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September 6, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) notified districts throughout the state of the requirement to administer the Start Strong assessment in the fall 2022. This assessment complies with federal mandates requiring states to administer general assessments in areas of English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Start Strong assessments are intentionally brief, designed to maximize instructional time and quickly provide critical data to teachers and school leaders. These assessments provide schools and districts the flexibility to address students' unique needs at the beginning of the school year. The Start Strong assessments:

- Are based on a subset of prioritized prior-year academic standards
- Are available in ELA grades 4-10, Mathematics grades 4-8, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II, and in Science grades 6, 9, and 12
- Can be administered in approximately 45-60 minutes
- Will provide immediate results to educators through the assessment platform
- Will include the same accessibility features and accommodations

The Start Strong assessments utilize three performance levels ("Strong Support May Be Needed"; "Some Support May Be Needed"; and "Less Support May Be Needed") to aid educators and families in making decisions about the types of support that students may need. The reports will be available to educators immediately after students complete the assessment. These assessments DO NOT replace the NJSLA assessments. The New Jersey Student Learning Assessments will be administered based on the testing schedule previously sent. For more information on the Start Strong assessment, please refer to this link: <https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/startStrong/>

As always, please feel free to contact your building level administration if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

*Brooke Decker*

Brooke Decker  
Supervisor of Education

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