



Support in
Identifying
Student Needs

Start Strong: Fall 2021 Administration

Allamuchy Township School District

January 24, 2022

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 NJSLA 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

Note: 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 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.

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

Allamuchy Township School's

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	28	54%	7	13%	17	33%
5	11	26%	13	30%	19	44%
6	19	36%	16	30%	18	34%
7	11	33%	8	24%	14	42%
8	11	26%	8	19%	24	56%

Allamuchy Township School's 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	20	38%	18	35%	14	27%
5	27	61%	14	32%	3	7%
6	33	62%	14	26%	6	11%
7	16	48%	10	30%	7	21%
8	8	19%	16	37%	19	44%

Allamuchy Township School's 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	29	55%	16	30%	8	15%

Allamuchy Township School's
Subgroup- Students with Disabilities- IEPs
Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations
Percentages

Subgroup	More Support Needed	Some Support Needed	Less Support Needed
District			
Students with Disabilities-IEP- ELA	68%	16%	16%
Students with Disabilities-IEP- Math	74%	24%	3%
Students with Disabilities-IEP- Science	100%	0	0

Notable Achievements

- 100% Participation for currently enrolled students
- Teachers utilized results during PD to look at student needs for the 2021-2022 school year

Intervention Strategies

- Basic Skills Instructor
- Reading Specialist
- Utilization of new ELA program & specific intervention piece
- Past 2 years, targeted summer program, for extra support
- Increase in staffing for AMP program
- Continuation of Jumpstart, AMP & HW Club After school programs
- Utilization of data to guide instruction