

September 10, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In the broadcast released on April 14, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) notified districts that the administration of the Start Strong assessment 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 in lieu of the cancelled Spring 2021 NJ S.L.A. assessments. The Start Strong assessments are intentionally brief, designed to maximize instructional time and quickly provide critical data to teachers and school leaders. These are **formative assessments** only and will 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.
- Students do not need to prepare for these assessments.

Each Spring, all New Jersey public school districts are required to administer achievement tests developed by the New Jersey Department of Education. New Jersey students in Grades 3 to 10 will be tested in Literacy and in Mathematics through the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment. Literacy and Math assessments are used to measure the success of our schools on the standards set by the Federal "Every Student Succeeds Act." Students in Grades 5, 8, and 11 will also take the NJ S.L.A. in Science, which is an online cumulative measure of science standards.

The NJ S.L.A. is the standardized measure used in New Jersey. Its assessments were designed to provide information to districts about student performance in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science relative to state standards. These standards determine what students should know and be able to do in each content area at the end of each grade level. The tests contain multiple-choice questions as well as several types of questions requiring open-ended responses in which students explain their understanding. Results will provide a snapshot of how your child performed on a standardized test in relation to his/her peers, and individualized score reports will be mailed home next fall.

The New Jersey Department of Education requires all graduates to meet a minimum proficiency on a standardized assessment. Currently there are several assessments throughout a student's high school career that meet that expectation. This link includes the most current information.

<https://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/docs/GradReq.pdf>

The Princeton Public School District will administer the various New Jersey mandated assessments during designated weeks in the Fall and Spring.

Please visit our website at <https://www.princetonk12.org/district/standardized-testing> for additional resources and information about Start Strong and NJ S.L.A. testing, including graduation requirements and protocols for test refusal.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Ginsberg
Acting Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum & Instruction

Mridula Bajaj
Supervisor
Science, Professional Development, Testing & Assessment

Princeton Public Schools 2021-2022 Start Strong Testing Calendar

High School Start Strong Testing Dates	Middle School Start Strong Testing Dates	Elementary School Start Strong Testing Dates
Sep. 21: ELA Grades 9 & 10 Sep. 29: Alg I, Alg II and Geo Sep. 30: Science Grades 9 & 12	Sep. 28: ELA Grades 6-8 Sep. 29: Math Grades 6-8 Sep. 30: Science Grade 6	Sep. 28: ELA Grades 4-5 Sep. 29: Math Grades 4-5

- **Paper-Based testing**, including make-ups, for all grade levels will be between Sep. 13 and Oct. 22, 2021.
- **Make-Up Testing (all grades)**: Scheduling will be determined at the building level. Make-up testing must be completed by Oct. 22, 2021.

Princeton Public Schools 2021-2022 NJ S.L.A. Testing Calendar

High School NJ S.L.A. Testing Dates	Middle School NJ S.L.A. Testing Dates	Elementary School NJ S.L.A. Testing Dates
TBD (Awaiting information from the State)	TBD (Awaiting information from the State)	TBD (Awaiting information from the State)