



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: November 30, 2022
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: District Test Coordinators, District Technology Coordinators, School Test Coordinators
From: Jordan Schiff, Ed.D., Acting Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services
Deadlines: January 12, 2023: Distribution of Individual Student Reports (ISRs) to parents/guardians
February 13, 2023: Report results to local school boards of education

Fall 2022 Start Strong Statewide Assessments Individual Student Reports

The Start Strong assessments were administered at the beginning of the school year to assist districts in identifying the most appropriate level of support students may need to be successful with grade-level content. Student level reports were made available to districts in real time as students completed the assessments. The timeline of when districts should expect to receive their final reports and the dates districts are required to provide the results to parents/guardians as well as their local boards of education are provided below.

District Receipt of Individual Student Reports (ISRs)

By December 12, 2022, Start Strong assessments ISRs for English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, and science will be distributed to district central offices.

ISRs will be sent to both the sending and receiving districts for students who receive instruction at a school other than their accountable school. Once districts receive the paper ISRs, a copy must be distributed to the parents/guardians within 30 days¹, which will be January 12, 2023 (30 days after December 12). The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) encourages districts to share the ISRs with students' families as soon as practicable to facilitate timely discussion of key areas in which their child(ren) may need additional supports. To support these communications efforts, a sample parent cover letter is linked in the district communication resources section of this broadcast.

District and State Reporting

Summative and summary files will be made available electronically to assigned school and district staff no later than December 2, 2022. The NJDOE strongly encourages school and district leaders to review, analyze, and discuss all assessment results with staff as soon as possible.

The Start Strong assessment results should be carefully interpreted in combination with additional indicators of achievement, considering local education conditions. When publicly reporting assessment results, consideration should be given to the impact of the recent pandemic on learning and testing conditions. In light of this consideration, and of the different design and purpose of Start Strong compared to the NJSLA, the NJDOE would strongly discourage districts from comparing any individual student/school/district Start Strong data to any NJSLA data.

Please note the Start Strong assessments were not designed to predict future student performance on the NJSLA. The Start Strong assessments were developed in response to the disruption in education caused by the pandemic and were designed specifically to inform instruction going forward.

Districts must report student-level assessment results to local boards within 60 days of receipt, which will be February 13, 2023 (60 days after December 12, 2022)². The report must include aggregated and disaggregated subgroup data, as well as comparative analyses and appropriate intervention strategies.³ The number of students for reporting is a minimum of 10 as per suppression rules applied to student data to protect student confidentiality.

Please note that in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C.) 6A:8-4.5 (b), the Department shall report to district boards of education on the performance of all students and of student subgroups as such, the NJDOE plans to publicly release statewide district and school-level data in due course.

District Communication Resources

To support communication efforts, the NJDOE has developed the following resources to assist districts in communicating statewide assessment results with educators, boards of education and parents/guardians:

- Sample cover letter for the mailing of Start Strong ISRs can be found on the [NJSLA/NJGPA Resources for Districts webpage](#).
- Score interpretation guide for Start Strong is available on the [New Jersey Assessments Resource Center](#) under **Educator Resources > Educator Reporting Resources**.
- A sample PowerPoint template for reporting Start Strong assessment results to local boards of education will be made available no later than December 7, 2022 and can be accessed on the department's [Assessment](#) homepage under the tab **NJSLA/NJGPA > NJSLA/NJGPA Resources for Districts**.

Online Portal with Video Score Reports

In addition to the paper ISRs, 2022 Start Strong assessments student reports will be accessible in the online portal for parents/guardians, the [NJ Parent Portal](#), on December 7, 2022. To view the ISRs in the parent portal, parents/guardians must create an account. If parents/guardians do not already have an account, then one can be created by using the claim code provided on the paper ISR.

The portal will also include a video score report which communicates information from the ISR through animations and a voiceover in New Jersey's top five student home languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, and Arabic.

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the release of the fall 2022 Start Strong statewide assessments results, please contact the Office of Assessments at (609) 376-3960 or assessment@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group

¹ Per N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.3(b): Chief school administrators shall provide educators, parents, and students with the results of annual assessments as required under N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.2(a), within 30 days of receipt of information from the Department

² Per N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.3(a): Chief school administrators shall report final results of annual assessments to district boards of education and members of the public meeting within 60 days of receipt of information from the Department.

³ N.J.A.C. 6A:30: Evaluation of the Performance and School Districts Appendix A and Appendix B