

Start Strong: Fall 2021 Administrations

*Bedminster Township School
December 16, 2021*

**Support in
Identifying
Student Needs**

Start Strong Assessment Overview

Start Strong Fall 2021 assessments:

- Produced information to be used as a standards-based complement to the resources used by educators in their classrooms to evaluate the needs of students.
- Were administered quickly, in person, and provided immediate results.
- As determined by the U.S. Department of Education, the administration of Start Strong satisfied federal statewide assessment requirements to administer general assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science only for the 2020-2021 school year. The spring NJSLA schedule will resume for the 2021-2022 school year.

Start Strong Fall 2021 assessments do not:

- Replace local standards-based benchmark assessments districts may already have in place.
- Replace the spring 2022 New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) statewide summative assessments or are predictive of their results.

Start Strong Test Design

- Based on a **subset** of prioritized **prior-year** academic standards to provide a data point on the level of support a student may need to engage in grade-level content.
 - Example: Grade 5 ELA Start Strong assessment is aligned to a subset of the NJSLs for Grade 4 ELA.
 - Example: Algebra I Start Strong assessment is aligned to Grade 8 learning standards relevant to algebraic concepts.
- Used **released*** high-quality items from the NJSLA item bank
- Contained efficient question types to produce on-demand results for educators
- Could be administered in 45–60 minutes

*The test design, which allowed for shortened testing time and immediate results, means that Start Strong results *must be interpreted and used differently than NJSLA results*. They do not cover the breadth and depth of standards as seen on the NJSLA and do not support the same comparisons or inferences about student proficiency.*

Start Strong Grade And Content Alignment

Content Area	Grade/Course in SY 2021 - 2022	Content of the Assessment
English Language Arts (ELA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 4 • Grade 5 • Grade 6 • Grade 7 • Grade 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 3 • Grade 4 • Grade 5 • Grade 6 • Grade 7 • Grade 8
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 4 • Grade 5 • Grade 6 • Grade 7 • Grade 8 • Algebra 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 3 • Grade 4 • Grade 5 • Grade 6 • Grade 7 • Grade 8* • Algebra 1
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 3–5

*Students beginning Algebra I, Geometry, and/or Algebra II in the 2021–2022 school year may have taken different mathematics courses depending on their individual course pathways. The Start Strong Assessments for Algebra I and Geometry are based on the Grade 8 learning standards and, therefore, measure some of the same concepts. The Start Strong Assessment for Algebra 1 contains more items from the Grade 8 learning standards relevant to algebraic concepts, and the Start Strong Assessment for Geometry contains more items from the Grade 8 learning standards relevant to geometry concepts.

Start Strong Result Interpretation Considerations

- When publicly reporting assessment results, consider the impacts of COVID-19 on learning and testing conditions, as well as the impact on student participation in the assessments, which were administered in person.
- Districts **should not** compare any individual student/school/district Start Strong data to any state-level data for Start Strong, nor should comparisons be made to any NJSLA data*.
- Please note that the Start Strong assessments were **not** designed to predict future student performance on the NJSLA, nor was it designed to estimate what score a student would have received if they had taken the NJSLA in spring 2021.
- *Please refer to [pages 9-11 in the Interpretation Guide](#) for further information on this topic*

Start Strong Result Interpretation Considerations, Continued

Start Strong assessments provide a data point to support:

- District-level curriculum planning and revisiting prerequisite concepts and skills
- Evaluating scope and sequence based on distribution of student support needs
- Providing professional learning supports for differentiation and scaffolding based on student results, aligned to principles and practices outlined in the [NJDOE Learning Acceleration Guide](#)
- Using the Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for conversations between parents and educators on where their child might need support at the beginning of the school year

District And School Context That Impacted Start Strong Data

- The Department encourages districts to clearly and prominently provide information about the context of Start Strong data, including its limitations as a result of the pandemic or other factors.

- As always, assessment data should be analyzed alongside other important measures of student outcomes, like benchmark assessments, teacher-created formative assessments, and attendance data to provide a more complete perspective on resources, support, and student success.

EXEMPLAR:

Start Strong Fall 2021 School- & Grade-Level Outcomes English Language Arts Grade 5 – Support Levels

ELA	More Support Needed (Count)	More Support Needed (Percentage)	Some Support Needed (Count)	Some Support Needed (Percentage)	Less Support Needed (Count)	Less Support Needed (Percentage)
Grade 5	6	13%	11	23%	30	64%



Critical Data Considerations: Due to periods of individual and/or school quarantine during the testing window, test results from all grades may **not be representative of the student population**. Results are for reporting purposes only and should not be used to draw conclusions about student performance or for comparison purposes.

Bedminster Township Schools
Number of Students Tested
Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

English Language Arts	Students Tested	Mathematics	Students Tested	Science	Students Tested
ELA04	43	MAT04	43		
ELA05	47	MAT05	47		
ELA06	46	MAT06	45	SC06	46
ELA07	64	MAT07	65		
ELA08	71	MAT08	59		
		Algebra I	11		
		Geometry	1		
Total	271	Total	271	Total	46

Note: "Students Tested" represents individual valid test scores for English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science

Bedminster Township Schools
Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations
English Language Arts – Support Levels

Grade	More Support Needed (Count)	More Support Needed (Percentage)	Some Support Needed (Count)	Some Support Needed (Percentage)	Less Support Needed (Count)	Less Support Needed (Percentage)
4	11	26%	11	26%	21	49%
5	6	13%	11	23%	30	64%
6	14	30%	11	24%	21	21%
7	17	27%	18	28%	29	45%
8	9	13%	16	23%	46	65%

Bedminster Township Schools
Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations
Mathematics – Support Levels

Grade	More Support Needed (Count)	More Support Needed (Percentage)	Some Support Needed (Count)	Some Support Needed (Percentage)	Less Support Needed (Count)	Less Support Needed (Percentage)
4	18	42%	9	21%	16	37%
5	13	28%	9	19%	25	53%
6	22	49%	18	40%	5	11%
7	22	34%	17	26%	26	40%
8*	8	14%	25	42%	26	44%
Algebra I	1	9%	1	9%	9	82%
Geometry	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%

*Approximately 30,000 New Jersey students in grade 8 participated in the Algebra I assessment. Thus, Math 8 outcomes are not representative of grade 8 performance as a whole.

Bedminster Township Schools
Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations
Science – Support Levels

Grade	More Support Needed (Count)	More Support Needed (Percentage)	Some Support Needed (Count)	Some Support Needed (Percentage)	Less Support Needed (Count)	Less Support Needed (Percentage)
6	18	39%	18	39%	10	22%

Bedminster Township Schools
Subgroup
Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations
English Language Arts- Percentages

Subgroup	More Support Needed	Some Support Needed	Less Support Needed
District			
Female	17%	24%	59%
Male	25%	25%	50%
Current ELL	60%	30%	10%
Former ELL	17%	6%	78%
Economically Disadvantaged	33%	40%	27%
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	20%	24%	56%

Bedminster Township Schools
Subgroup
Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations
Mathematics - Percentages

Subgroup	More Support Needed	Some Support Needed	Less Support Needed
District			
Female	31%	32%	37%
Male	31%	26%	42%
Current ELL	60%	30%	10%
Former ELL	22%	22%	56%
Economically Disadvantaged	73%	13%	13%
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	29%	30%	41%

Bedminster Township Schools
Subgroup
Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations
Science - Percentages

Subgroup	More Support Needed	Some Support Needed	Less Support Needed
District			
Female	35%	46%	19%
Male	45%	30%	25%
Current ELL	60%	40%	0%
Former ELL	50%	25%	25%
Economically Disadvantaged	33%	67%	0%
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	40%	37%	23%

Bedminster Township Schools
Subgroup
Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations
ELA Demographics - Percentages

Subgroup	More Support Needed	Some Support Needed	Less Support Needed
District			
Black/African American*			
Hispanic/Latino	40%	40%	30%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*			
White	20%	26%	54%
Two or More Races	13%	20%	67%
IEP	59%	17%	24%
504	22%	22%	56%

*Note: Not reported unless a minimum of 10 students or more test

Bedminster Township Schools
Subgroup
Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations
Math Demographics - Percentages

Subgroup	More Support Needed	Some Support Needed	Less Support Needed
District			
Black/African American*			
Hispanic/Latino	56%	27%	17%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander			
White	30%	30%	41%
Two or More Races	20%	33%	47%
IEP	66%	20%	15%
504	33%	44%	22%

*Note: Not reported unless a minimum of 10 students or more test

Bedminster Township Schools
Subgroup
Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations
Science Demographics - Percentages

Subgroup	More Support Needed	Some Support Needed	Less Support Needed
District			
Black/African American*			
Hispanic/Latino	50%	36%	14%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander			
White	36%	41%	23%
Two or More Races*			
IEP	75%	25%	0
504	67%	0	33%

*Note: Not reported unless a minimum of 10 students or more test

Notable Achievements

- All students tested digitally (our 5th graders have never completed anything online other than Renaissance)
- All students participated in a state assessment for the first time in almost two years
- This year, students in grades **5-8** benefit from 60 minutes of math instruction allowing us to further remediate skill gaps.
- All students in grades **5 & 6** this year benefit of 60 minutes of math PLUS Math/STEM extension to strengthen skills, utilize PBLs to enhance understanding and work collaboratively or in small groups to focus on standards.
- Students in grades 6-8 use Instructional Center for pull out and push in programs maximizing instructional time for just that.

Intervention Strategies

- Expansion of our Summer Academy to a Middle School ESSR recovery academy available to all students.
- 30 minute sessions with certified staff in the math and ELA departments to target students around shared skills.
- SEL support groups with ESSR funds targeting special populations (M/F, ELL, Special Education)
- Expanding Non-Fiction Resources at the Middle School content area levels
- Continue to expand range of fiction texts to promote connection and inclusivity of all students and subgroups (2021-LGBTQIA+, 2022-Diversity & Inclusion)

RENAISSANCE LEARNING

Fall
Assessment

RENAISSANCE MATH

Grade	GP	SS	GE	PR	NCE
1	1.1	782	0.6	52	51
2	2.12	872	2.3	53	51.6
3	3.17	934	3.4	60	55.3
4	4.15	991	4.6	63	56.8
5	5.14	1049	6.6	74	63.6
6	6.08	1058	6.8	55	52.7
7	7.13	1083	8.6	56	53.4
8	8.08	1120	10.6	65	58.1

RENAISSANCE ELA

Grade	GP	SS	GE	PR	NCE
1	1.1	726	0.7	20	32.5
2	2.13	894	2.5	52	51.2
3	3.16	973	3.8	60	55.3
4	4.14	1021	5.1	64	57.8
5	5.14	1046	5.7	57	53.6
6	6.08	1054	5.9	43	46.3
7	7.1	1091	7.5	51	50.3
8	8.09	1116	8.8	53	51.6