



**Mountain Lakes School District**

*Tradition of Honest Excellence*

# Start Strong: Fall 2021 Administrations

**Mountain Lakes School District**

**Thursday, January 20, 2022**

**Support in  
Identifying  
Student Needs**

# Start Strong Overview

- Based on a **subset** of prioritized **prior-year** academic standards to provide a data point on the level of support a student may need to engage in grade-level content.
  - Example: Grade 5 ELA Start Strong assessment is aligned to a subset of the NJSLA for Grade 4 ELA.
  - Example: Algebra I Start Strong assessment is aligned to Grade 8 learning standards relevant to algebraic concepts.
- Used **released** high-quality items from the NJSLA item bank
- Contained efficient question types to produce on-demand results for educators
- Could be administered in 45–60 minutes

*Note:* The test design, which allowed for shortened testing time and immediate results, means that Start Strong results must be interpreted and used differently than NJSLA results. They do not cover the breadth and depth of standards as seen on the NJSLA and do not support the same comparisons or inferences about student proficiency.

# Start Strong Grade And Content Alignment

| Content Area                | Grade/Course in SY 2021 - 2022   | Content of the Assessment   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| English Language Arts (ELA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 4</li> <li>• Grade 5</li> <li>• Grade 6</li> <li>• Grade 7</li> <li>• Grade 8</li> <li>• Grade 9</li> <li>• Grade 10</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 3</li> <li>• Grade 4</li> <li>• Grade 5</li> <li>• Grade 6</li> <li>• Grade 7</li> <li>• Grade 8</li> <li>• Grade 9</li> </ul>                               |
| Mathematics                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 4</li> <li>• Grade 5</li> <li>• Grade 6</li> <li>• Grade 7</li> <li>• Grade 8</li> <li>• Algebra 1</li> <li>• <b>Geometry</b></li> <li>• Algebra 2</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 3</li> <li>• Grade 4</li> <li>• Grade 5</li> <li>• Grade 6</li> <li>• Grade 7</li> <li>• Grade 8*</li> <li>• <b>Grade 8*</b></li> <li>• Algebra 1</li> </ul> |
| Science                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 6</li> <li>• Grade 9</li> <li>• Grade 12</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grades 3–5</li> <li>• Grades 6–8</li> <li>• Grades 9–11</li> </ul>   |

\*Students beginning Algebra I, Geometry, and/or Algebra II in the 2021–2022 school year may have taken different mathematics courses depending on their individual course pathways. The Start Strong Assessments for Algebra I and Geometry are based on the Grade 8 learning standards and, therefore, measure some of the same concepts. The Start Strong Assessment for Algebra 1 contains more items from the Grade 8 learning standards relevant to algebraic concepts, and the Start Strong Assessment for Geometry contains more items from the Grade 8 learning standards relevant to geometry concepts.

# Start Strong Important Considerations:

## **Start Strong Fall 2021 assessments:**

- As determined by the U.S. Department of Education, the administration of Start Strong satisfied federal statewide assessment requirements to administer general assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science only for the 2020-2021 school year. The spring NJSLA schedule will resume for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Produced information to be used as a standards-based complement to the resources used by educators in their classrooms to evaluate the needs of students.

## **Start Strong Fall 2021 assessments DO NOT:**

- Replace local standards-based benchmark assessments districts may already have in place.
- Replace the spring 2022 New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) statewide summative assessments or are predictive of their results.

# Start Strong Scoring:

- Students are categorized into one of three support levels based on their individual total raw scores. Each support level is defined by a range of overall raw scores for the assessment. There are three support levels for the Start Strong Assessments:

| Level | Degree of Support                   |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 1     | <b>Strong Support May Be Needed</b> |
| 2     | <b>Some Support May Be Needed</b>   |
| 3     | <b>Less Support May Be Needed</b>   |

- Students performing at a level 3 may not require additional academic/instructional support in the tested content area while students in level 1 will likely benefit from additional academic/instructional support in the tested content area.

# Start Strong Score Interpretation:

Start Strong assessments provide a data point to support:

- District-level curriculum planning and revisiting prerequisite concepts and skills
- Evaluating scope and sequence based on distribution of student support needs
- Providing professional learning supports for differentiation and scaffolding based on student results, aligned to principles and practices outlined in the [NJDOE Learning Acceleration Guide](#)
- Using the Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for conversations between parents and educators on where their child might need support at the beginning of the school year

# Start Strong Result Interpretation (cont'd)

- Districts **should not** compare any individual student/school/district Start Strong data to any state-level data for Start Strong, nor should comparisons be made to any NJSLA data.
- Please note that the Start Strong assessments were **not** designed to predict future student performance on the NJSLA, nor was it designed to estimate what score a student would have received if they had taken the NJSLA in spring 2021.

# Mathematics Results

**Start  
Strong  
2021**

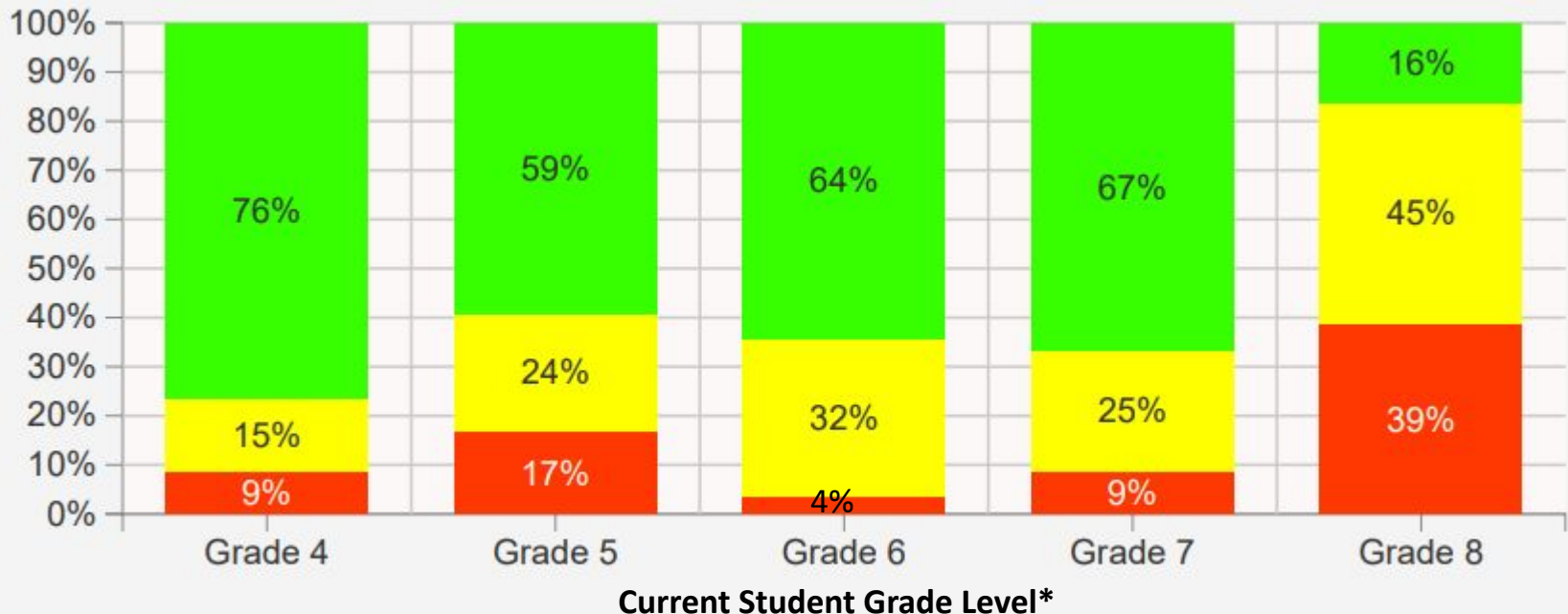


# Mountain Lakes

## Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

### Mathematics– Support Levels (Grade Level Based Classes)

Strong Support May Be Needed Some Support May Be Needed Less Support May Be Needed



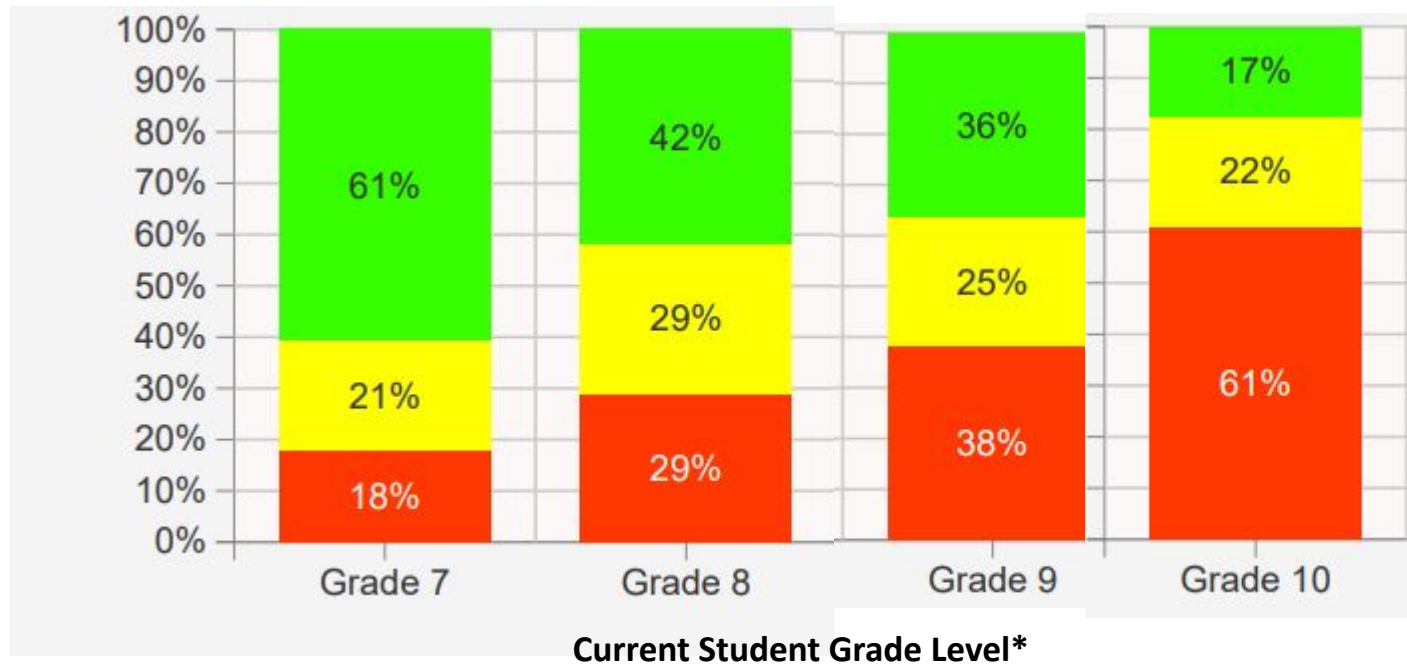
\*The above students were assessed on a subset standards from the prior grade level. For example, grade 4 students were assessed on a subset of standards from grade 3.

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## Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

### Mathematics– Support Levels (Geometry)

■ Strong Support May Be Needed ■ Some Support May Be Needed ■ Less Support May Be Needed



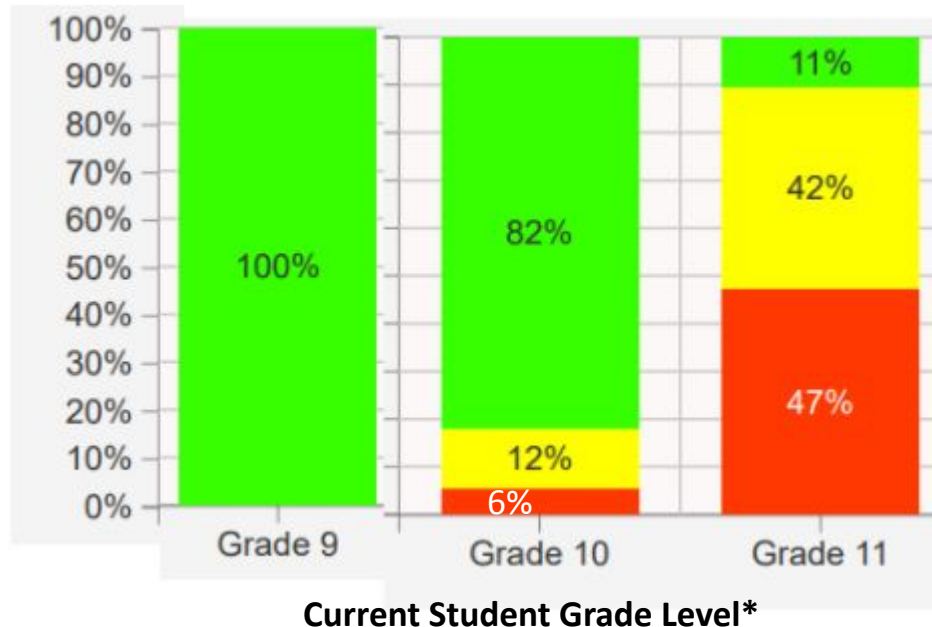
\* All of the above students are currently enrolled in Geometry. Students were assessed on a subset of standards that focused on Geometry from the Grade 8 Math standards.

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## Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

### Mathematics– Support Levels (Algebra II)

■ Strong Support May Be Needed ■ Some Support May Be Needed ■ Less Support May Be Needed



\* All of the above students are currently enrolled in Algebra II. Students were assessed on a subset of standards from Algebra I.

# Special Education (Mathematics)

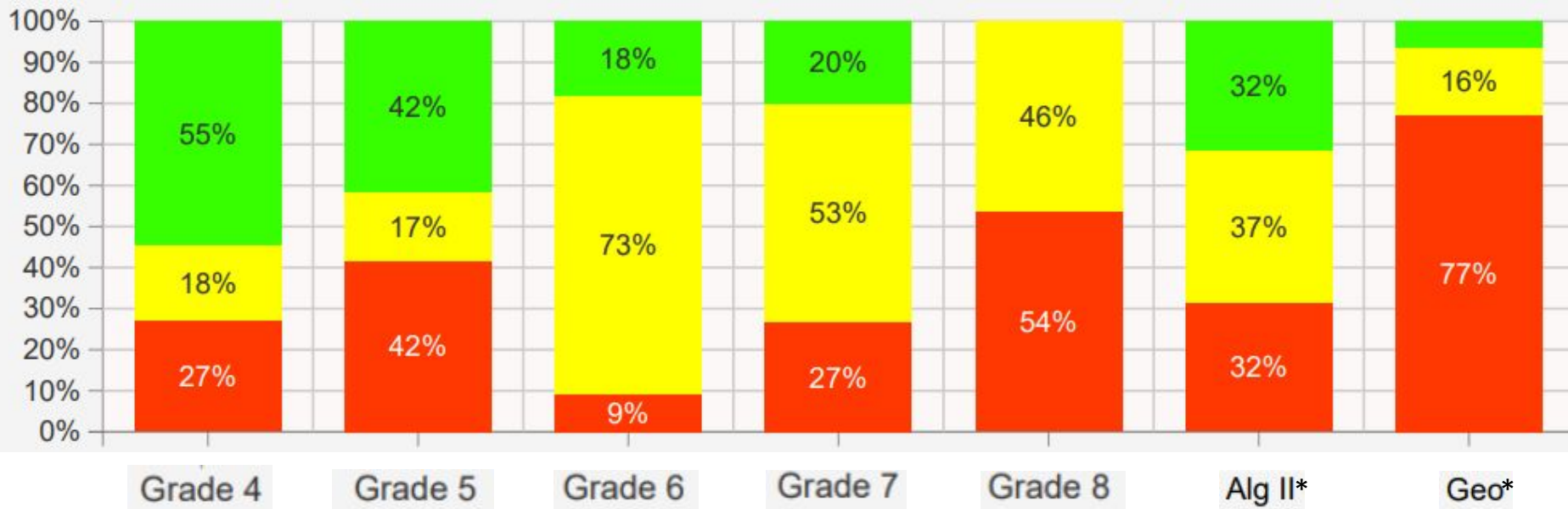
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2021**

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## Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

### Mathematics– Support Levels (Special Education)

■ Strong Support May Be Needed
 ■ Some Support May Be Needed
 ■ Less Support May Be Needed



\*Includes students from all grade levels taking this assessment.

# Gender (Mathematics)

Start Strong  
2021

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## Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

### Mathematics– Support Levels (Gender-Across Grade Level Courses)

■ Strong Support May Be Needed 
 ■ Some Support May Be Needed 
 ■ Less Support May Be Needed

| Test Grade* | Less Support May Be Needed |      | Some Support May Be Needed |      | Strong Support May Be Needed |      |
|-------------|----------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
|             | Female                     | Male | Female                     | Male | Female                       | Male |
| Grade 4     | 76%                        | 76%  | 18%                        | 12%  | 5%                           | 12%  |
| Grade 5     | 46%                        | 70%  | 30%                        | 20%  | 24%                          | 11%  |
| Grade 6     | 67%                        | 62%  | 28%                        | 36%  | 6%                           | 2%   |
| Grade 7     | 64%                        | 69%  | 24%                        | 25%  | 12%                          | 6%   |
| Grade 8     | 15%                        | 17%  | 38%                        | 50%  | 46%                          | 33%  |

\*The above students were assessed on a subset standards from the prior grade level. For example, grade 4 students were assessed on a subset of standards from grade 3.

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## Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

### Mathematics– Support Levels (Gender-Across Geometry Courses)

■ Strong Support May Be Needed 
 ■ Some Support May Be Needed 
 ■ Less Support May Be Needed

|            | Less Support<br>May Be Needed |      | Some Support<br>May Be Needed |      | Strong Support<br>May Be Needed |      |
|------------|-------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|------|
| Test Grade | Female                        | Male | Female                        | Male | Female                          | Male |
| Grade 7    | 43%                           | 67%  | 29%                           | 19%  | 29%                             | 14%  |
| Grade 8    | 42%                           | 41%  | 18%                           | 45%  | 39%                             | 14%  |
| Grade 9    | 33%                           | 38%  | 26%                           | 25%  | 40%                             | 37%  |
| Grade 10   | 22%                           | 14%  | 22%                           | 21%  | 56%                             | 64%  |

\* All of the above students are currently enrolled in Geometry. Students were assessed on a subset of standards that focused on Geometry from the Grade 8 Math standards.



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## Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

### Mathematics– Support Levels (Gender-Algebra II)

■ Strong Support May Be Needed 
 ■ Some Support May Be Needed 
 ■ Less Support May Be Needed

|             | Less Support<br>May Be Needed |      | Some Support<br>May Be Needed |      | Strong Support<br>May Be Needed |      |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|------|
| Test Grade* | Female                        | Male | Female                        | Male | Female                          | Male |
| Grade 9     | 100%                          | 100% | 0%                            | 0%   | 0%                              | 0%   |
| Grade 10    | 77%                           | 87%  | 14%                           | 11%  | 9%                              | 2%   |
| Grade 11    | 13%                           | 9%   | 25%                           | 55%  | 63%                             | 36%  |

\* All of the above students are currently enrolled in Algebra II. Students were assessed on a subset of standards from Algebra I.

# English Language Arts (ELA) Results

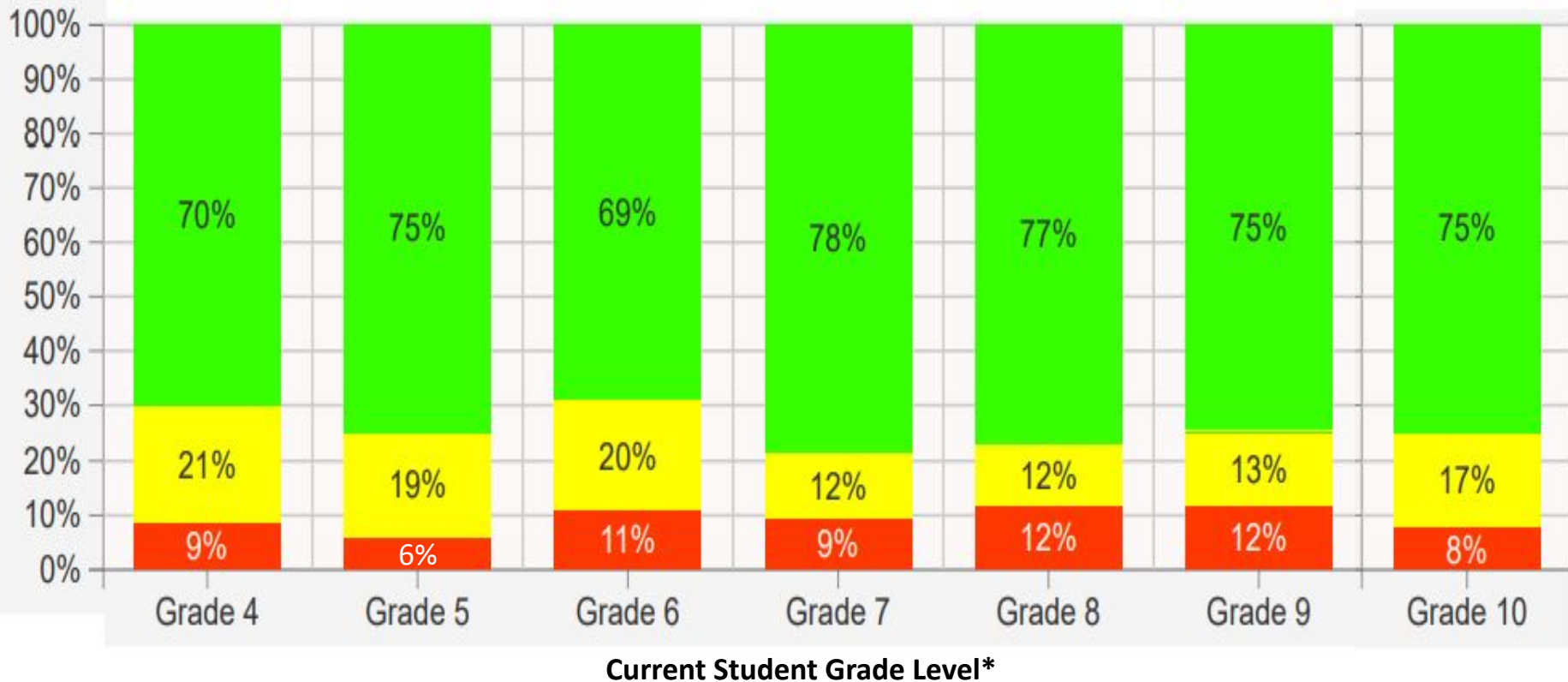
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## Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

### English Language Arts – Support Levels (All Students)

■ Strong Support May Be Needed 
 ■ Some Support May Be Needed 
 ■ Less Support May Be Needed



\*The above students were assessed on a subset standards from the prior grade level. For example, grade 4 students were assessed on a subset of standards from grade 3.

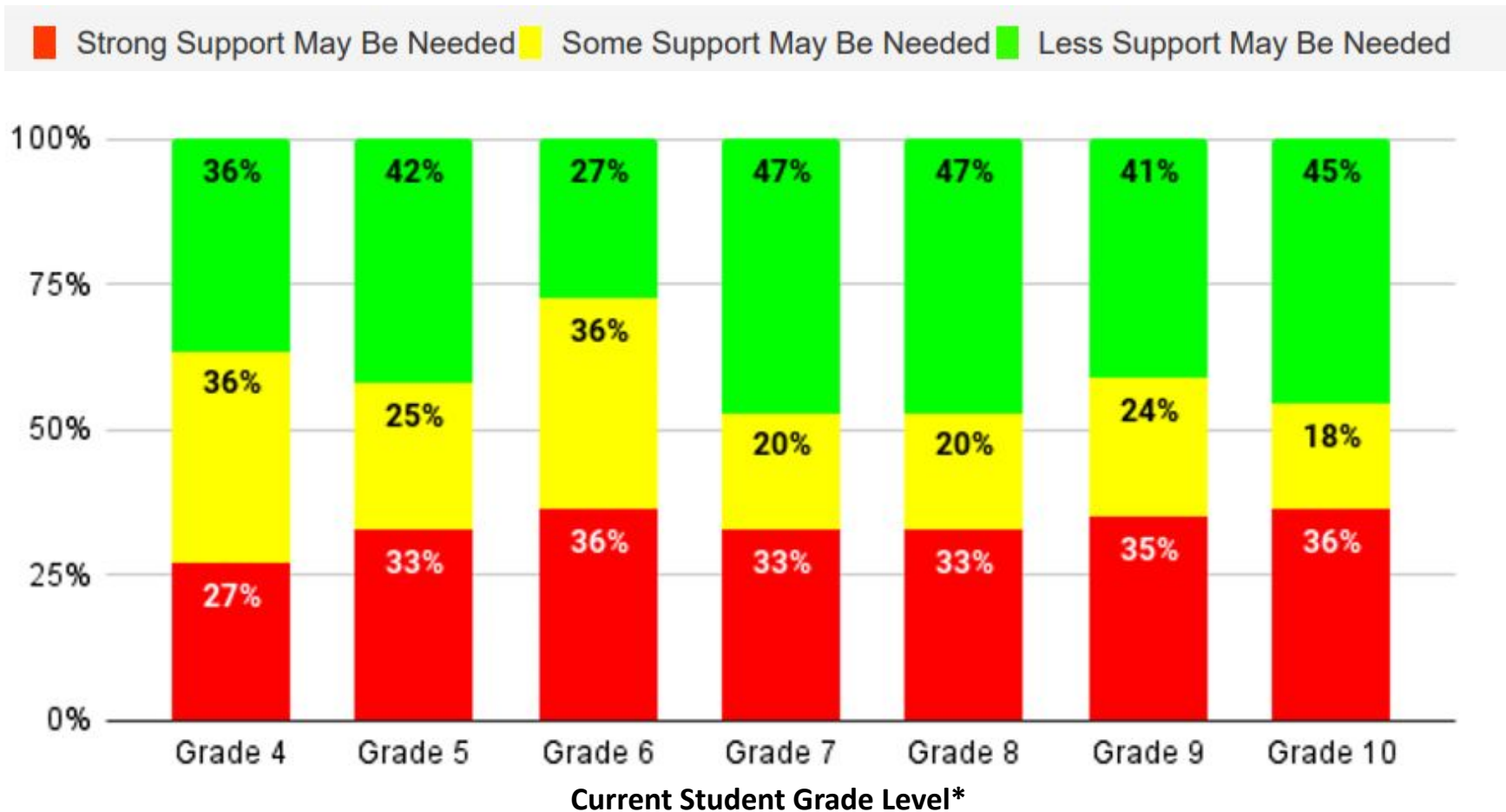
# Special Education (ELA)

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## Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

### English Language Arts – Special Education



\*The above students were assessed on a subset standards from the prior grade level. For example, grade 4 students were assessed on a subset of standards from grade 3.

# Gender (ELA)

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## Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

### English Language Arts – Gender

■ Strong Support May Be Needed 
 ■ Some Support May Be Needed 
 ■ Less Support May Be Needed

| Test Grade* | Less Support May Be Needed |      | Some Support May Be Needed |      | Strong Support May Be Needed |      |
|-------------|----------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
|             | Female                     | Male | Female                     | Male | Female                       | Male |
| Grade 4     | 76%                        | 64%  | 18%                        | 24%  | 5%                           | 12%  |
| Grade 5     | 76%                        | 74%  | 16%                        | 22%  | 8%                           | 4%   |
| Grade 6     | 69%                        | 69%  | 19%                        | 20%  | 11%                          | 11%  |
| Grade 7     | 78%                        | 79%  | 13%                        | 12%  | 10%                          | 9%   |
| Grade 8     | 76%                        | 78%  | 11%                        | 13%  | 13%                          | 10%  |
| Grade 9     | 79%                        | 72%  | 13%                        | 14%  | 9%                           | 14%  |
| Grade 10    | 83%                        | 68%  | 12%                        | 22%  | 5%                           | 10%  |

\*The above students were assessed on a subset standards from the prior grade level. For example, grade 4 students were assessed on a subset of standards from grade 3.

# Science Results

**Start  
Strong  
2021**

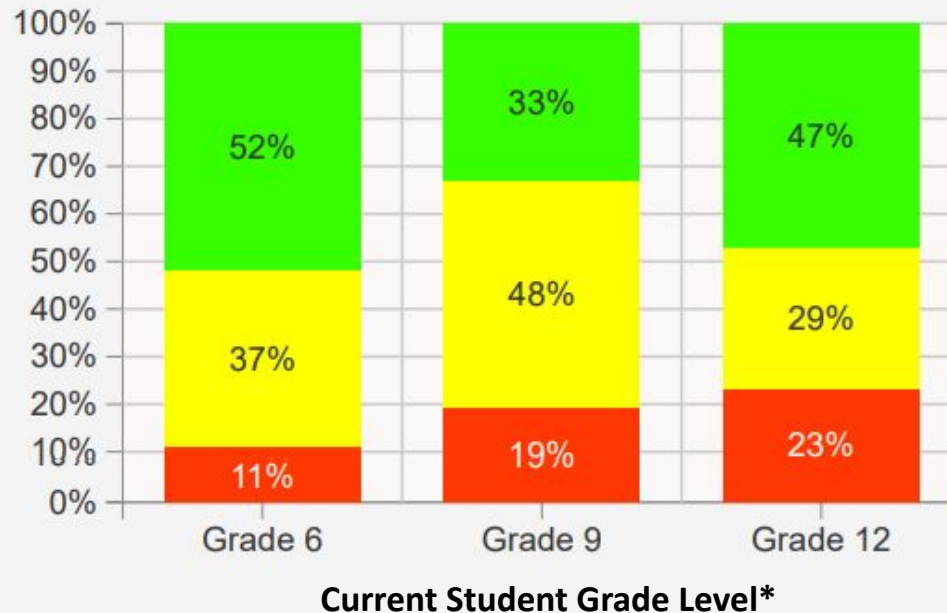


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## Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

### Science – Support Levels

Strong Support May Be Needed    Some Support May Be Needed    Less Support May Be Needed



\*The above students were assessed on a subset standards from the prior three grade levels. For example, grade 6 students were assessed on a subset of standards from grades 3, 4 & 5.

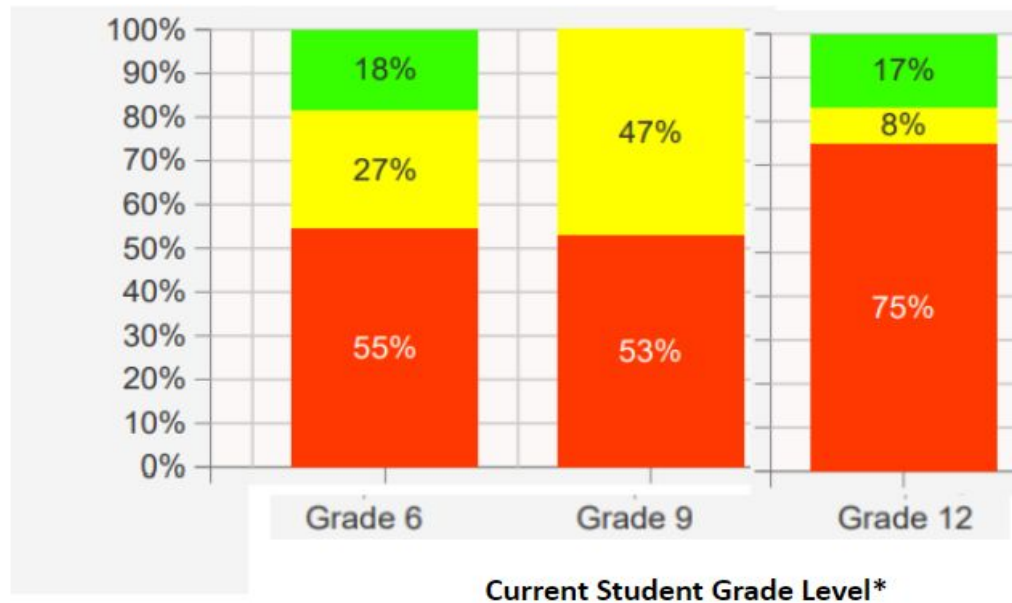
# Special Education (Science)

# Mountain Lakes

## Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

### Science– Support Levels (Special Education)

■ Strong Support May Be Needed ■ Some Support May Be Needed ■ Less Support May Be Needed



\*The above students were assessed on a subset standards from the prior three grade levels. For example, grade 6 students were assessed on a subset of standards from grades 3, 4 & 5.

# Gender (Science)

**Start  
Strong  
2021**

## Mountain Lakes

### Start Strong Fall 2021 Administrations

### Science – Support Levels (Gender)

| Test Grade* | Less Support<br>May Be Needed |      | Some Support<br>May Be Needed |      | Strong Support<br>May Be Needed |      |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|------|
|             | Female                        | Male | Female                        | Male | Female                          | Male |
| Grade 6     | 58%                           | 47%  | 29%                           | 36%  | 3%                              | 18%  |
| Grade 9     | 25%                           | 38%  | 50%                           | 46%  | 25%                             | 15%  |
| Grade 12    | 51%                           | 44%  | 28%                           | 31%  | 21%                             | 25%  |

\*The above students were assessed on a subset standards from the prior three grade levels. For example, grade 6 students were assessed on a subset of standards from grades 3, 4 & 5.

# Next Steps 2021

# Next Steps

- Guided by a Data-Informed Outlook
- Examine Start Strong results in context with other data points:
  - LinkIt Benchmarks
  - Teacher created assessments
  - Marking Period Grades
- Intervention & Referral Services (I & RS) Recommendations for those students who have exhibited a need in support based a variety of assessment outcomes including Start Strong.
- Learning Acceleration Program Opportunities extended to all students identified in the “Strong Support” category.