Start Strong Assessment Fall 2022

Elk Township School District

The Start Strong Assessment

The Start Strong Assessment was initially mandated in response to the disruption in education due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was expressly designed to inform instruction by providing educators - as well as parents and guardians - with an early indication of the level of support students may need as they enter a new school year. Results of the Start Strong Assessment may reveal conceptual or skill gaps in student understanding of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) that can be addressed moving forward.

The Start Strong Assessment:

- Provides initial information about the levels of support that students may need upon their return to school.
- Should be used in concert with other indicators of student knowledge, skills, and abilities to evaluate performance.
- Differs in design and function from the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA).
- Is not intended to predict student performance on future summative assessments.

Test Design

Because the Start Strong Assessment was administered at the beginning of the new school year, it was aligned to specific learning standards from the previous grade level.

Content Area	Grade/Course in School Year 2021 – 2022	Content of the Assessment
ELA	Grade 4 Grade 5 Grade 6	Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5
Math	Grade 4 Grade 5 Grade 6	Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5
Science	Grade 6	Grades 3-5

Support Level

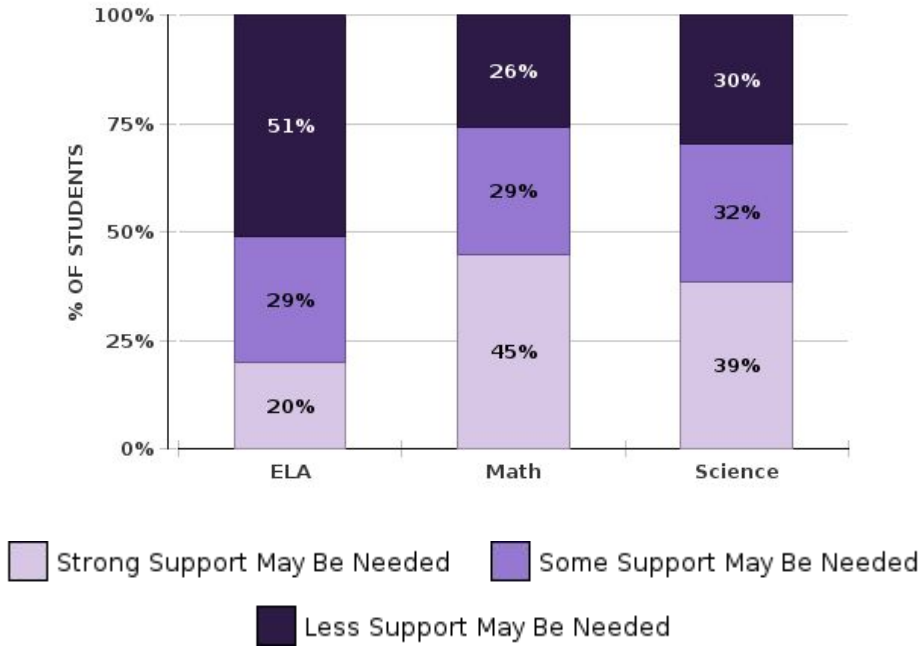
Students are categorized into one of three suggested support levels, each of which is defined by a range of possible raw scores on the Start Strong Assessment. The goal of these classifications is to provide some guidance regarding the amount of support that may be needed as students return to school.

The three support levels for the Start Strong Assessment are:

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

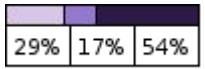
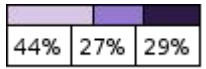
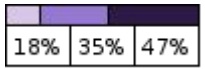
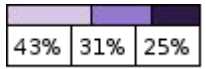
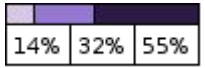
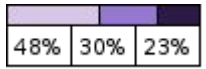
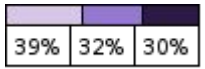
Aura Elementary

Support Levels for the District

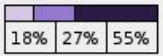
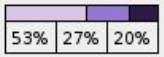
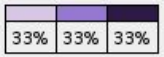
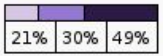
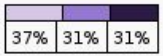
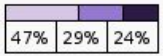


ELA and Math improved from last year's administration. Science fell by 1%

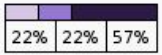
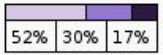
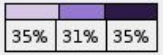
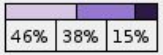
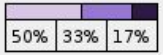
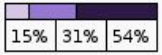
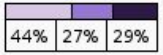
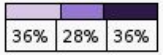
Breakdown By Grade

Grade	ELA	Math	Science
4			NA
5			NA
6			

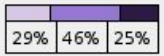
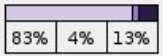
Subject Support Level by Gender

Gender	ELA	Math	Science
Female			
Male			

Subject Support Level by Ethnicity

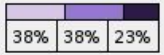
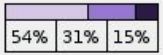
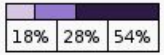
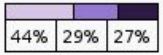
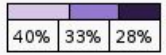
Ethnicity	ELA	Math	Science
Asian	9 Students or Fewer	9 Students or Fewer	9 Students or Fewer
Black / African American			9 Students or Fewer
Hispanic or Latino			
White			

Subject Support Level by Students with Disabilities & ELLs

Students with Disabilities	ELA	Math	Science
IEP			9 Students or Fewer
504	9 Students or Fewer	9 Students or Fewer	9 Students or Fewer

ELL students - Sample Size too small to report (n < 9)

Subject Support Level by Other Demographics

Other Demographics	ELA	Math	Science
Economically Disadvantaged			9 Students or Fewer
Non-Economically Disadvantaged			
Homeless	9 Students or Fewer	9 Students or Fewer	9 Students or Fewer

Key Takeaways

While there has been marked improvement, gaps still remain (particularly in math).

This assessment is used to affirm, challenge, or change decisions made based on our local diagnostic and benchmark assessments.

The trend is a positive one, but looking deeply into this assessment would provide us little actionable data.

Moving forward, continued implementation of research-based curriculum, flexible and responsive intervention support, and using data to help students continues to be our goal.