

LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Supervisor of Data & Assessment

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to a new school year!

This past spring, New Jersey students did not participate in the statewide student achievement testing program, the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA), due to the impact of Covid-19. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) notified districts that the administration of the Start Strong assessments in the Fall 2021 will satisfy the federal statewide assessment requirement to administer general assessments in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science for the 2020-2021 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 4 and 5 during the week of October 4th and grades 6-12 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. 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

Linden Public Schools: 2021-2022 Summary of State and District Testing

State Assessments

Assessment & Subject Area	Grade Level Tested	Dates and Duration	Results Available	Information about Available Accommodations and Accessibility Features	Information for Parents/Guardians Regarding the Assessment
<p>Start Strong Fall 2021</p> <p>English Language Arts (ELA), Math and Science</p> <p>https://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/</p>	<p>ELA: 4 through 10</p> <p>Math: 4 through 8, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II</p> <p>Science: 6, 9 and 12</p>	<p><u>Testing Window:</u> 9/13/2021 – 10/22/2021</p> <p>Elementary: 10/7 – ELA 10/8 – Math</p> <p>Secondary: 10/13 – ELA 10/14 – Math 10/15 – Science</p> <p>45min – 60min per subject</p>	TBD	<p>Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual</p>	<p>Information to be released on Office of Assessments webpage</p>
<p>New Jersey Student Learning Assessment</p> <p>English Language Arts (ELA) Math (NJSLA-E, NJSLA-M)</p> <p>Spring (Regular) Administration</p> <p>https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/</p>	<p>ELA: Grades 3 - 11</p> <p>Math: Grades 3 – 8, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II</p>	TBD	TBD	<p>NJSLA Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual</p>	<p>For more information please visit the Office of Assessments webpage</p>
<p>NJSLA Science Administration</p>	<p>Grades 5, 8 and 11</p>	TBD	TBD	<p>NJSLA Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual</p>	<p>For more information please visit the Office of Assessments webpage</p>

Assessment & Subject Area	Grade Level Tested	Dates and Duration	Results Available	Information about Available Accommodations and Accessibility Features	Information for Parents/Guardians Regarding the Assessment
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)	Grades 3 through 8 and 11	TBD	TBD	DLM Accessibility Manual	For more information please visit the Office of Assessments webpage
ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs	K–12	TBD	TBD	WIDA Accessibility Accommodations	Parent Handout Provided in different languages.

District Assessments

Assessment & Subject Area	Grade Level Tested	Dates and Duration	Results Available	Information about Available Accommodations and Accessibility Features	Information for Parents/Guardians Regarding the Assessment
Edmentum Exact Path Reading and Mathematics Introduction to Exact Path	K – 12	<u>Testing Window:</u> Fall, Winter, Spring	Immediately	Exact Path Accommodations and Modifications	Exact Path Parent Information