

## **Update on Standardized Assessments for the 2022-2023 School Year**

September 12, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

During the ongoing pandemic recovery, the New Jersey Department of Education applied for federal testing waivers which requires school districts to ensure students take a benchmark assessment at the onset of the new school year in order to collect data on potential learning loss, provide teachers with early intervention data, and also provide parents with timely information about their children's current progress and potential learning needs.

As a result of this NJ Department of Education mandatory requirement, the Wayne Township public schools will administer the Start Strong Assessment for students in the grade levels listed below. ***It is important to note that these tests are designed to be brief and will take a snapshot of student learning to provide information about potential support needed. The impact on instructional time will be minimal as the assessments are only 45-60 minutes per subject.***

Accommodations, modifications, and accessibility features available for English Language Learners, 504, and classified students on traditional standardized assessments will be provided on this exam as well when applicable to this assessment. Results will also be available to educators and parents quicker than traditional statewide assessments.

**Please see below for more details on grades levels, content areas, and projected testing dates by educational level:**

- The assessments are based on prior year academic standards.
- The assessments are to be given to students in grades 4-10 for ELA, Grades 4-8 in Mathematics (along with high school students in Algebra I, II, and Geometry).
- Students in grades 6, 9, and 12 will be required to take a brief Science assessment.
- Results are back immediately to educators and can be shared with parents after review.

**Projected Start Strong Testing Dates:**

- Elementary: Week of September 19, 2022
- Middle School: Week of September 19, 2022
- High School: Week of September 19, 2022

If you have any questions about the various assessments we are required to give, please reach out to your children's building principal or you can also email the district testing coordinator, Scot Burkholder, at [sburkholder@wayneschools.com](mailto:sburkholder@wayneschools.com). You can also view a full presentation provided by the NJDOE by clicking this link: [NJ Start Strong Overview for Parents.](#)

Sincerely,



Mark Toback, Superintendent of Schools