

# Start Strong: Fall 2021 Administrations

Boonton Public Schools  
January 24, 2022

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 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 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"> <li>• Grade 4</li> <li>• Grade 5</li> <li>• Grade 6</li> <li>• Grade 7</li> <li>• Grade 8</li> <li>• Grade 9</li> <li>• Grade 10</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 3</li> <li>• Grade 4</li> <li>• Grade 5</li> <li>• Grade 6</li> <li>• Grade 7</li> <li>• Grade 8</li> <li>• Grade 9</li> </ul>
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 4</li> <li>• Grade 5</li> <li>• Grade 6</li> <li>• Grade 7</li> <li>• Grade 8</li> <li>• Algebra 1</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Algebra 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 3</li> <li>• Grade 4</li> <li>• Grade 5</li> <li>• Grade 6</li> <li>• Grade 7</li> <li>• Grade 8*</li> <li>• Grade 8*</li> <li>• Algebra 1</li> </ul>
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 6</li> <li>• Grade 9</li> <li>• Grade 12</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grades 3–5</li> <li>• Grades 6–8</li> <li>• Grades 9–11</li> </ul>

\*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.

# 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

# Boonton Public Schools Number of Students Tested Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

English Language Arts	Students Tested	Mathematics	Students Tested	Science	Students Tested
ELA04	69	MAT04	69		
ELA05	82	MAT05	82		
ELA06	71	MAT06	71	SC06	71
ELA07	70	MAT07	70		
ELA08	83	MAT08	70		
ELA09	153	Algebra I	134	SC09	152
ELA10	130	Geometry	155		
		Algebra II	122	SC12	174
<b>Total</b>	658	<b>Total</b>	773	<b>Total</b>	397

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

# Boonton Public 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	20	29	11	16	38	55
5	18	22	23	28	41	50
6	23	32	16	23	32	45
7	14	20	20	29	36	51
8	20	24	21	25	25	51
9	48	31	20	13	85	56
10	38	29	34	26	58	45
						8



# Boonton Public 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	21	30	16	23	32	46
5	55	67	23	28	4	5
6	49	69	17	24	5	7
7	26	37	24	34	20	29
8*	32	46	22	31	16	23
Algebra I	106	72	29	20	13	9
Geometry	69	45	50	32	36	23
Algebra II	44	36	45	37	33	27

\*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.

# Boonton Public 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	28	39	25	35	18	25
9	61	40	74	49	17	11
12	84	48	61	35	29	17

Boonton Public Schools  
**Subgroup**  
 Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations  
 English Language Arts- Percentages

Subgroup	More Support Needed	Some Support Needed	Less Support Needed
<b>District</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>50</b>
Hispanic	40	28	33
Asian	24	23	53
Black or African American	34	19	47
White	22	19	59
Students with IEPs	64	19	18
Students with 504s	25	28	48
Current ELs	74	22	4
Former ELs	34	28	38
Economically Disadvantaged	37	27	36

Boonton Public Schools  
**Subgroup**  
 Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations  
 Mathematics - Percentages

Subgroup	More Support Needed	Some Support Needed	Less Support Needed
<b>District</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>
Hispanic	64	25	11
Asian	47	40	14
Black or African American	76	16	8
White	42	30	28
Students with IEPs	78	16	6
Students with 504s	31	40	29
Current ELs	80	13	8
Former ELs	62	34	3
Economically Disadvantaged	70	21	9

**Boonton Public Schools**  
**Subgroup**  
**Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations**  
**Science - Percentages**

<b>Subgroup</b>	<b>More Support Needed</b>	<b>Some Support Needed</b>	<b>Less Support Needed</b>
<b>District</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>16</b>
Hispanic	64	29	7
Asian	38	45	18
Black or African American	36	52	12
White	38	43	19
Students with IEPs	70	24	6
Students with 504s	26	48	26
Current ELs	93	7	0
Former ELs*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*
Economically Disadvantaged	55	37	8

\*Subgroup <10 – Can not report

# Intervention Strategies

## **Grades 3 - 5**

- ELA Interventionist & New Math Interventionist
- Afterschool Academic Support ELA & Math
- Conquer Math Professional Development
- iReady Diagnostic Testing and Personalized Learning

## **Grades 6 - 8**

- Conquer Math Professional Development
- iReady Diagnostic Testing and Personalized Learning
- Take Flight to identify gaps and implement learning acceleration
- Continued use of the Multi-tiered Systems of Support

## **Grades 9 - 12**

- Continued use of Strategies classes to support students in ELA and Math
- Refresher courses offered for targeted students in ELA and Math
- Use of Achieve 3000 and Delta Math for personalized learning
- Conquer Math Professional Development