

Florham Park School District



September 15, 2021

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

As per state and federal requirements, all New Jersey public schools will administer the Start Strong assessments to grades 4 through 8. Start Strong assessments are similar in design to the NJSLA with the exception that the assessments are much shorter and feature only multiple-choice questions. Tested subject areas are as follows:

Subject	Grade Level	Date	Duration of Test
Math	4th - 8th	Tuesday, October 5, 2021	60 Minutes
ELA	4th - 8th	Tuesday, October 5, 2021	60 Minutes
Science	6th ONLY	Wednesday, October 6, 2021	60 Minutes

The Start Strong assessment utilizes three performance levels (“Strong Support May Be Needed”; “Some Support May Be Needed”; and “Less Support May Be Needed”) to describe the level of support that a student might need to master the current year’s prerequisite skills and concepts. District reports will be available within 30 days of the close of the Start Strong testing window on October 22, 2021, and aggregate reports are expected to be available PearsonAccessnext (PAN) by the end of November. In late fall, districts will also receive paper copies of student ISRs that will be distributed to parents. **Please know that the district will not use Start Strong Testing as a means of grouping or placing students; test data will only be used to inform instruction and identify curriculum areas in need of remediation as a result of the pandemic.**

Students will complete their Start Strong assessments in person utilizing district Chromebooks. The testing platform will include all of the same accessibility features provided in NJSLA assessments; all students, including students with disabilities and ELLs who are not eligible for the DLM assessments, will be expected to participate in Start Strong just as all students and groups of students are ordinarily expected to participate in NJSLA.

Further information regarding Start Strong testing can be located at the following link:
<https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/startStrong/>

Sincerely,

Karen Ford
District Testing Coordinator

Brian Silkensen
Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction