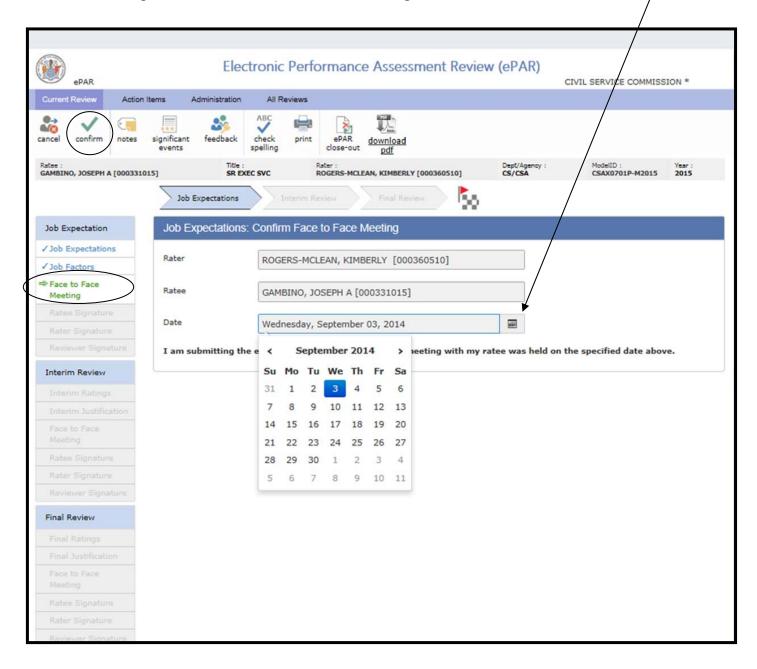
Rater

After the Face-To-Face Meeting with Ratee is held, it needs to be confirmed in ePAR.

The Rater name, Ratee name, and current date will display. **Click on** calendar icon to change the date.

When completed, click Confirm. This will notify all parties that ePAR is ready to be signed.

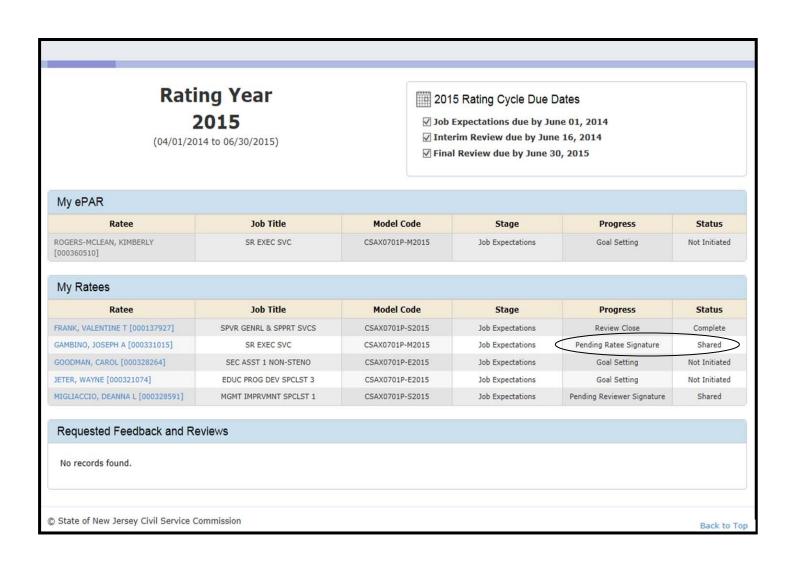
Note: No changes can be made to the ePAR once it is signed.



Rater's Dashboard

Job Expectations

After confirming Face-to-Face meeting, the progress updates on the **Dashboard** to "Pending Ratee Signature." Status is "Shared."



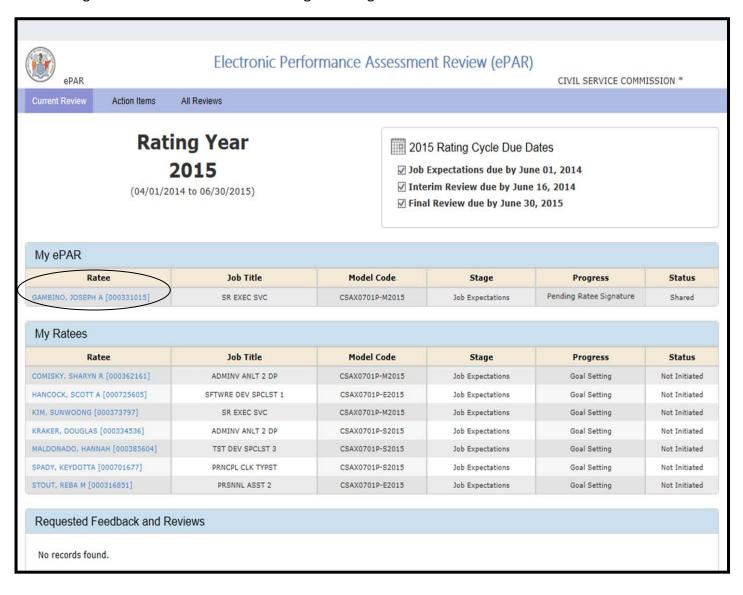
Ratee's Dashboard

Job Expectations

Ratee will receive a system-generated email to let him/her know an action item is waiting for input.

The Ratee must click on his/her own name to open document.

Note: Progress section will indicate "Pending Ratee Signature." Status will indicate "Shared."





Ratee Signature

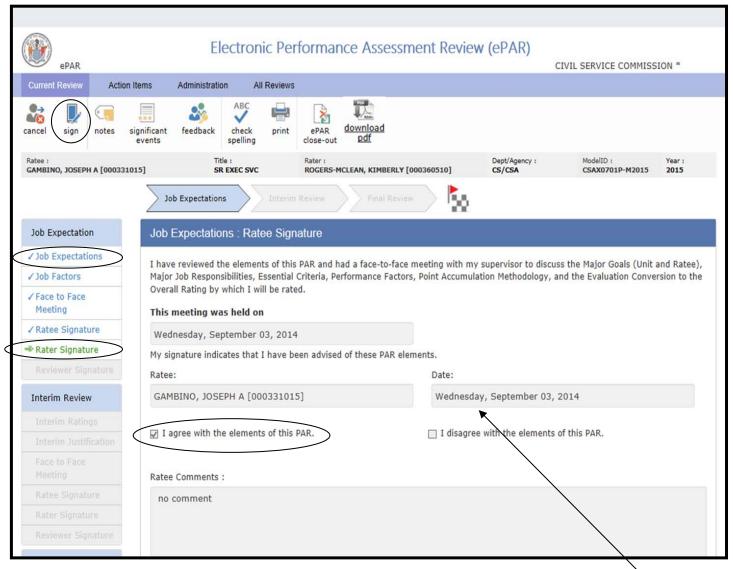
The Ratee is the first to sign in the process. Ratee should check **Agree or Disagree** box.

To add **Ratee comments**, he/she should click in box and type. Expand comments section if necessary.

Comments are part of the official record and allow any and all parties to provide feedback.

Ratee should Click **Sign** which initiates electronic signature acknowledging elements of the ePAR. A system-generated e-mail is sent to the Rater stating ePAR is ready for review and signature.

Reminder: To review Job Expectations, Ratee may click the **Job Expectations** on side tab at any time. **No changes can be made to the document once the Ratee signs it.**

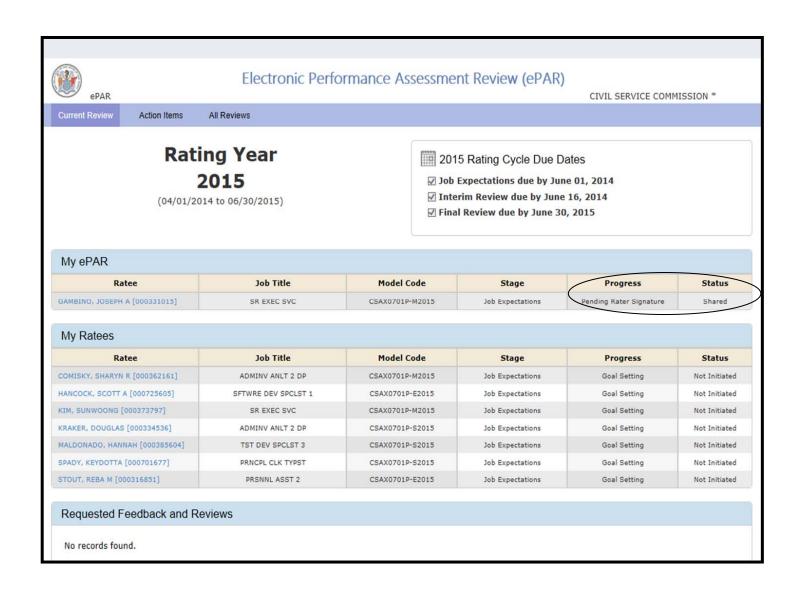


System will display current date.

Ratee's Dashboard

Job Expectations

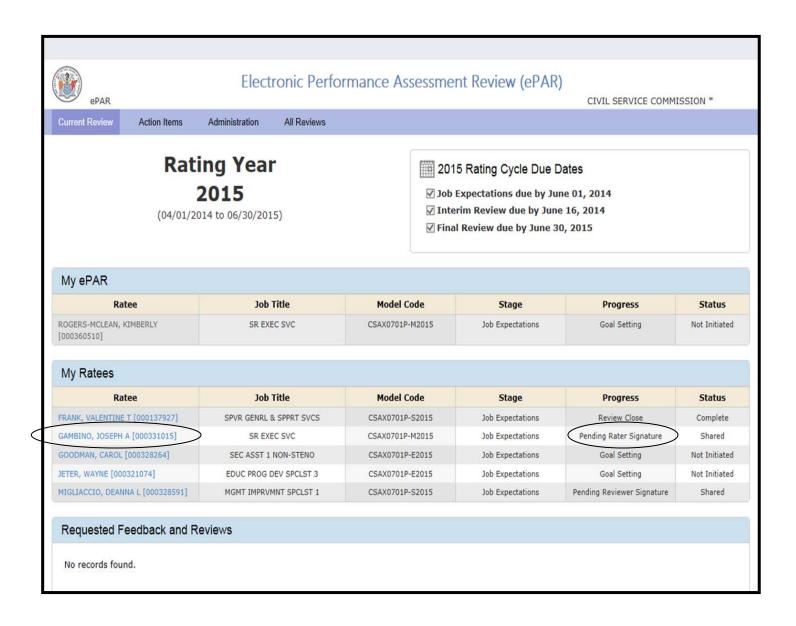
Ratee's dashboard updates to "Pending Rater Signature." Status is "Shared."



Rater's Dashboard

The next step is the Rater's signature as indicated on the dashboard.

Click employee's name to open.



Rater

Job Expectations

Rater Signature

The Rater indicates acknowledgment that Ratee's comments have been noted, by checking appropriate box. Rater may also certify Ratee's refusal to sign.

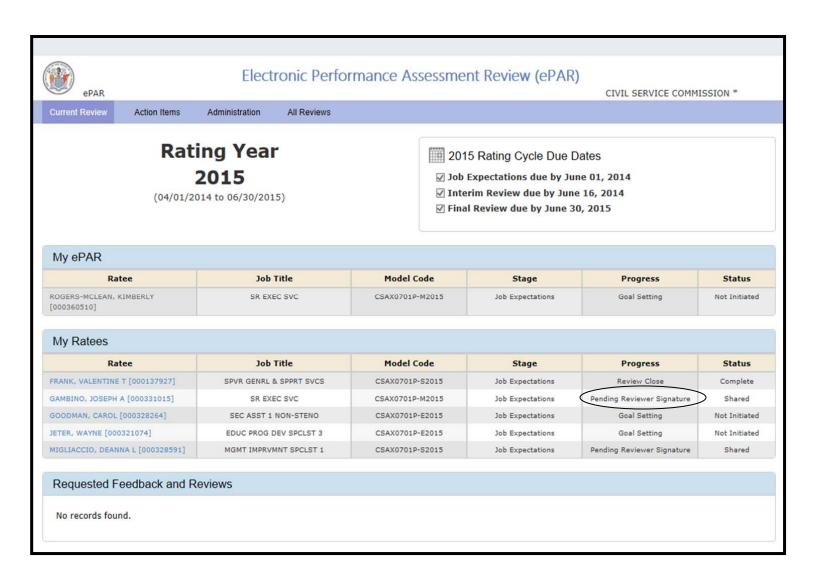
Comments are part of the official record and allow any and all parties to provide feedback.



System will display current date.

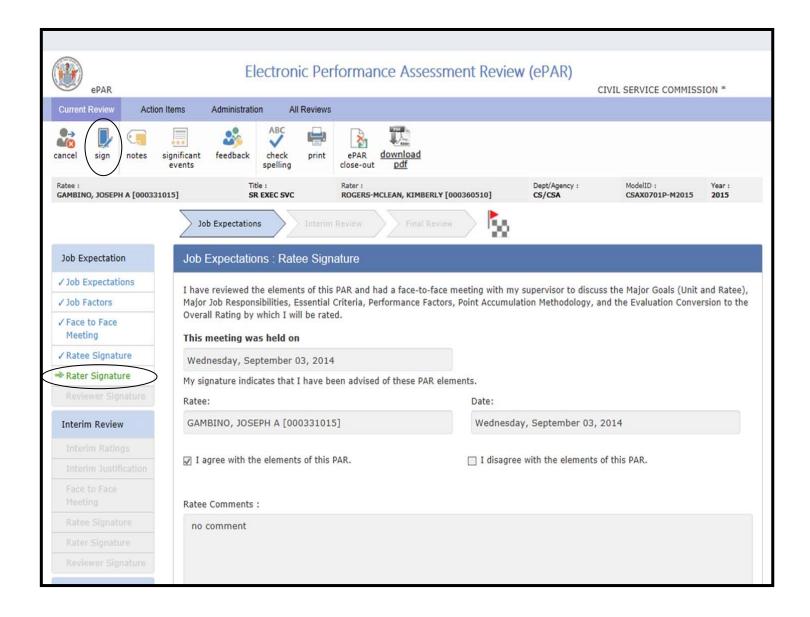
Rater's Dashboard

Rater's dashboard updates. Progress changes to "Pending Reviewer Signature." Status will update to "Shared."



Rater

Click **Sign** to indicate that Job Expectations are ready for the Reviewer's signature. A system-generated email will be sent to Ratee and Reviewer indicating that ePAR is ready for Reviewer's approval.

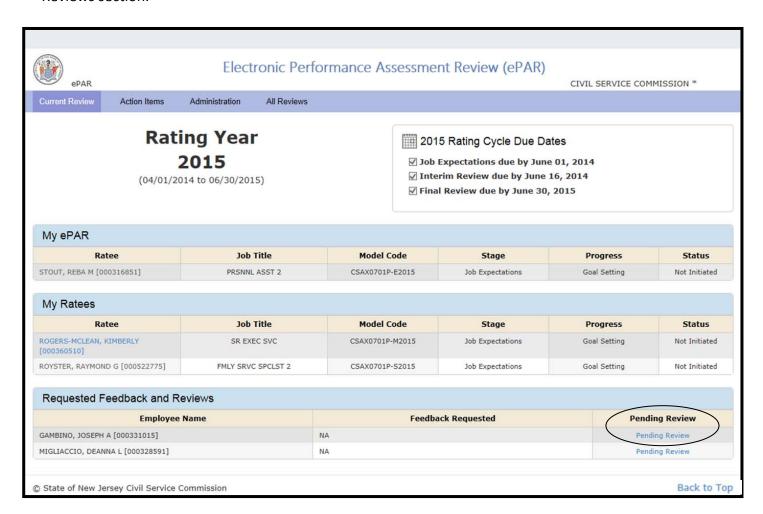


Reviewer's Dashboard

Job Expectations

Reviewing an ePAR:

From the dashboard, select an employee by clicking on **Pending Review** in the Requested Feedback and Reviews section.



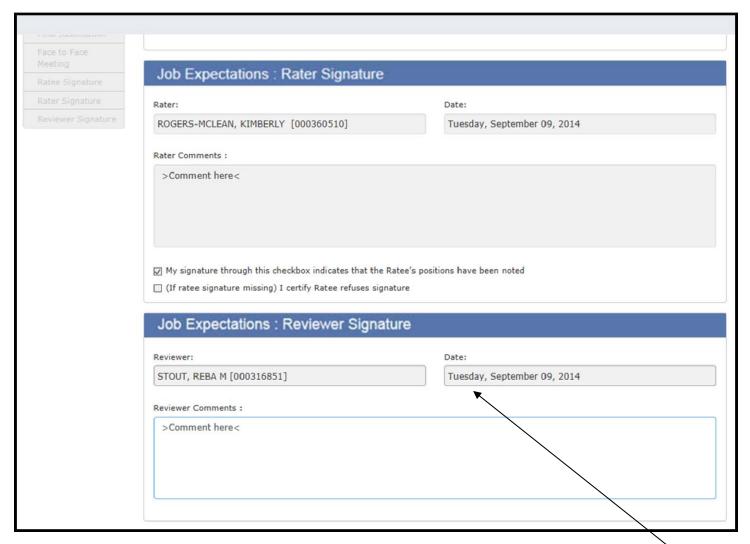
Reviewer

Job Expectations

Reviewer's First and Last Name will display in the Reviewer Signature box.

Reviewer may add comments if necessary.

Reminder: Comments are part of the official record and allow any and all parties to provide feedback.



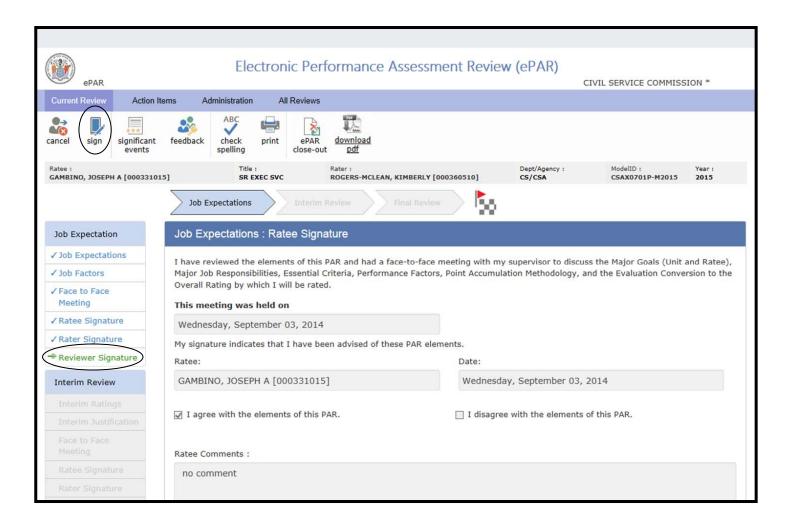
System will display current date.

Reviewer

Job Expectations

If approved, Click **Sign**, A system-generated e-mail is sent to Rater indicating the ePAR has been reviewed and signed.

The Reviewer signature automatically submits ePAR to the Human Resource Office.

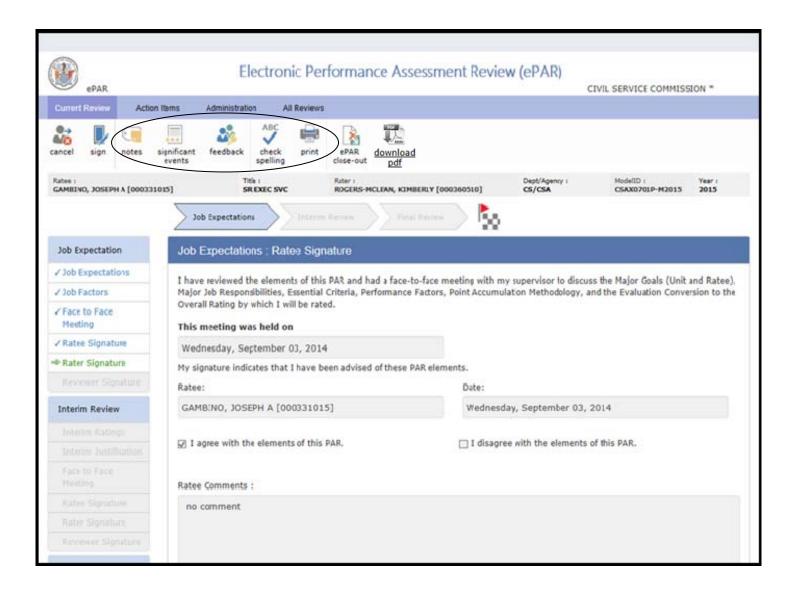


Rater

Tools

The following tools are available in the ePAR system to assist you throughout the rating process: **Notes, Significant Events**, **Feedback, Check Spelling**, and **Print**.

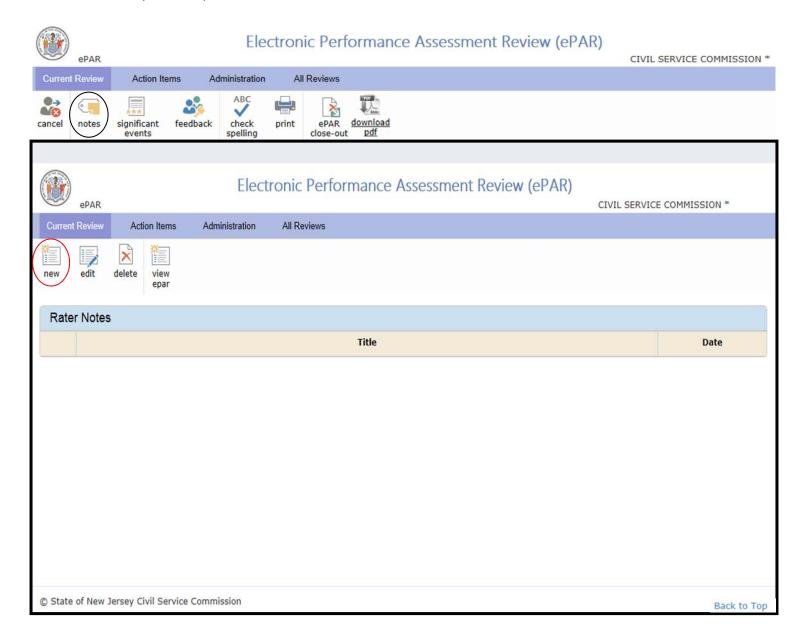
These items will be discussed over the next few pages.





Tools - Notes

Notes appear only on the Rater's screen and allows the Rater to keep track of notes during the rating cycle. Rater's notes are not part of the ePAR record and deletes automatically at the end of the cycle. To open Notes, Click **New**.



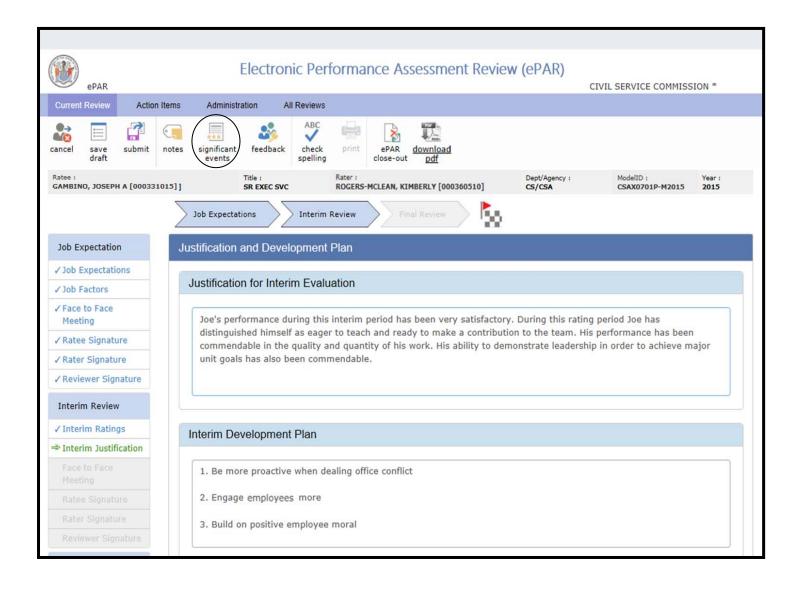
Tools - Significant Events

Rater

Significant Events – The Significant Events screen is available throughout the rating cycle and is used to record any noteworthy event (positive or negative) or any other amendments/changes that need to be made to the signed ePAR.

To add a Significant Event, click on the **Significant Events** icon and the **Fact Sheet of Significant Performance Events** will display. Since Significant Events may occur throughout the process, you will find the button in various sections.

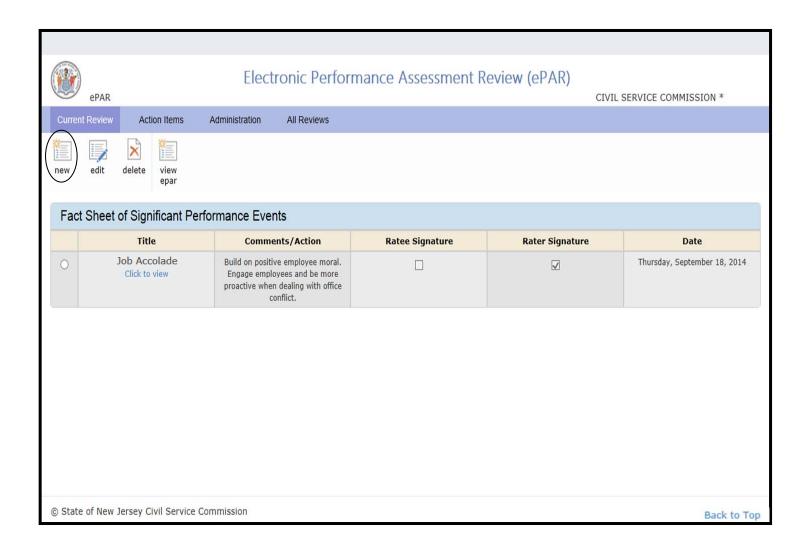
One may click on the name from the Dashboard to access the significant events button.



Rater

Tools - Significant Events

Click **New** to add a Significant Event.

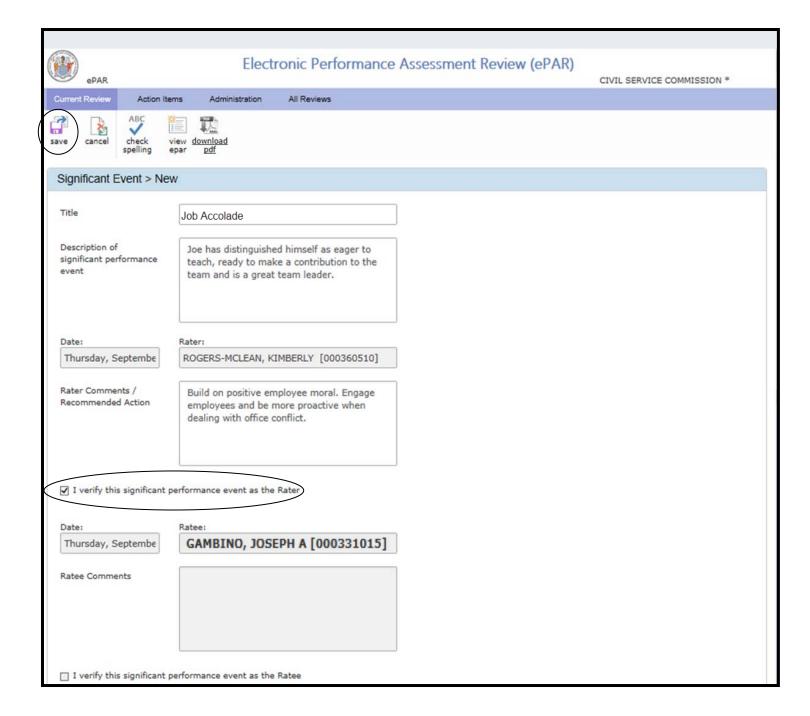


Tools - Significant Events

The Ratee's and Rater's information will be displayed automatically.

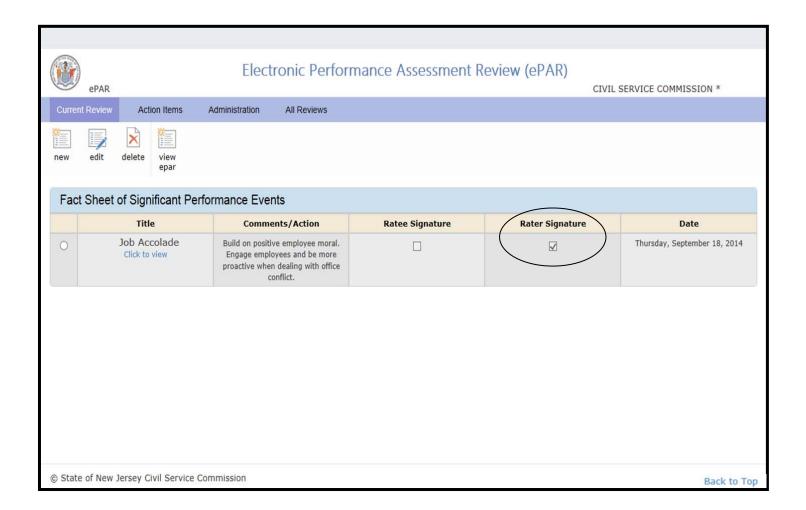
Click in the **Title** box to name a significant event and begin entering information. Once completed – check the box "I verify this significant performance event as the Rater".

Click Save and you will return to Fact Sheet of Significant Performance Events.



Tools - Significant Events

Notice the Rater Signature box is checked. The Ratee receives a system-generated email indicating that a significant event has been added to their ePAR. This email will contain a link to the Significant Event.



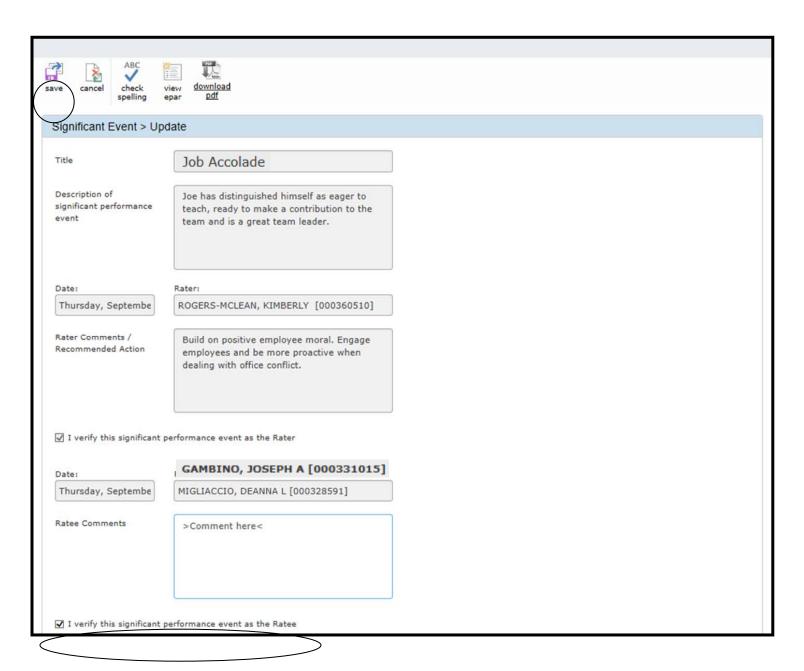
Ratee

Tools - Significant Events

Upon reviewing the Significant Event, Ratee must add a comment because it is a required field.

Ratee should then check the verification box located at the botton of the screen. Next, click "Save" at the top of the page. This will return the Ratee to the prior screen, and the "Ratee Signature" box will be checked.

Click on the State Seal or **Current Review** to return to Dashboard.

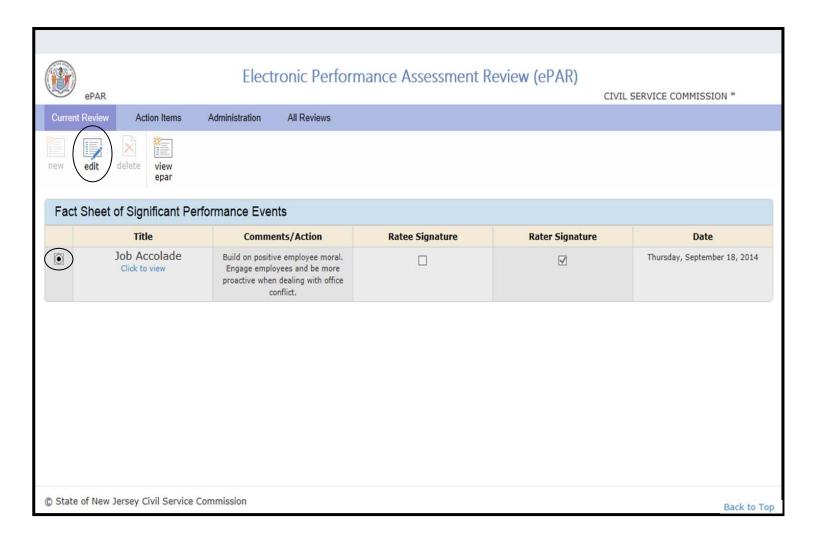


Tools - Significant Events

Edit may also be used to further comment on a Significant Event, click **edit** to view and comment on the Significant Event.

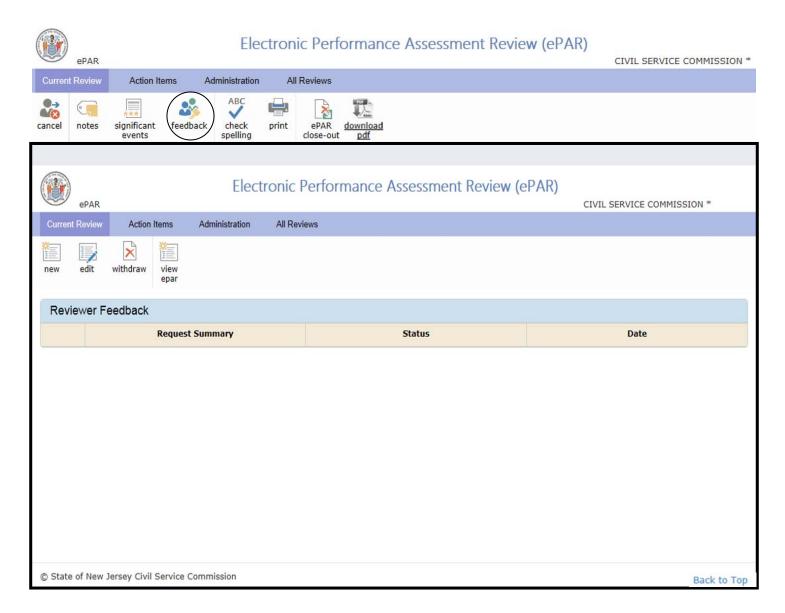
Edit allows Rater to make changes. To see the ePAR click "view epar" tab.

The "Click to view" hyperlink is just to view significant events. You will not be able to edit in this mode. To edit, click the button to select, then click edit.



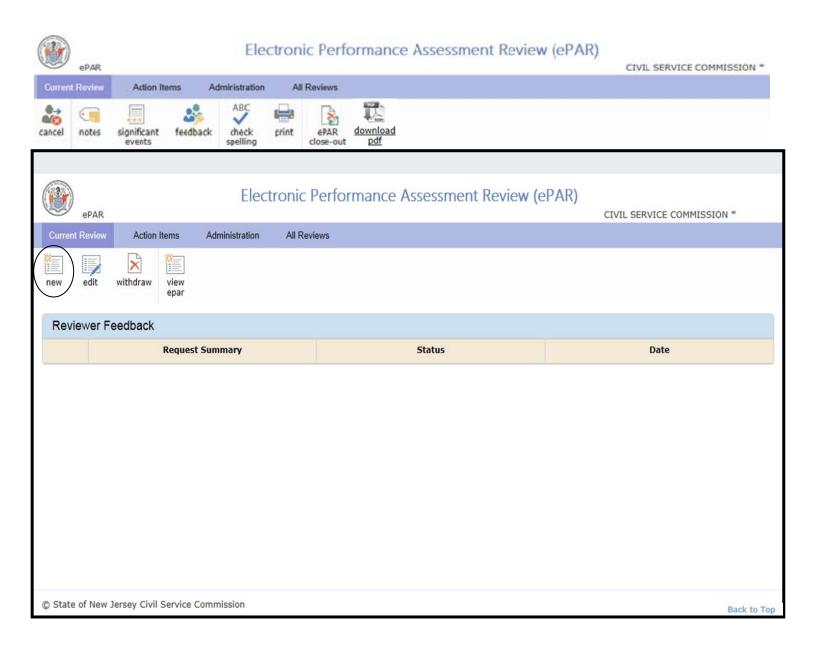


Feedback – Rater can request feedback from the Reviewer during all stages of the ePAR. This button sends the request to Reviewer and prompts him/her to view ePAR. If there are any issues, discrepancies or questions, the Feedback button should be used to discuss. The Reviewer's comments are confidential between Rater and Reviewer.



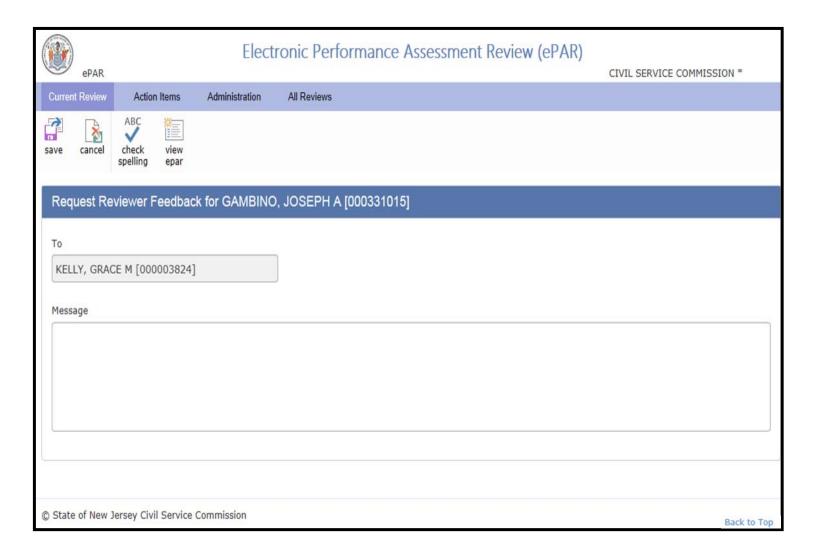
Tools - Feedback

Click "New" to open a new Request box.



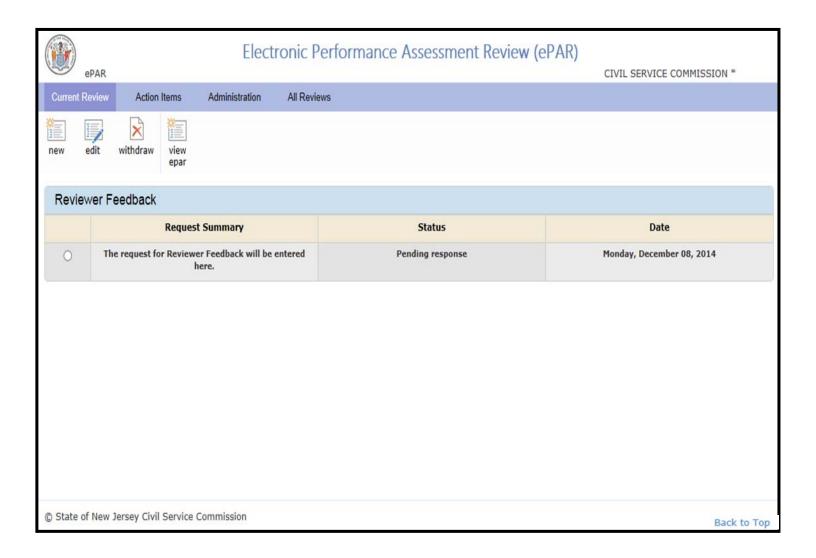
Rater

After clicking "New", the Request Reviewer Feedback page will appear and will allow the Rater to type in the request for feedback. The Rater can also view the ePAR for referencing.



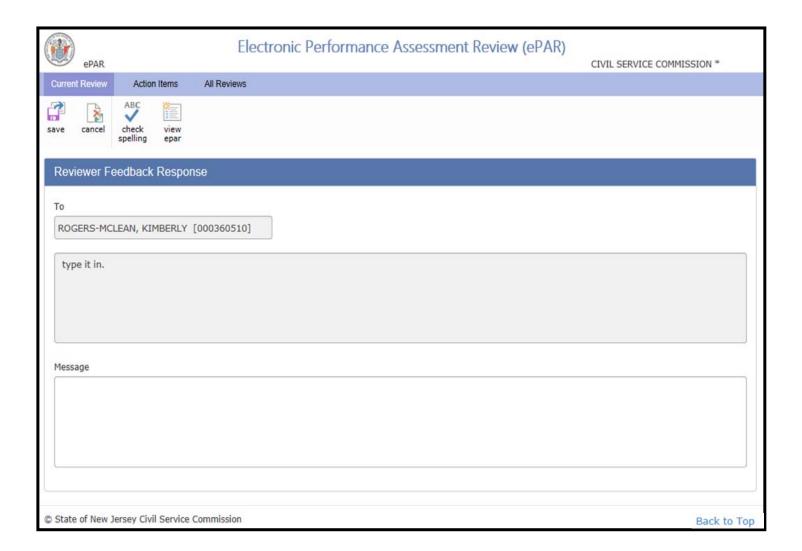


When the Rater is finished writing comments, click "Save" which automatically sends the request to the Reviewer.



Reviewer

The Reviewer can access the feedback page by either the dashboard or from the system-generated email. Once the Reviewer clicks open the request, the Reviewer Feedback Response page displays.



All Parties

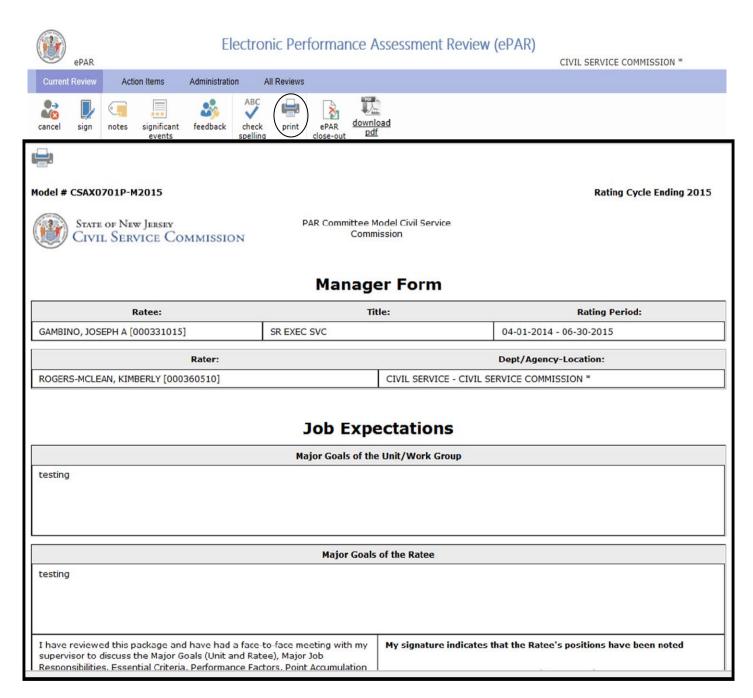
Tools - Print

Print gives the ability to print entire document or any individual section of the ePAR when the document is in **Shared** or **Complete** Status.

To print an ePAR, click the **Print** icon. The following preview page will display:

Select File/Print, or click the printer icon.

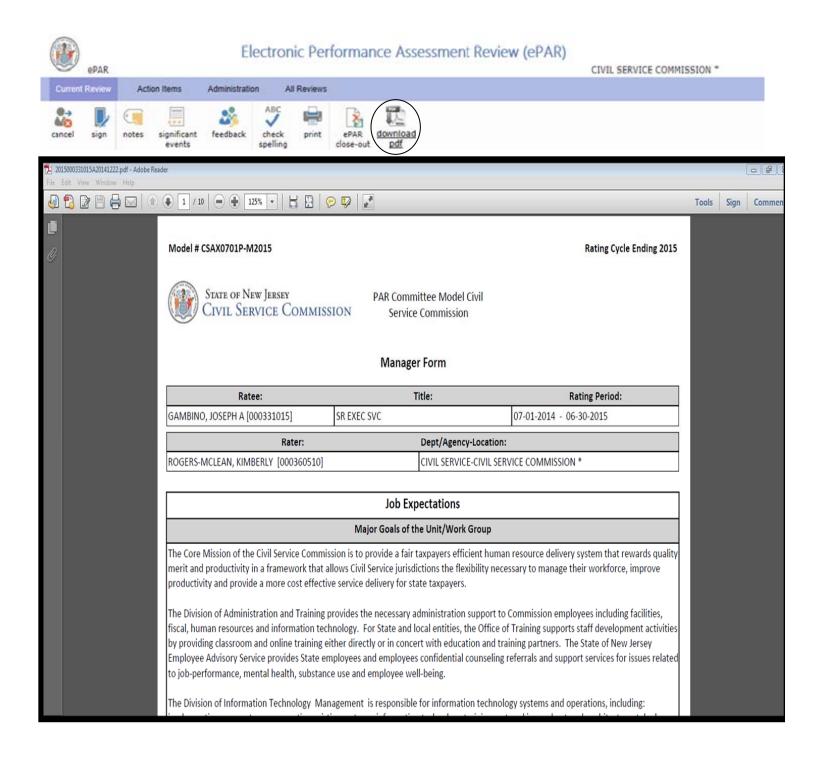
Select the appropriate printer, and click Print.



All Parties

Tools – Download PDF

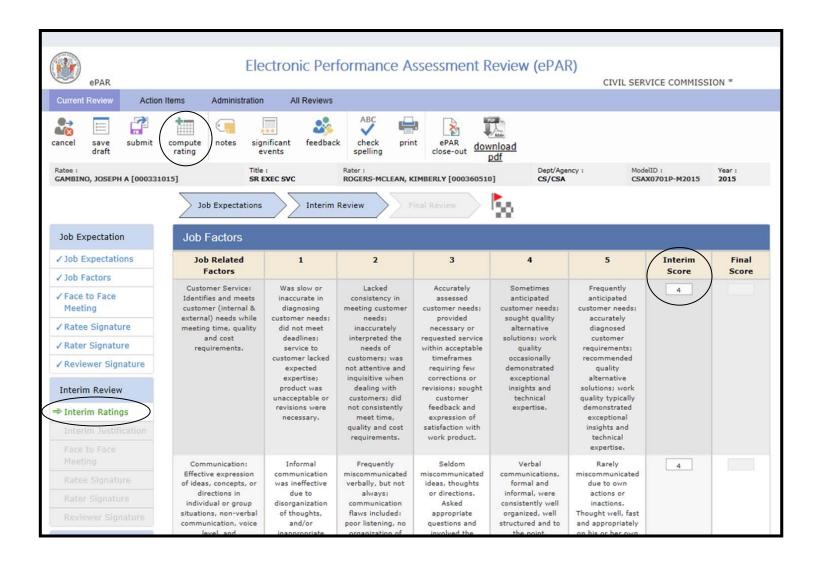
Ability to Download PDF version of the form – The PDF icon appears throughout the screens and allows all parties to download the form at any stage. The download is of the complete form regardless of whether that part of the process is complete.



Rater

Interim Review occurs six months into the rating cycle. The purpose of the Interim Review is to provide the ratee an indication of their work performance and progress for the first six months of the cycle.

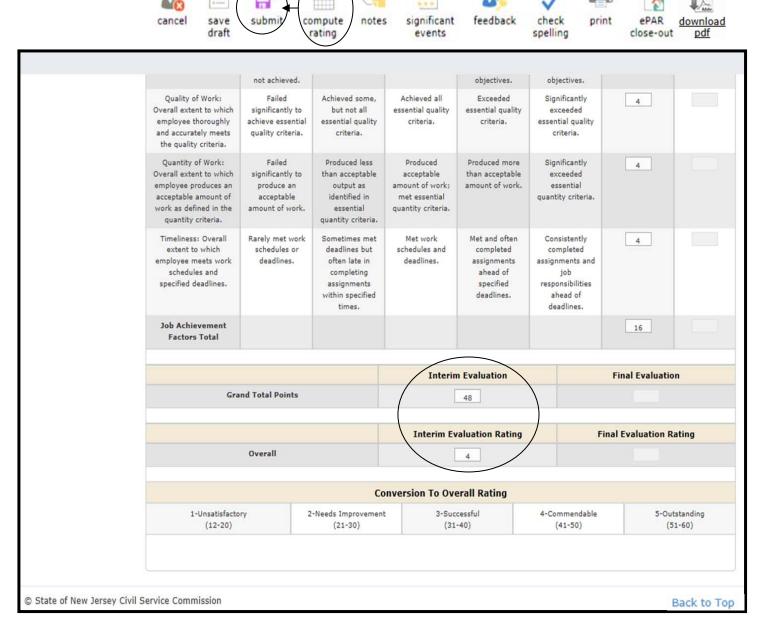
To begin the Interim Review, click Interim Ratings on the side bar, then enter numerical ratings for each Job Factor.



Rater

Once complete, click the **Compute Rating** tab at the top of the page. The **Compute Rating** button calculates performance factor ratings to determine Interim & Final Evaluations. The Interim Evaluation information will auto-sum once the numerical ratings are entered.

After computing the Rating, click "**submit**" to proceed to the Justification and Development section. Selecting submit after Computer Ratings does NOT send the notification to all parties. It merely proceeds to the next step of the process, Justification and Development Plan.



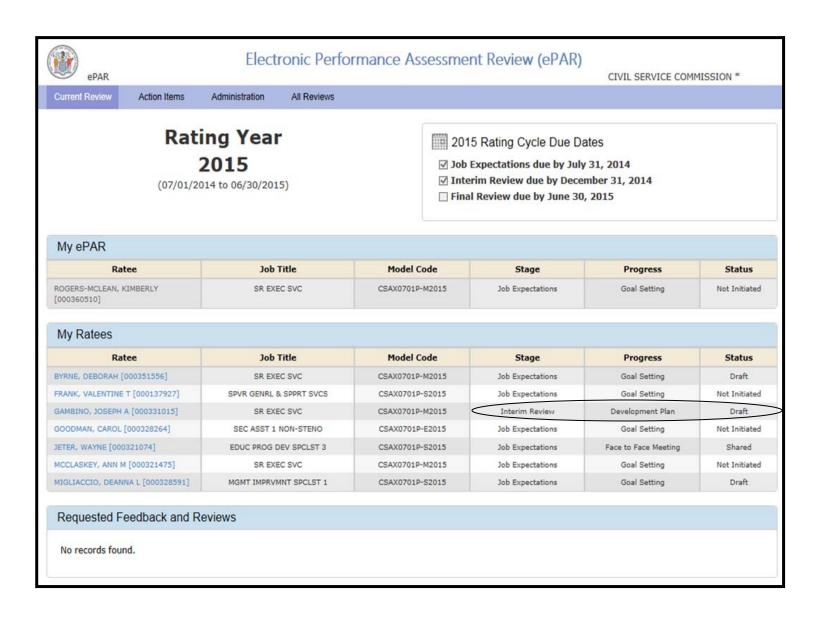
Note: To find the compute tab, click "back to top" button

ABC

Rater's Dashboard

After hitting **submit**, the Rater's dashboard will appear and you will see the **Development Plan** in the Progress bar, the Status will be in **Draft**.

Click on the name to go back into the Ratee's ePAR to do the Justification and Development Plan.



Rater

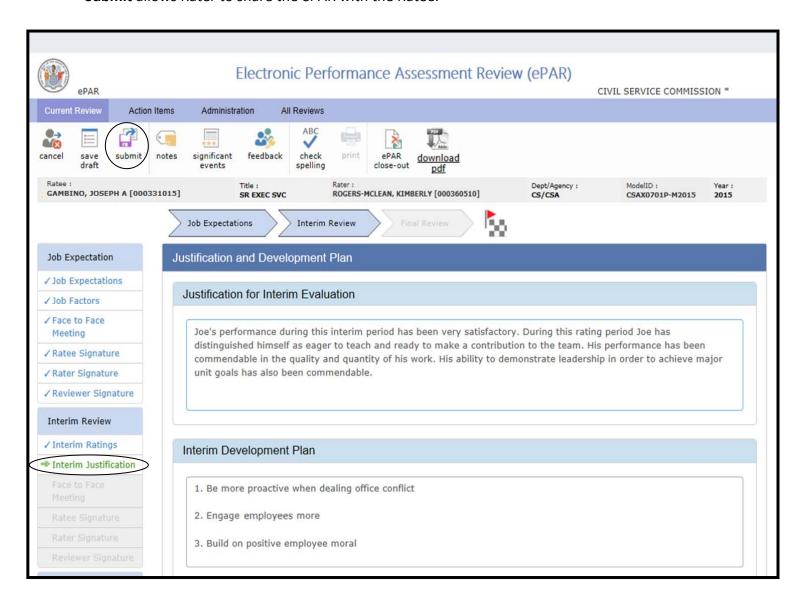
The next step of the process is to complete a written justification of the rating. Rater will enter a written Interim Justification and Development Plan by typing in the box. These fields are required.

Rater may also request Reviewer feedback by clicking on Feedback.

After completing the Justification and Development Plan, Rater may hit Save Draft or Submit.

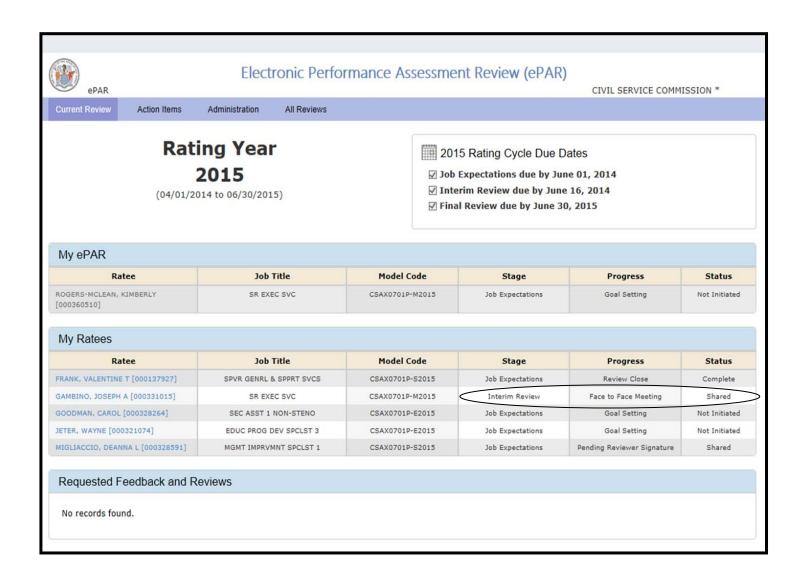
Save Draft allows Rater to save an incomplete ePAR without sending it to any other parties. If desired, Rater may request feedback from Reviewer prior to submitting to Ratee.

Submit allows Rater to share the ePAR with the Ratee.



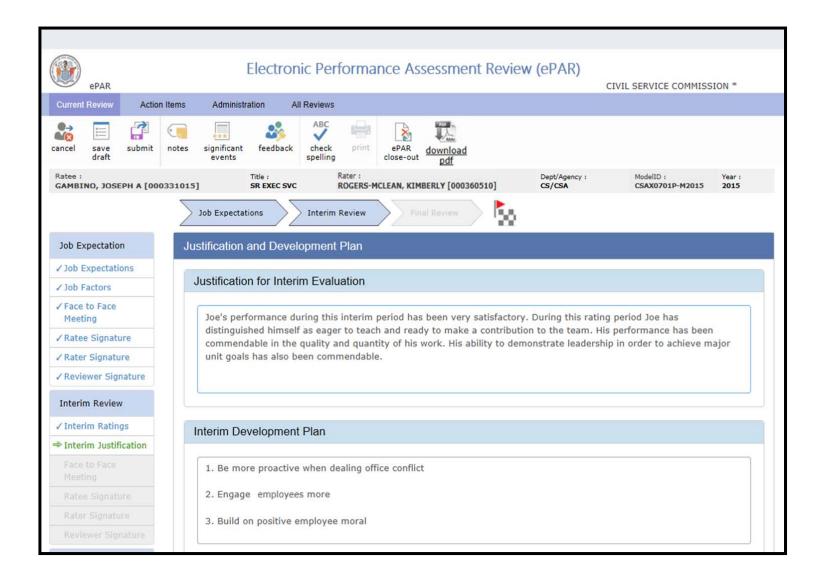
Rater's Dashboard

After clicking **Submit,** Rater will be returned to the Dashboard. Face to Face meeting is identified in the Progress bar and should be scheduled off line.





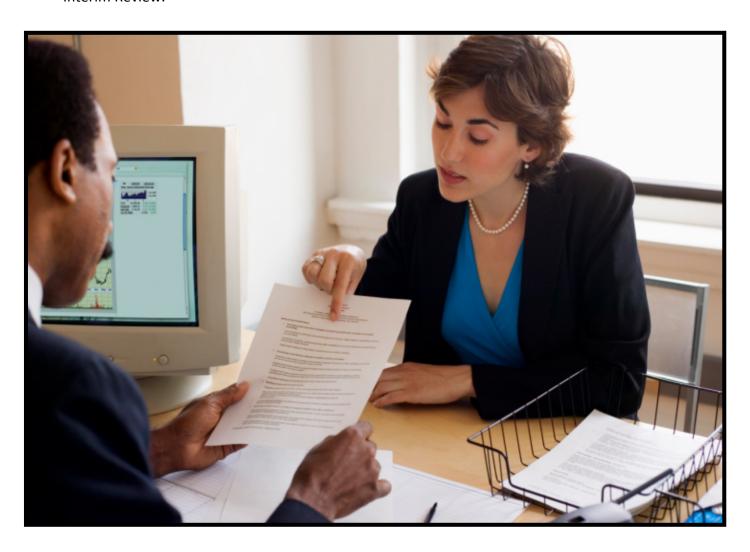
Ratee will receive a system generated e-mail and be prompted to review the Interim Ratings, Justification and Development Plan.



Ratee & Rater

Interim Review

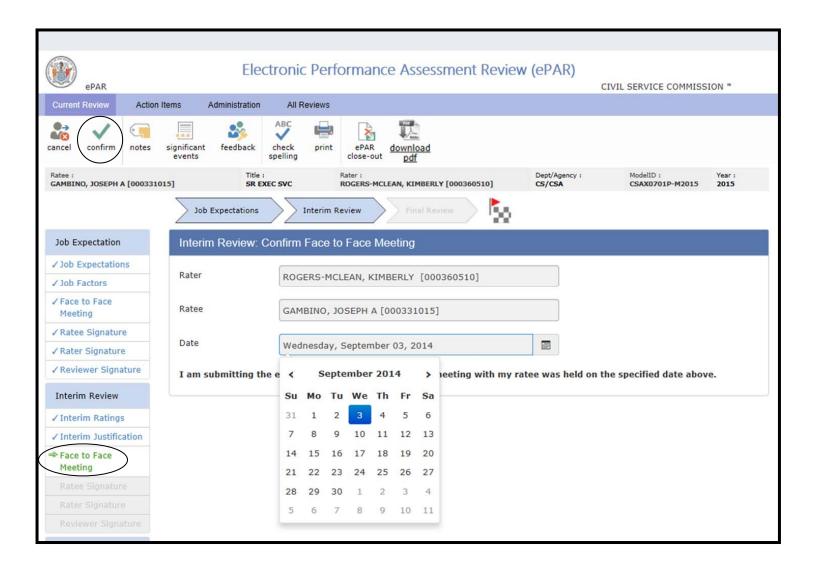
The Face to Face meeting must be scheduled off line. Utilize email, Outlook or other tools to schedule the meeting. This meeting is the opportunity for the Rater and Ratee to discuss the Interim Review.



Rater

Once the Face to Face meeting is held, the Rater will **Confirm** the Interim Face to Face Meeting.

Note: No changes may be made in the ePAR once it is signed.



Ratee

Interim Review

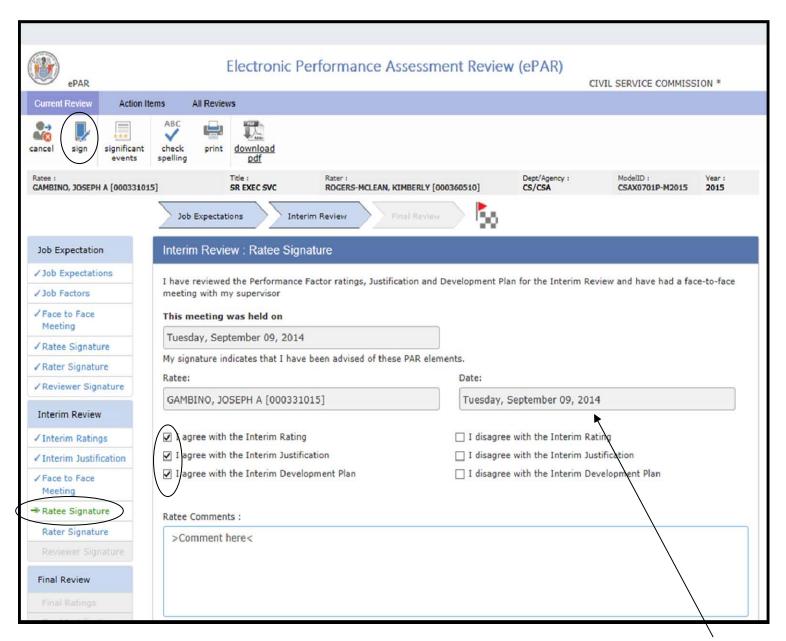
After selecting their own name from the Dashboard, the Ratee's First and Last Name will display in the Ratee Signature box.

Check the **Agree or Disagree** box for the Interim Rating, Justification, and Development Plan.

Add **Ratee comments** if desired. **Comments** are part of the official record and allow any and all parties to provide feedback. Expand comments section if necessary.

Click **Sign** to initiate electronic signature acknowledging elements of the ePAR. Rater receives a system-generated e-mail indicating ePAR is ready for review and signature.

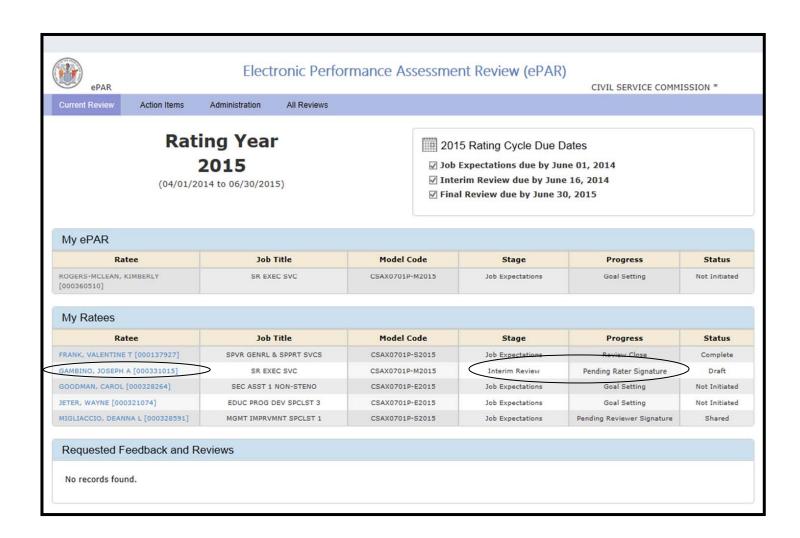
Reminder: No changes can be made to the document once the Ratee signs it.



System will display current date.

Interim Review

Select Ratee's name from the Dashboard.

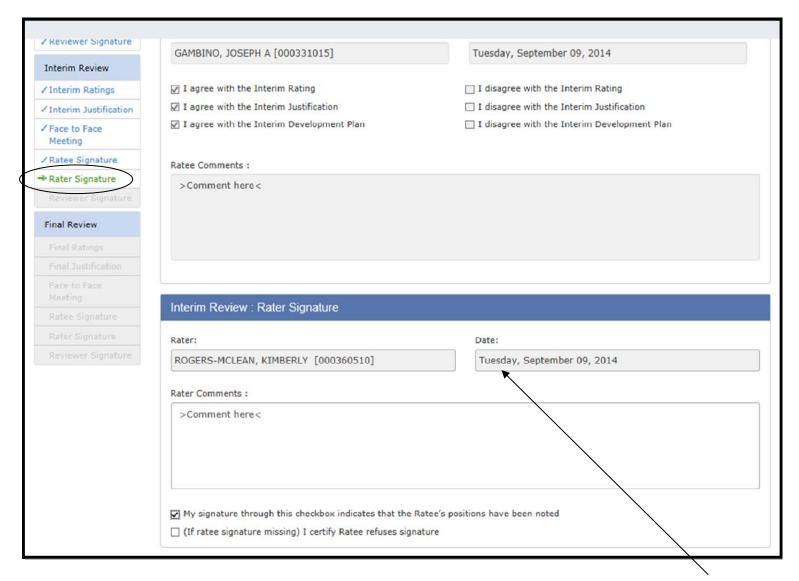


Rater

Add **Rater comments** if desired. **Comments** are part of the official record and allow any and all parties to provide feedback. Expand comments section if necessary.

Check the box acknowledging Ratee's comments are noted.

Scroll to the top of the screen and click, **Sign.** A system-generated e-mail is sent to the Ratee and Reviewer indicating the ePAR is ready for review and signature.



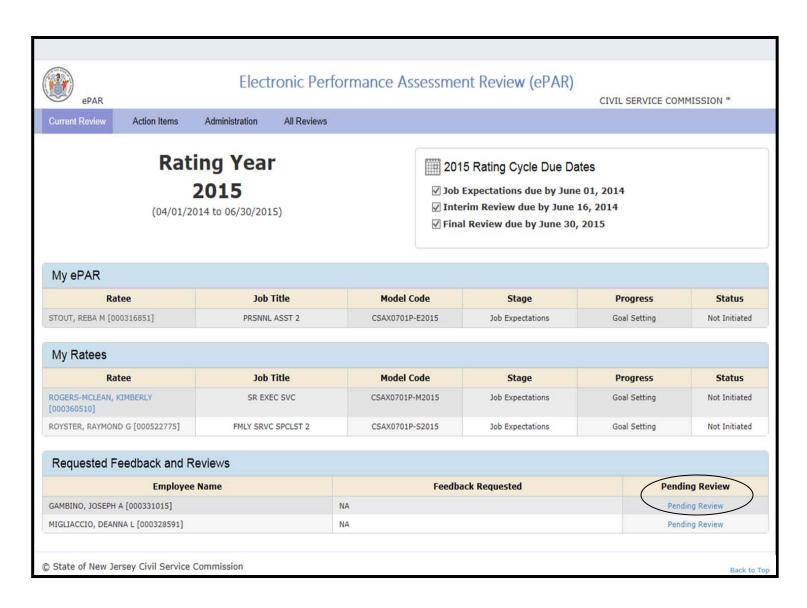
System will display current date.

Reviewer's Dashboard

Interim Review

As stated, the Reviewer signature is the final step or process.

From the dashboard, select the **employee** by clicking on **Pending Review** in the **Requested Feedback and Reviews** section.



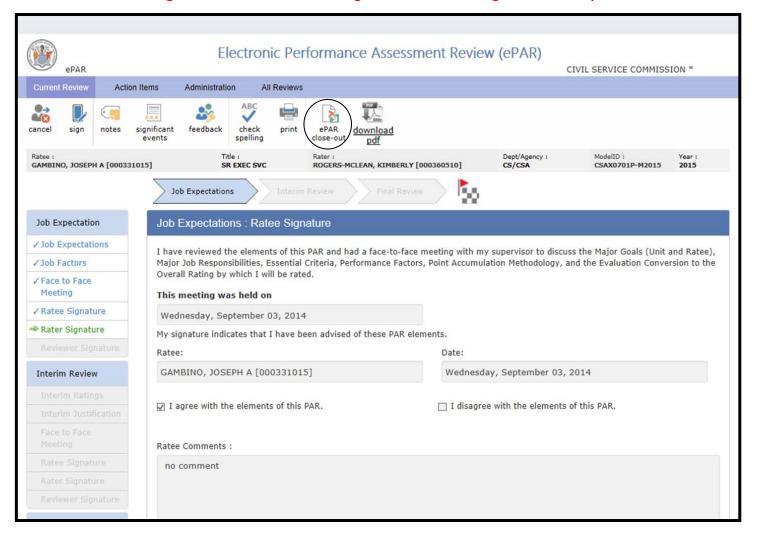
ePAR Close-out

The ePAR Close-out is used to finalize an ePAR when:

- 1) an ePAR is done in error (Invalid ePAR)
- 2) when an employee title changes (Title Change)
- 3) when reporting relationships change (Agency Change, Supervisor Change, or Separation)

The Rater is responsible for completing the ePAR Close-out.

Warning: The ePAR Close-out Ratings do not allow for signatures of all parties.

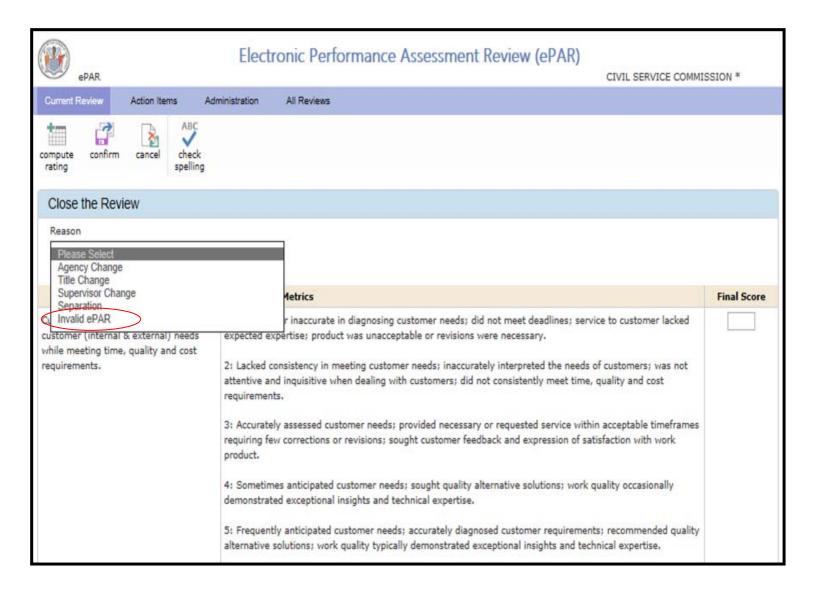


ePAR Close-out

Rater

Using ePAR close-out for an **Invalid ePAR** is done when the ePAR was created in error. For example; an employee was assigned to the wrong supervisor, or an employee leaves very quickly during the process. The invalid ePAR deletes the ePAR record from the system.

Click the ePAR drop down close-out menu and select "Invalid ePAR".

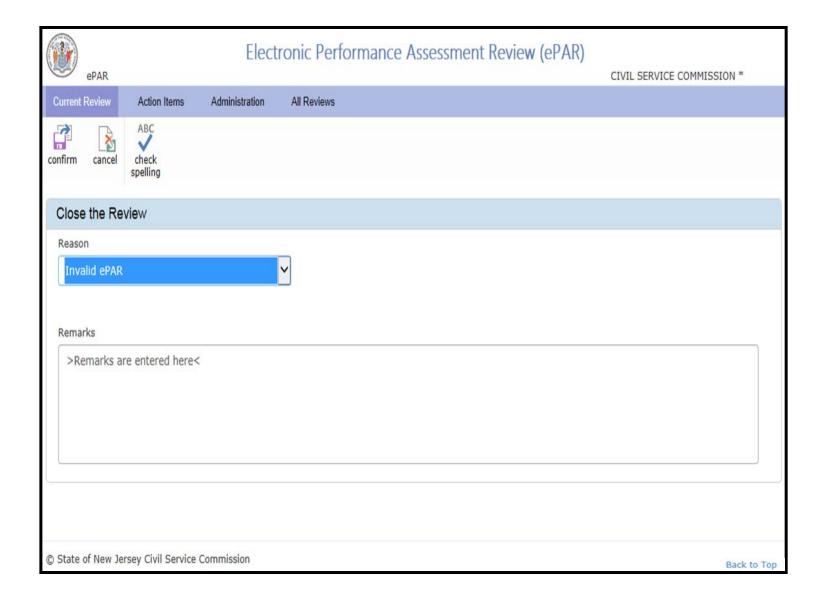


ePAR Close-out

Rater

When using Invalid ePAR, information is required in the Remarks section.

Once complete, select **confirm**. Another window will display confirming the transaction again.

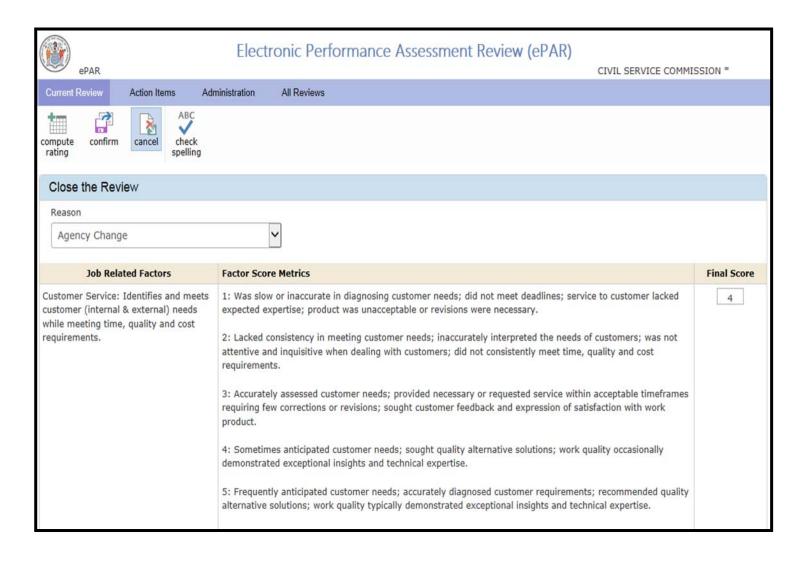


ePAR Close-out

Supervisor Change, Title Change, Agency Change or Separation

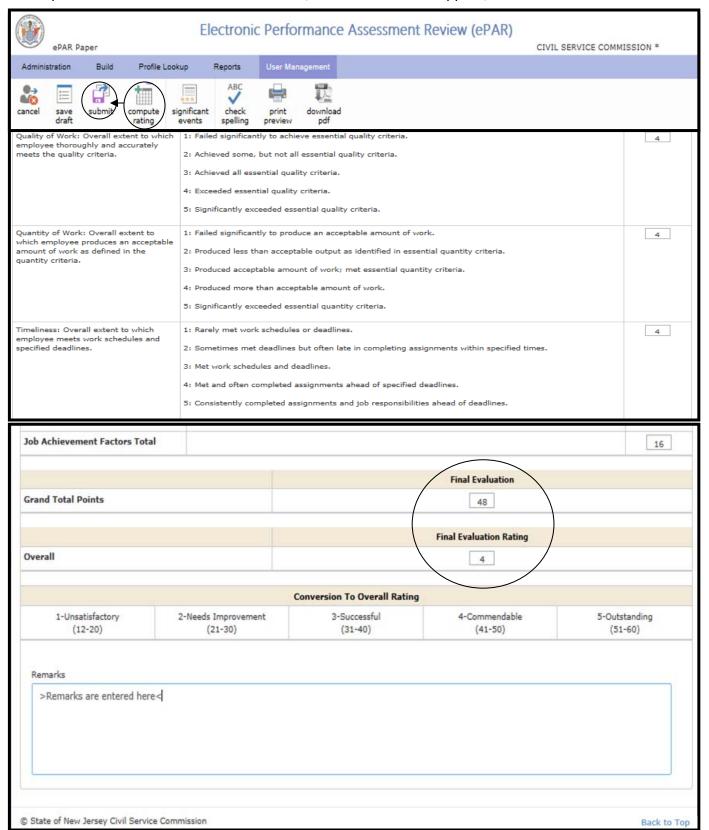
Please note the ePAR close-out in the system is designed to <u>close-out the record</u>. To effectively utilize the ePAR Close-out, the **Rater should complete the Interim and/or Final Review prior to the using the ePAR close-out** (regardless of timing) in order to get the appropriate signatures.

Remember, there are no signatures required for close-out. Wherever possible and for all cases except "Invalid ePAR" always combine use of the close-out ePAR with the Interim or Final Review to secure signatures.



ePAR Close-out

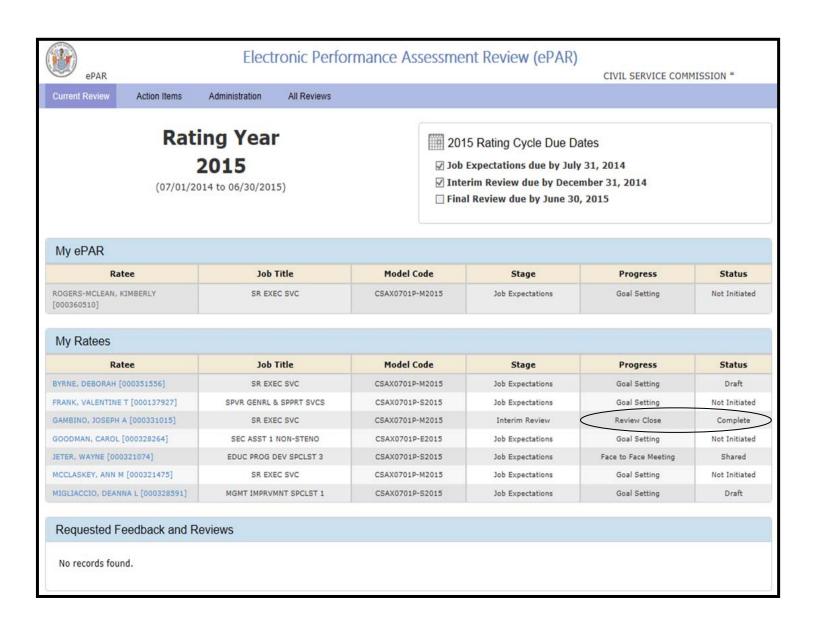
Once you complete the Ratings, go back to the top of the page and click **Compute.** Remarks are required in a ePAR close-out. Click **Submit**, a confirmation will appear, click **Yes**.



Rater's Dashboard

ePAR Close-out

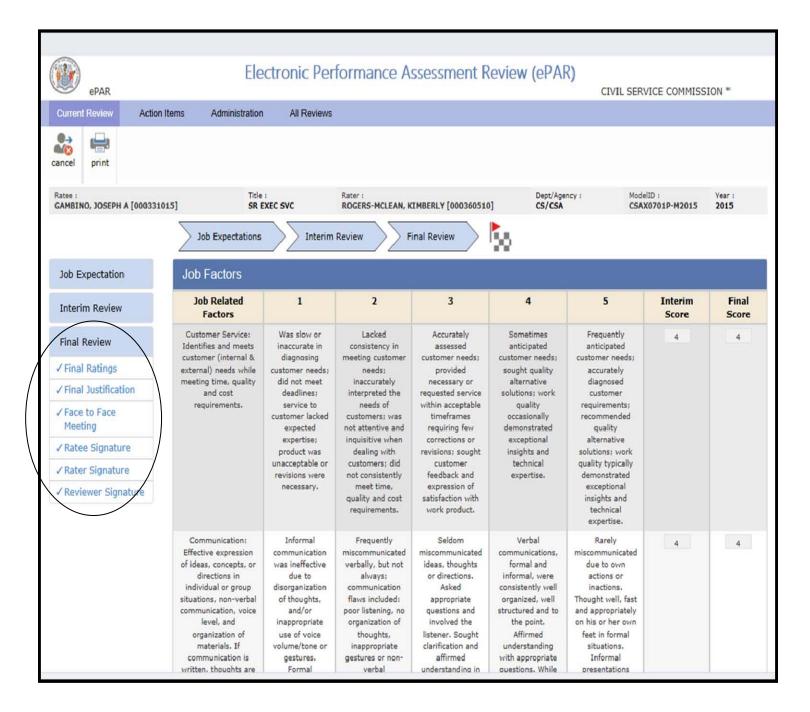
Rater's dashboard updates. Progress changes to "Review Close." Status will update to "Complete." The employee will remain on the dashboard until the next rating cycle.



Final Review

Final Review - occurs at the end of the rating cycle and is an evaluation of overall performance for the entire rating cycle. The Final Review rating is recorded in the employee's record and is the rating that triggers or supports other personnel actions associated with the PAR.

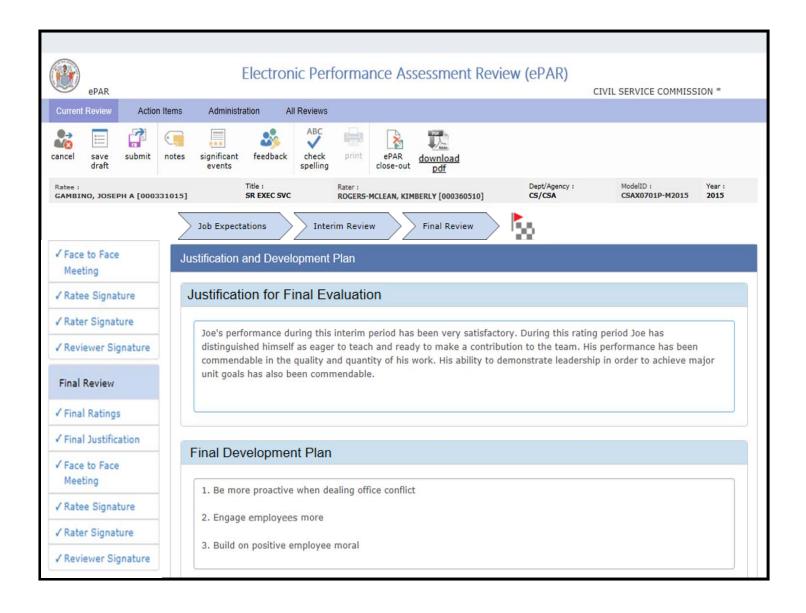
Repeat Interim process for the Final Review.





Final Review

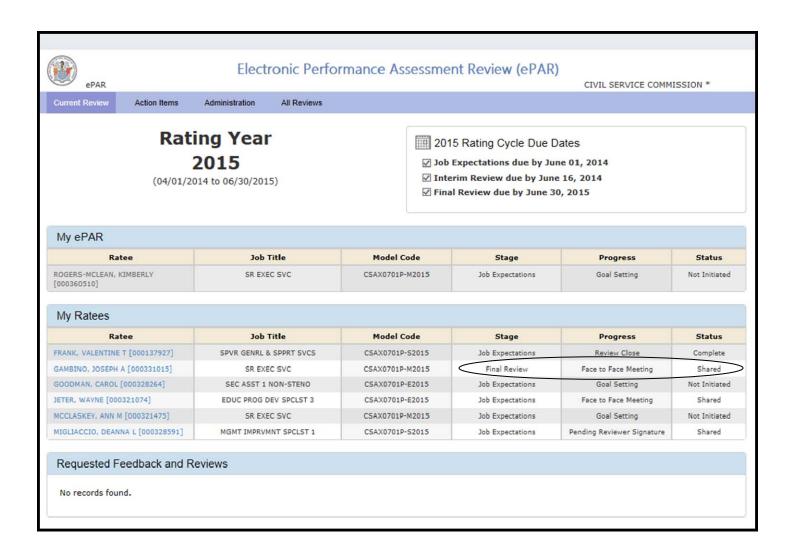
Reminder: Once complete, hit **Submit** to allow Ratee to review the Final review.



Rater's Dashboard

Final Review

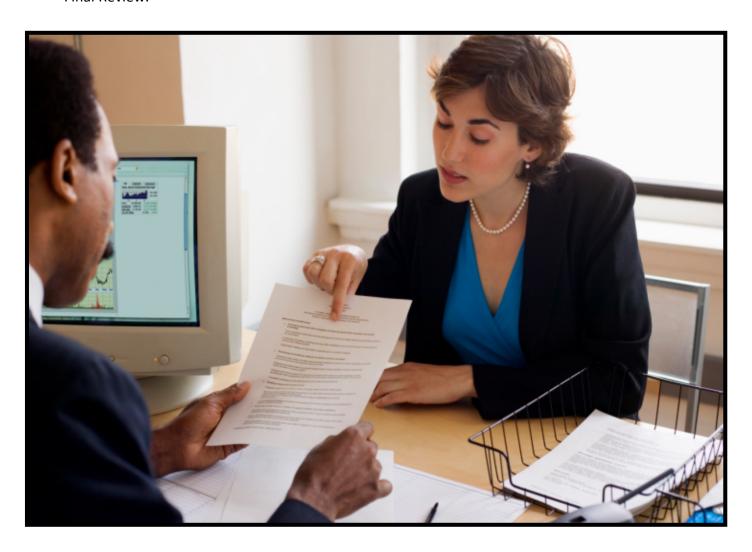
After clicking **Submit,** Rater will be returned to Dashboard. Face to Face meeting is identified in the Progress bar.



Ratee & Rater

Final Review

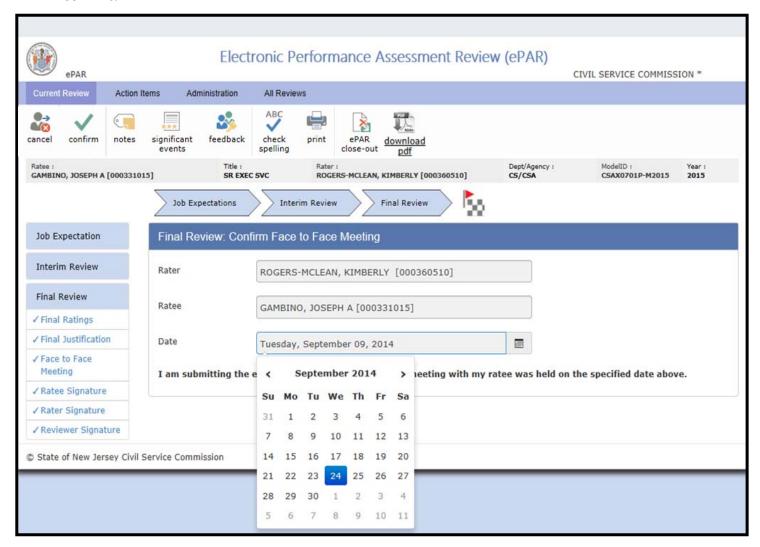
The Face to Face meeting must be scheduled off line. Utilize email, Outlook or other tools to schedule the meeting. This meeting is the opportunity for the Rater and Ratee to discuss the Final Review.



Final Review

Once the Face to Face meeting is held, the Rater will **Confirm** the Final Face to Face Meeting.

Note: Once Ratee signs ePAR, it cannot be changed. Do not hit submit unless you are ready to commit!



Ratee

Final Review

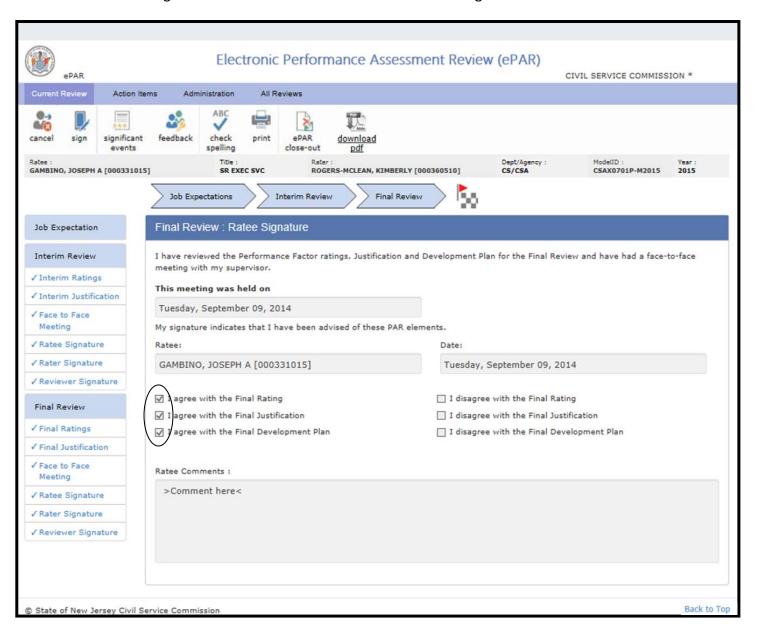
After selecting their own name from the Dashboard, the Ratee's First and Last Name will display in the Ratee Signature box.

Check the **Agree or Disagree** box for the Final Rating, Justification, and Development Plan.

Add **Ratee comments** if desired. **Comments** are part of the official record and allow any and all parties to provide feedback. Expand comments section if necessary.

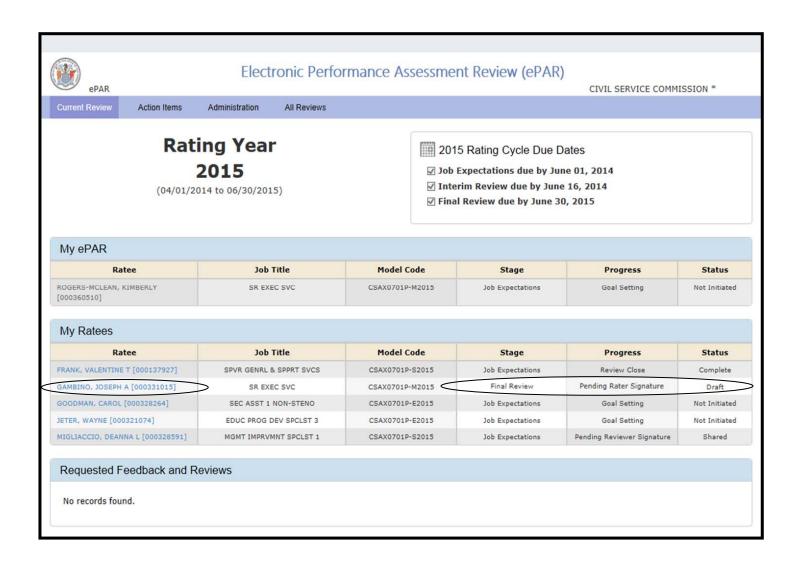
Click **Sign** to initiate electronic signature acknowledging elements of the ePAR. Rater receives a system-generated e-mail indicating ePAR is ready for review and signature.

Reminder: No changes can be made to the document once Ratee signs it.



Final Review

Select Ratee's name from the Dashboard by clicking on it.



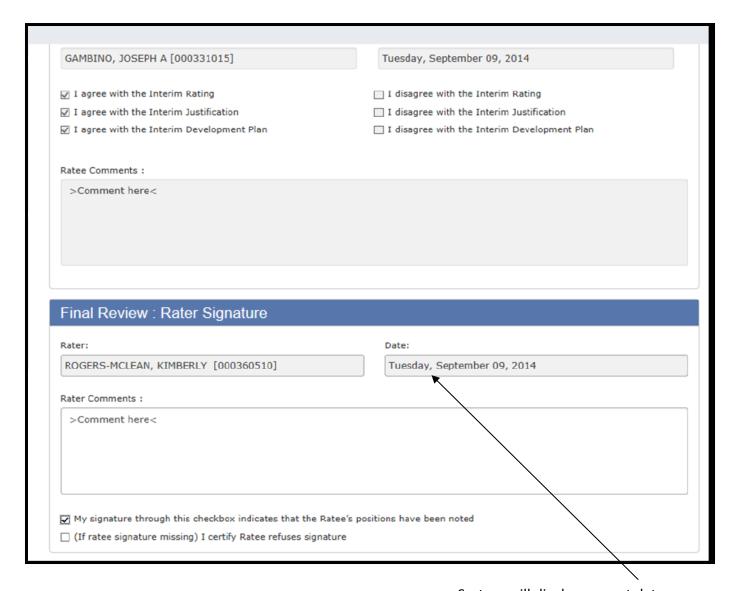
Final Review

Rater

Add **Rater comments** if desired. **Comments** are part of the official record and allow any and all parties to provide feedback. Expand comments section if necessary.

Check the box acknowledging Ratee's comments are noted.

Click **Sign.** A system-generated e-mail is sent to the Ratee and Reviewer indicating the ePAR is ready for review and signature.



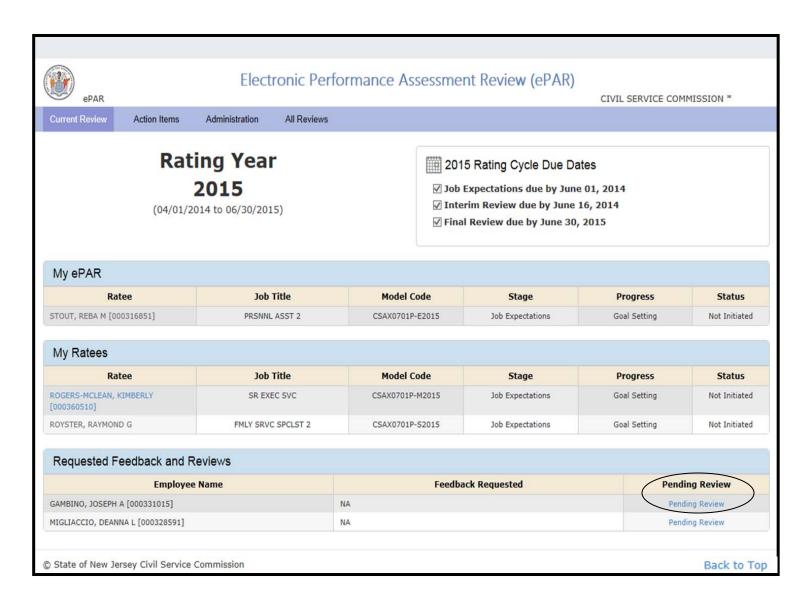
System will display current date.

Reviewer's Dashboard

Final Review

As stated, the Reviewer signature is the final step or process.

From the dashboard, select the **employee** by clicking on **Pending Review** in the **Requested Feedback and Reviews** section.



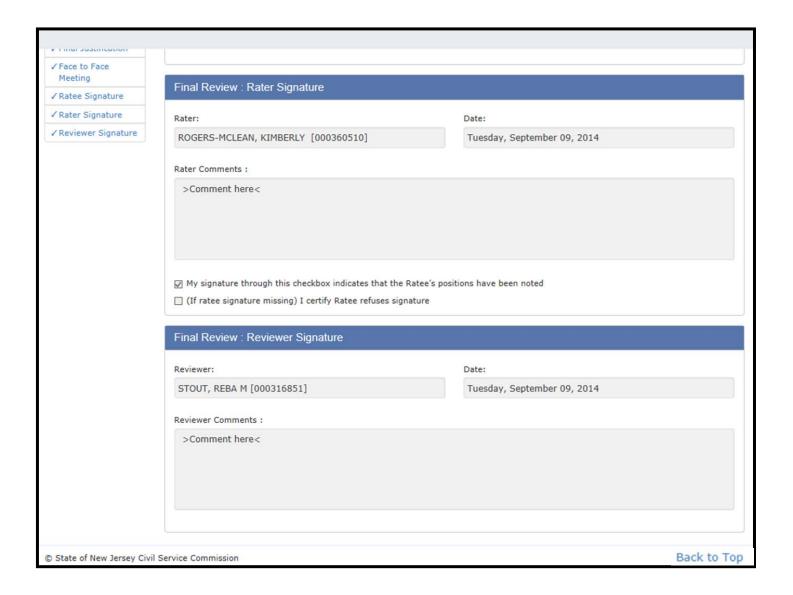


Final Review

Reviewer's First and Last Name will display in the Reviewer Signature box for subject Ratee.

Add Reviewer comments, if necessary. **Comments** are part of the official record and allow any and all parties to provide feedback. Expand comments section if necessary.

Click **Sign.** A system-generated e-mail is sent to the Ratee and Rater indicating the ePAR has been reviewed and signed.



General Definitions

Defining Participants in the ePAR Process

- Ratee -The employee receiving the evaluation is the Ratee. Everyone is a Ratee. This
 person is the focus of the assessment. As in any other communication process, there
 must be an exchange of ideas in the PAR process. Both the Ratee and the Rater are
 responsible for working together in the development of job expectations and the
 provision of open and honest feedback about job expectations, the interim and final
 assessments and the development plan.
- Rater- The immediate supervisor of the Ratee is the Rater. Immediate supervisor is the
 person who receives and/or dispenses the work. The Rater has the responsibility of
 conducting the performance assessment and giving open and honest feedback to the
 Ratee about performance throughout the rating cycle. In the ePAR process, the Rater
 role has primary responsibility of controlling and informing the other roles about their
 responsibilities. All parts of the process begin with the Rater.
- Reviewer-The Rater's supervisor (or manager) who is responsible for ensuring appropriate administration of the PAR Process is the Reviewer. Reviewers are also responsible for setting goals and expectations for the organization, unit or division. The Reviewer is strongly encouraged to take an active role in all parts of the PAR process. This may include managing performance management meetings and conflict resolution meetings. It is highly recommended that Raters meet with or provide feedback to Reviewers prior to conducting interim or final assessment meetings with their Ratees.

ePAR Process

Job Expectations – when the employee and supervisor establish the major goals, job responsibilities and essential criteria for the position.

Interim Review - occurs six months into the rating cycle. The purpose of the Interim Review is to provide the ratee an indication of their work performance and progress for the first six months of the cycle.

Final Review - occurs at the end of the rating cycle and is an evaluation of overall performance for the entire rating cycle. The Final Review rating is recorded in the employee's record and is the rating that triggers or supports the other personnel actions associated with the PAR.

General Definitions

Other elements of the ePAR Process

Comments – are part of the official record and allow any and all parties to provide feedback.

Significant Events – The Significant Events screen is used to records any noteworthy event, positive or negative, that occurs throughout the rating cycle.

ePAR Process Buttons

Stage – Defines the part of the ePAR process due.

Progress – Details the elements of the Stage process pending in ePAR. For example, one might see in the Job Expectations section – Goal Setting, Face-to-Face Meeting, and Pending Ratee Signature.

Status – Defines what has happened in the Stage section. For example, *Initiated* - Progress has begun in ePAR; *Not Initiated* – nothing has begun; *Draft*- items are being worked on; *Shared* – ePAR sent to others for review; *Complete* - when all parties have signed off.

Explanation of Ribbon Buttons

Action Items – Displays items that require attention – It displays title of action, message, action triggers and the creation date.

All Reviews – Displays ePAR reviews for self and employees in reporting lines.

Cancel –Does not save changes made.

Check Spelling - Checks for spelling errors.

Compute Rating – Calculates performance factor ratings to determine Interim & Final evaluation.

Confirm – After the Face-to-Face meeting, the button finalizes job responsibilities assigned.

General Definitions

Explanation of Ribbon Buttons (continued)

Current Review – Displays Dashboard that includes information as current rating cycle, important dates, current ePAR for both self and employees, and requested feedback and reviews.

Edit – Allows Rater make changes to the ePAR and also allows modification to any notes, significant events, Job Expectations, etc. in ePAR.

ePAR Close-out – The button is used to complete a "closeout" ePAR Review which occurs under certain conditions. The conditions include when the supervisor changes for a unit or when the employee changes supervisors without any title or appointing authority changes. The former supervisor would complete the closeout.

Feedback – Rater can request feedback from the Reviewer during all stages of the ePAR. This button sends the request to Reviewer and prompts him/her to view ePAR. If there are any issues, discrepancies or questions, the Feedback button should be used to discuss. The Reviewer's comments are confidential between Rater and Reviewer.

New – Initiates any new action including a new job responsibility, significant event, notes, etc.

Notes – Appears only on the Rater's screen and allows one to keep track of notes during the rating cycle. Rater's notes are not part of the ePAR record and deletes automatically at the end of the cycle.

Print – Gives ability to print entire document or any individual section of the ePAR; may print when the document is in **Shared** or **Complete** Status. All parties have the ability to print.

Save Draft – Allows Rater to save an incomplete ePAR without sending it to any other parties. If desired, Rater may request feedback from Reviewer without notifying Ratee.

Sign – Initiates electronic signature acknowledging elements of the ePAR.

Submit – Allows Rater to share the ePAR and forward to all parties including human resources.

View ePAR – Allows parties to see ePAR up as of most recent completed stage.

Withdraw – Used in the Feedback section to allow the Rater to recall a request for feedback.

ePAR Troubleshooting/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. Why isn't there an ePAR icon on myNJ portal page?

- **A.** Check all accounts. You may have more than one.
- **B**. Follow the instructions on the link below for self-registration. If you need assistance with regard to the employee idenitification number (EID), please check your pay stub, eCATS or ask your HR representative.

Self-Registration link:

https://wwwnet1.state.nj.us/NJ/NJ ePAR Reg/SelfRegistration.aspx

Q. Why am I getting an error message when trying to save ePAR Job Expectations?

- **A.** There are three reasons that may impact your ability to save in ePAR?
- 1. Timing issue: There are three distinct timeout scenarios for ePAR:
 - a. Thirty (30) minutes of inactivity times a user out of myNJ.
 - b. Two (2) hours maximum myNJ session then a user is timed out of myNJ.
 - c. Two (2) hour maximum session with ePAR and any other proxy'd application.
- 2. Role Issue: Currently in order to successfully utilize the ePAR system, all three roles of Ratee, Rater & Reviewer must be populated. If any one of the roles is blank, an ePAR cannot be done. The ePAR system will not let one move forward unless all three roles (ratee, rater and reviewer) are populated. Please contact the agency PAR Coordinator to ensure all roles are completed.
- 3. <u>Orphan issue:</u> When saving a draft ePAR, information has to be entered into related sections before the document can be saved successfully. For example, **Major Goals of the Agency** and **Major Goals of the** Ratee are related fields. Both fields require text before the document can be saved (at least one character). In other words, you cannot leave one of the two related fields "orphaned". Another example of related fields are Job **Responsibility 1** and **Essential Criteria 1**. If one section is started, the second related field also needs text to satisfy

the Save Draft command. It doesn't need to be complete, only a minimum of one character is required.

Q. Can changes be made to the Job Expectations of the ePAR after it is submitted?

A. Yes. As a rater, the first submission allows the Ratee to preview the ePAR before the Face to Face Meeting is held for purposes of the discussion. The rater can click the Edit button in order to make any necessary changes. However, once it is signed by Ratee, no changes may be made.

Q. Can changes be made to the Job Expectations of the ePAR after it is signed?

A. No, once it is signed by Rater or Ratee, no changes can be made. Raters can use the Significant Event Sheet to document amendments.

Q. How do I handle issues related to not receiving an email?

A. Ask your PAR Coordinator to check your user management profile to see if the email box is checked.

If checked, compare the accuracy of the email with NJ Direct.

*Some agencies are transitioning to Microsoft 365. The ePAR conversion is occurring before new mail addresses are assigned. If problem persists, contact ePAR Help.

Q. Why am I having issues with Internet Explorer (IE) 11? It is a higher browser version.

A. Contact your IT Offices to make sure they have pushed out policy settings to all IE 11 workstations to trust all state.nj.us hosts (possibly via a registry setting) or allow users to manually tell IE to trust the ePAR site.

Instructions:

go to Tools -> Internet Options -> Security tab -> Trusted sites icon -> Sites button copy this address: https://portal042.state.nj.us and paste it into the "Add this website to the zone" box, and click Add click Close, Apply and OK

Q. I am getting an error messages when I try to save an ePAR. What is happening?

A. This may be a role issue. Currently in order to successfully utilize the ePAR system, all three roles of Ratee, Rater & Reviewer must be populated. If any one of the roles is blank, an ePAR cannot be done. The ePAR system will not let one move forward unless all three roles (ratee, rater and reviewer) are populated. Please contact your ePAR coordinator if you encounter this issue.

Q. I previously had ePAR access and now I am having trouble accessing the application. What should I do?

A. Have your ePAR Coordinator check your employee profile to ensure the Electronic Indicator and ePAR Access boxes are checked.

Q. I need further assistance. What do I do?

- **A.** Forward your issue to ePARHelp@csc.state.nj.us along with the following:
 - 1. Provide your name and employee identification number.
 - 2. Please provide the date & time you were accessing the application.
 - 3. What Operating System and Browser Version are you using? (call your IT Helpdesk if you don't know how to answer)
 - 4. Was the problem on a particular page, navigating across all pages, or performing an action? Please provide details.
 - 5. If you observe a particular issue or error please provide a screenshot and steps to reproduce the error if possible.

