

LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Supervisor of Data & Assessment

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to a new school year!

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) mandated the administration of the Start Strong assessments for Fall 2022 in 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. The district will have immediate access to student results, allowing teachers the flexibility to address students' unique needs at the beginning of the school year. These assessments are in addition to our normal, local assessments, which will also give us needed data on student growth and progress from the past year.

Linden will be administering the Start Strong assessments to students in grades 6 through 12 during the week of October 3rd and grades 4 and 5 the following week. Students will take a 45 to 60-minute assessment in English-Language Arts and in Mathematics. Students in grades 6, 9 and 12 will also take a Science assessment on October 18th. As with regular state testing, students who are permitted extra time or other accommodations as per their 504 or IEP plan will have access to those accommodations on the Start Strong.

Parents/Guardians will be provided with an Individual Student Report (ISR) following the close of the assessment window at the end of October. The ISR will provide 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) about areas where students may need additional support. If you would like more information, you can access the following link: [Start Strong Parent Information](#)

If you have any questions, please contact myself, your building principal or guidance counselor.

Sincerely,

Dariusz Kondratowicz
Supervisor of Data and Assessment