Start Strong
Fall 2021 Administration:
Information for Parents

New Jersey Department of Education
Office of Assessments
July 2021
Fall 2021 Start Strong: Overview

**Brief**
- The test can be given in a single class period (45–60 minutes).
- Administration setup and procedures are similar to traditional state assessments, with some exceptions.

**Standards Aligned**
- Aligned to a small set of standards from the year before to help educators understand the level of support students need at the beginning of the school year.

**Given Across Content Areas**
- English language arts (ELA) grades 4–10;
- Mathematics grades 4–8, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II; and
- Science (6, 9 & 12).

**Flexibly Given**
- Seamless online delivery through the assessment administration platform.
- Provides immediate results to educators.
Individual Student Reports for Parents

• Parents will receive an Individual Student Report (ISR) for each content in which their child is tested during the Fall 2021 Start Strong Assessment.

• An ISR provides parents with:
  • A sense of their child's understanding in the tested content areas;
  • A description of the major concepts that were tested; and
  • A starting point for discussions with their child and teacher(s).

• Questions a parent might want to ask after reviewing the ISR include:
  • What additional supports are available to help my child during the school day and beyond regular school hours?
  • How will I know if my child is improving?
ISR for Mathematics

Student Support Level

Major Concepts

How did your student perform on the reporting concepts?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points earned by your student</th>
<th>Total Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations and Algebraic Thinking: Multiplication and Division</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regress and solve problems involving multiplication and division. Understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations and Algebraic Thinking: Operations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiply and divide whole numbers within 100. Solve problems involving the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division). Identify and explain patterns in addends.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and Operations: Fractions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop understanding of fractions as numbers.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solve problems involving measurement and estimation. Understand concepts of area and relate area to multiplication and addition.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why was my student administered the Start Strong Assessment?

Start Strong was administered to help families understand the level of support their students are likely to need this school year, to help educators plan instruction for their classes, and for district and school leaders to allocate resources.

What can I do now?

As you seek to ensure that your student receives the appropriate academic support this school year, consider contacting your student’s teacher to discuss additional assessment results and observations which inform the support plan for your student.

For more information, please refer to the NJ Start Strong Score Interpretation Guide in the Start Strong section at the NJSA Resource Center: https://nj.gov/education/schools/assessment/njsta.html.
ISR for English Language Arts

English Language Arts Assessment Report

The Start Strong ELA Assessment measures reading comprehension taught over the prior school year. This assessment provides an indication of the level of support your student may require during this academic year.

Visit the NJ Parent Portal at njp.results.ecs.ed.gov, and use this code to access your student’s results online:

2gkh4kXK5ssr

What do the results for FIRSTNAME indicate?

Less Support May Be Needed
Level 1 Support May Be Needed
Level 2 Some Support May Be Needed
Level 3 Strong Support May Be Needed

Your student’s score:
Level 1 10
Level 2 20
Level 3 25

The report suggests Startstrong may require less support in Grade 3 reading comprehension.

The Start Strong ELA Assessment measures reading comprehension of literary and informational passages. Students read authentic texts — both fiction and nonfiction, draw evidence from texts, and determine the meaning of words and phrases.

The assessment is built to identify unmet learning opportunities and to inform a support plan that will help your student master reading content during this school year. After reading this report, consider scheduling a meeting with your student’s teacher or attending parent teacher conferences. Many school districts administer other assessments in addition to the Start Strong ELA Assessment. These results, along with teacher observations and assignments in reading and writing, can provide additional information beyond the Start Strong ELA Assessment results.

Side 2 of this report provides scores on your student’s performance in reading.

How did your student perform on the reporting concepts?

Reading Literature

Demonstrate comprehension and draw evidence from reading literary text:

In this section, students were asked to:
• answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a literary passage
• use details from the passage to support answers
• identify the central message of the passage
• describe characters and explain how their actions affect events
• explain how illustrations add to the meaning of the passage

Reading Information

Demonstrate comprehension and draw evidence from reading informational text:

In this section, students were asked to:
• answer questions to demonstrate understanding of an informational passage
• use details from the passage to support answers
• identify the main idea of the passage
• describe important details
• determine the meaning of words and phrases in context

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For more information, please refer to the NJ Start Strong Score Interpretation Guide in the Start Strong section at the NJELA Resource Center: https://njelaresourcelibrary.com.
## ISR for Science

### Science Assessment Report

The Start Strong Science Assessment included material taught over the previous three school years. This assessment provides an indication of the level of support your student may require during this academic year.

Visit the NJ Parent Portal at njresults.parsnipsassessment.com and use this code to access your student’s results online:

**gs2Z59C8PwS**

**What do the results for **FIRSTNAME** indicate?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th><strong>Strong Support May Be Needed</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9-10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>11-12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The report suggests **FIRSTNAME** may require strong support in science.

Students at this level demonstrate minimal understanding of the Elementary School science concepts and practices in the three tested content domains: Earth & Space, Life, and Physical Science.

At a limited degree, students at this level are typically able to:

- Identify questions that are based on observations and recognize that some questions are testable.
- Make observations and/or measurements during a simple investigation and make graphs and/or tables of data and use them to support conclusions.
- Identify patterns in data and graph products.

Students at this level will likely need strong support to learn more advanced concepts and be able to:

- Ask relevant and testable questions.
- Plan an investigation that includes the identification of necessary tools, the collection of data from observations and/or measurements, and the identification of patterns in data and/or tables of data in relation to cause and effect.
- Organize data and draw conclusions from such investigations.
- Use patterns of change to develop models and make informed predictions.
- Compare and contrast the results from multiple sources.
- Identify arguments that are supported by evidence.
- Identify evidence or facts used in a claim.

**First Name M. Last Name**

** Fall 2021 Grade: 6**

**Student Support Level**

**Concepts**

### Investigating Practices
- Planning and carrying out investigations, making observations on phenomena, and recording data
- Sensing and seeing patterns and relationships in data to develop explanations or models of the phenomena
- Critiquing Practices
- Evaluating and creating explanations, and claims to convey a deeper understanding of the natural world

### Points Possible

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>First Name M. Last Name</strong></th>
<th><strong>Points Earned by your student</strong></th>
<th><strong>Total Points Possible</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigating Practices</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensing Practices</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critiquing Practices</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Domains

- **Earth & Space Science**: Processes that operate on and within the Earth, and also its place in the solar system and galaxy
- **Life Science**: Patterns, processes, and relationships of living organisms
- **Physical Science**: Mechanisms of cause and effect in all systems, and processes that can be understood through a common set of physical and chemical principles

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Parent Portal

Provides parents with:

✓ Online access to how their child performed on the Start Strong assessments.

✓ Translated videos in New Jersey's top five spoken languages:
  ✓ English
  ✓ Spanish
  ✓ Chinese
  ✓ Portuguese
  ✓ Arabic

✓ Access to additional assessment resources through the New Jersey Digital Item Library.
Thank You!

New Jersey Department of Education Website

nj.gov/education

Office of Assessment webpage
nj.gov/education/assessment

assessment@doe.nj.gov

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