

TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In October 2021, Toms River Regional Schools will administer the New Jersey Department of Education Start Strong Assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science. The administration of Start Strong will satisfy the federal statewide assessment requirements to administer general assessments in these subjects for the 2020-2021 school year.

The district's fall 2021 testing window for ELA, mathematics and science is **October 4 – October 22, 2021**. The assessments for ELA will be administered to students in grades 4 - 10; the assessments in mathematics will be administered to students in grades 4 - 8 and all students enrolled in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2; and the assessments in science will be administered to students in grades 6, 9 and 12. The fall testing schedule is as follows:

High School Testing: October 4, 5, and 6
Intermediate School Testing: October 12, 13, 14 and 15
Elementary School Testing: October 7

The Start Strong assessments are brief, designed to maximize instructional time and quickly provide critical data to teachers and school leaders. These assessments are based on a subset of prioritized prior-year academic standards, can be administered in approximately 45-60 minutes, and will provide immediate results to educators. The Start Strong assessments utilize three performance levels to aid educators and families about the types of support that students may need: Strong Support May Be Needed, Some Support May Be Needed, and Less Support May Be Needed.

Upon completion of the assessments, parents will receive an Individualized Student Report for each content in which their child is tested. This report 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's teacher(s).

The Toms River Regional Schools ensures a testing environment that follows all protocols and procedures and is not disruptive to the students taking the assessments. We are committed to student achievement and these assessments raise the bar for our students to ensure they are on the path to success. We are confident that with the quality instruction delivered by our dedicated educators and your support; our students can meet and exceed these expectations.

If you have any questions, please visit our State-Mandated Testing FAQ webpage at <http://www.trschools.com/parents/statetesting>.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to your child's education.

Sincerely,

John H. Green

John H. Green
District Test Coordinator
Director of Student Services
Director of Central Registration